

THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE F (ARTICLES 21, 23 AND 24)

NOTES ON EIGHTH MEETING

Held on Saturday, 17 January 1948, at 3.00 p.m.

Chairman: J. MELANDER (Norway)

(Reference: E/CONF.2/C.3/7)

WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 23

The CHAIRMAN said that he had reconsidered the position of the Working Party on Article 23 established at the Seventh Meeting and proposed the addition of Canada. This was agreed.

On the suggestion of the delegate of Czechoslovakia it was also agreed to add Australia to the Working Party on Article 23. The composition of the Working Party with the above additions is as follows: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

ARTICLE 23 - EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The delegate of the United States made a statement opposing the Norwegian amendment to paragraph 5 of Article 23. (See C.3/F/W.14). His statement is being separately circulated to the Sub-Committee. The delegate of Norway replied. The amendment in question had been referred at the Seventh Meeting to the Working Party on Article 23.

PROPOSED NEW ARTICLE 23 A

The delegate of Greece made a statement in support of the amendment contained in Item 78 (Greece). He stated that it was his present view that a new Article to deal with this problem was not necessary and that the purpose of the proposed amendment could be met by a provision in Article 23. After discussion it was agreed to refer the Greek proposal to the Working Party on Article 23 and to include the delegate of Greece in the Working Party when this item came under consideration.

ARTICLE 24 - EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS

The delegate of Liberia called attention to the fact that his country did not use its own national currency and therefore suggested an amendment to paragraph 6 of Article 24 to meet the position of countries in this
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situation. It was agreed to refer this problem to a Working Party to be set up on Article 24.

The text of the proposed Liberian amendment is being circulated separately as document C.3/F/W.15.

There being no support for Item 83 (Argentina), it was agreed to proceed with the consideration of Article 24 on the basis of the Geneva text.

Item 79 (New Zealand) found little support, and it was rejected by the Sub-Committee.

Item 80 (Australia) was referred to the Working Party.

Item 81 (Geneva Draft Note) was referred to the Working Party.

The Sub-Committee discussed Item 82 (Mexico) and several Members asked for clarification of the proposals. It was the sense of the Sub-Committee that in view of the difficulties which appear to be connected with the Mexican proposal, it would be desirable if a more specific amendment could be submitted by Mexico for consideration by the Working Party.

The delegate for Belgium stated that Item 84 (Reservation of Belgium) was disposed of by the Belgian amendments to Articles 21 and 23.

The delegate of Cuba suggested that it might be preferable for purposes of clarity to split Article 24 into two Articles consisting respectively of paragraphs 1 to 5 inclusive, and paragraphs 6 to 9 inclusive. The Sub-Committee referred this suggestion to the Working Party.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN it was agreed that amendments to Article 24 should be referred to the Working Party already established for Article 21, which should be augmented by Australia for the purpose of considering amendments to Article 24.

It was also agreed that the Working Party on Articles 21 and 24 should report its recommendations on Article 21 before starting on Article 24.