

THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE B (PROPOSED NEW ARTICLE 18A)

NOTES ON FOURTH MEETING

Held Thursday, 26 February 1948

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

The CHAIRMAN explained that no reconciliation of views in the Sub-Committee had taken place and as time was getting short a Report stating the actual position had been prepared as a basis for discussion.

The delegate for France stated that whilst it was regrettable that the Sub-Committee could not make any recommendation in the Report, he would have wished it at least to contain a recognition of the importance of the problem.

The delegate for Norway, supported by the delegates for the United Kingdom and Greece, pointed out that according to newly received information the Maritime Conference at present in session at Geneva had arrived at certain decisions bearing on the problem under discussion. This might make it possible for the Sub-Committee to produce an agreed solution instead of a purely negative report a consequence of which would be prolonged discussions in full Committee. The information available so far was inadequate and it was suggested that the Sub-Committee should adjourn for a few days whilst the Secretariat obtained the relevant texts from the Maritime Conference.

The representative of Argentina thought it would be better to transfer the entire problem to the Shipping Organization.

The representative of India insisted that an early decision would facilitate settlement of major outstanding issues. The decisions taken so far by the Maritime Conference would not provide sufficient guidance for the considerations of the Sub-Committee nor would the mere texts allow drawing satisfactory conclusions.

The delegate for Venezuela also wished to proceed with the discussion of the Report.

The representative of South Africa had no objection to adjournment for a few days if this was so desired by other delegations.

/The Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee decided by a majority to request the Secretariat to obtain by cable all resolutions taken by the Maritime Conference with such extracts of the committee reports which would be of use for authoritative interpretation of the texts, and also the voting lists on each decision. The committee reports should be requested by airmail. This material should as soon as possible be made available to the Conference in document form and it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should adjourn pending the receipt of the information requested.

-----