

THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE B (PROPOSED NEW ARTICLE 18A)

NOTES ON SECOND MEETING

Held Monday, 12 January 1948 at 10.30 a.m.

(Reference: E/CONF.2/C.3/6, Item 76)

Chairman: Dr. J. E. HOLLOWAY (Union of South Africa)

The delegate of Sweden made a statement supporting the proposal.

After final statements by the delegate of India on behalf of the countries opposing the proposal, and of the delegate of Norway on behalf of those supporting it, the general debate was closed.

The Chairman summing up the position stated that the Norwegian amendment was a proposal in definite terms to add new obligations on Members and to ban practices not banned by the existing draft of the Charter. As such it admitted only of a positive or negative report.

As the proposal involved the assumption by prospective Members of new obligations he was of the opinion that a substantial preponderance of support for the Norwegian proposal was required before the Sub-Committee could recommend its acceptance by Committee III. In his opinion such preponderant support was not forthcoming. The Committee was equally divided on the desirability of its inclusion, and of the six delegations, not members of the Sub-Committee, which had expressed views on the subject four opposed its inclusion.

In the absence of any other proposal before the Sub-Committee the Chair was of the opinion that the Sub-Committee could only report that it could not recommend the inclusion of the proposed Article 18A.

The representatives of the United Kingdom and Norway stated that they were preparing a compromise proposal. Its terms, however, depended on the final text of the Chapter on Restrictive Practices and would be submitted immediately after Committee IV had completed its work. They suggested, therefore, that the Sub-Committee should adjourn for a short period. This was agreed to.

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