

FIRST COMMITTEE: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

SUB-COMMITTEE C: RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL ACTION
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT

Second Meeting, Held in the Capitolio at 10.30 a.m.,
Friday, 2 January 1948

The Sub-Committee proceeded to examine the various points suggested as subjects for recommendations in the resolution, or resolutions, relating to employment (see documents E/CONF.2/C.1/C/W.1 to 7).

The Sub-Committee decided that it would be unnecessary to repeat the four points set forth in the draft prepared by the First Session (E/CONF.2/5) but that it would be desirable to refer to these points either in the preamble or in the early part of the operative section of the resolution, distinguishing between the three points already covered in the instructions given to the Employment and Economic Stability Sub-Commission, and the one point omitted from those instructions.

Concerning the various suggestions that the Economic and Social Council be requested to secure reports from members of the United Nations and from the specialized agencies on the steps which they were taking, or were prepared to take, to maintain employment or to prevent depression, the Chairman drew attention to the relationship between these suggestions for more immediate action and the longer term arrangements in which the Members and the Organization would be participating under paragraph 1 of Article 5. It was felt that in the interval, pending the establishment of the Organization, it would be proper for the present Conference to suggest to the Economic and Social Council that such reports be requested. It was noted that under paragraph 2 (b) of its instructions the Sub-Commission on Employment and Stability was already expected to concern itself with arrangements for reporting this sort of information. It was generally felt that even though the matter might be regarded as already partially covered in a general manner, there might be merit in recommending that reports be sought at this stage relating specifically to measures planned or projected to maintain employment and avert depression. There was some discussion as to whether the request from the Economic and Social Council for such reports should be
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limited to members of the United Nations or whether it might usefully be extended to cover also non-members of the United Nations represented at the present Conference.

With reference to the suggested recommendation concerning an inquiry into the adequacy of existing resources and facilities for international investment, the representative of Australia indicated that such an inquiry would be intended to determine whether the existing machinery was adequate both to meet reconstruction and development needs and to counteract cyclical fluctuations in economic activity. The Chairman suggested that the adequacy of present machinery for reconstruction and development purposes would appear to be covered to some extent by the draft resolution proposed by the Joint Sub-Committee of Committees II and VI (see Annex C to E/CONF.2/C.2.6/A/W.2). He suggested also that the counter-cyclical aspect of investment would be brought within the present resolution by the reference to points 3 and 4 of the draft resolution of the First Session and inquired whether that reference might not be sufficient. No definite conclusion was reached.

On the suggestion that the Economic and Social Council be asked to facilitate agreements aimed at securing greater stability in the prices of basic commodities in international trade, reference was made to the recommendation already contained in point 2 of the London Draft Resolution, to the provisions of paragraph (c) of Article 54, to the powers and functions of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements, and to the possible functions of any Interim Commission for the ITO. It was suggested that if this function was already being performed so far as practicable by the Interim Co-ordinating Committee under the Economic and Social Council it would seem unnecessary to make a further recommendation. If such a responsibility were to be assigned by the conference to any Interim Commission (which might possibly absorb the Interim Co-ordinating Committee) it would seem undesirable to recommend that the Economic and Social Council also should undertake such a responsibility. It was agreed that the Secretariat should attempt to provide by the next meeting information on the functions of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee and the approximate date when the terms of reference of any Interim Commission would be likely to come up for discussion.

Concerning the various proposals relating to the employment aspects of the uneven distribution of population in relation to employment prospects, it was suggested that of the last three paragraphs in the draft suggested by the delegation of Italy, paragraph 1 might not be essential and that paragraph 2 might be abbreviated. The representative of Italy felt that such changes might be acceptable but maintained that some recommendation to

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the Economic and Social Council should be made since the International Labour Organization appeared to be concerned with only certain aspects of the question of migration. The representative of Brazil felt that some recommendation should be made concerning the need for international assistance in the settlement of immigrants, since the expense involved was often an insuperable obstacle to migration. He recognized that the Permanent Migration Committee had made suggestions on this matter (see paragraph (f) on page 4 of E/CONF.2/C.1/C/1). Concerning the prevention of illegal migration, the representative of Mexico felt that both the preamble and operative part of his draft should be covered in the general resolution or a separate resolution. The representative of Pakistan felt that paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft submitted by the delegation of Mexico should be modified to take account of the problems for the recipient country as well as for the country of origin in connection with temporary migration, that paragraph 3 was acceptable to him, and that a new paragraph might be added concerning permanent migration.
