

SECOND COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DELEGATIONS OF BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS

OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE  
ON THE NOTE ON RECONSTRUCTION IN CHAPTER III  
OF THE DRAFT CHARTER (E/CONF.2/C.2/D/W.1)

The delegations of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands have always opposed any distinction being drawn between industrial countries and the so-called under-developed countries. The delegations cannot admit that the development of industrial countries should be deemed complete and that their economic structure should be considered as definitive. This is not even the case in industrial countries which are at present highly prosperous; and is still less true of industrial countries which have been devastated and disorganized by war.

It is therefore a fact that economic reconstruction in war-stricken countries is not merely the restoration of the situation as before 1939. These countries face the double problem of restoring their productive capacity and of adapting it to the fundamental changes which have occurred in world economy and to future changes that can be foreseen. Principal among these changes is the highly desirable economic progress of under-developed countries.

Economic reconstruction is consequently not merely a matter of repairing actual physical damage. It is also the adaptation of the economic structure to new conditions, in order that development in the new countries may be paralleled by progress in the industrial countries, with beneficial effects on the development of the new countries.

For all these reasons the draft proposed by the sub-committee is unsatisfactory. Apart from other considerations, grammar and semantics make it invidious to attempt to change the meaning of words by an article in the Charter. Furthermore, the deletion of the word "reconstruction" throughout the relevant articles disturbs the balance in favour of the concept "development". The proposed Article 15 A would be but a slightly exalted interpretative note.

/The delegations

The delegations of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands would like to see the word "reconstruction" retained in all the places mentioned in the annex to document E/CONF.2/C.2/D/W.1, and further would like to see it appear in the following other places:

Article 10

Paragraph 1, last line: "development and reconstruction".

Paragraph 2, ninth line: "development or reconstruction".

Article 11

Paragraph 1, second line: "development and reconstruction";

Fourth line: "technology, and in appropriate cases technical..."  
(this is a consequential amendment);

Tenth line: "development or reconstruction".

Paragraph 2, third line: "development and reconstruction".

Article 12

The word reconstruction should be included where necessary in the new draft which is being prepared.

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