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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE G (SWISS PROPOSAL)

NOTES ON THE NINTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 25 February 1948 at 10.30 a.m.

The Chairman, in presenting the draft report of the Sub-Committee (document E/CONF.2/C.3/G/W.9), said that it had seemed preferable to write a brief report in view of the fact that the solution to the problem recommended in it called for further study by the Interim Commission. A more lengthy report would have constituted only a partial study.

The representative of Switzerland referred to an earlier draft of the report which had not been published. This had been complex and had gone into much greater detail but it had mentioned many important factors which he considered should be included in the Sub-Committee report - more particularly the import as well as the export aspects of the Swiss problem and the bargaining powers which Switzerland felt were necessary if its interests were to be protected. He requested that the report be expanded so as to include a mention of such factors.

The representative of France supported the recommendation in the draft report that further study of the Swiss problem be made by the Interim Commission but also considered that the report of the Sub-Committee should contain a reference to those factors which discussion in the Sub-Committee had shown to be relevant to the case. He suggested that a Working Party be set up to redraft the report along these lines. The report should, however, be both short and simple and care must be taken not to prejudge questions which would come before the Interim Commission.

It was agreed that a Working Party should be set up in order to compose a text that would be generally acceptable, basing their work on the texts of the two drafts already drawn up. On the proposal of the Chairman, it was agreed that the Working Party should consist of the representatives of France, Switzerland and the United States with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee

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assisting in the deliberations.

The representative of Venezuela said that the reservation of his delegation would be withdrawn if certain points in Article 21 were clarified. It was agreed that this matter could also be dealt with by the Working Party and the representative of Venezuela was, therefore, added to its Membership.