

THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE G (SWISS PROPOSAL)

NOTES ON THE TENTH MEETING

Held on Saturday 28 February 1948 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. PHILIP (France).

In the absence from Havana of Mr. L. P. THOMPSON-McCAUSLAND (United Kingdom), Mr. A. PHILIP (France) was unanimously elected Chairman on the proposal of the representative of the United States supported by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Venezuela.

The Sub-Committee began consideration of the revised Draft Report of Sub-Committee G to Committee III (document E/CONF.2/C.3/G/W.11) as submitted by the Working Party which had been set up at the ninth meeting. The representative of Switzerland stated that he accepted the report though he reserved his freedom of action in the event of it not being accepted by the Sub-Committee. The representative of the United States, referring to the reservation he had recorded, said that a full exposition of his views was contained in document E/CONF.2/C.3/G/W.12. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report would limit the freedom of the Interim Commission in its exploration of the question.

The proposal of the representative of the United States to delete paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report found no support beyond the proposal.

The representative of the United States suggested that a new sentence should be inserted so that paragraph 6 would read as follows:

".....the exceptional needs of Switzerland. It was felt that a full exploration should be made of all possible ways of providing for those exceptional needs. It was agreed that if such a country....."

The representatives of France, Poland and Switzerland opposed this suggestion and no other delegate supported it. (Note: The representatives of Belgium and China were not present when the sense of the Sub-Committee was taken on these two proposals, but have informed the Secretariat that they approve the report in the form in which the Sub-Committee approved it).

/The representative of

The representative of France felt that the words in paragraph 6 "by the threat and if necessary, the imposition of quantitative restrictions" contained undesirable implications and on the suggestion of the representative of Switzerland it was agreed that they should be replaced by the words "by the use of necessary measures". The Sub-Committee approved paragraphs 1 - 9 inclusive of the report with this change, the representative of the United States maintaining his reservation.

The representative of Uruguay said that the proposed revision of paragraph 10 was unsatisfactory in that it allowed only the case of a country exporting one product. It was agreed that the paragraph should be amended to read as follows:

"It was pointed out that a country exporting principally a small number of products would, in like conditions, probably be considered to have need for greater reserves than a country exporting a large variety of products, particularly if the export were.....!"
With this change paragraphs 10 - 12 inclusive were approved.