

SIXTH COMMITTEE: ORGANIZATION

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 75 (COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held 15 January 1948 at 6.00 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JABBARA (Syria)

The sub-committee discussed the redraft of Article 75 produced by the working party set up at the last meeting (document E/CONF.2/C.6/W.39).

Messrs. ALAYZA (Peru) and COOMBS (Australia) said that their participation in the working party did not mean that they agreed with the text produced.

Two points emerged in the discussion of paragraph 1. The representative of Cuba maintained his opposition to the inclusion of customs unions in this paragraph and the representatives of Belgium and France favoured the adoption of the text as it stood. Certain representatives expressed doubt as to whether the word "elected" should not read "selected." It was agreed to pass on to paragraph 2, leaving these two points to be decided at a later stage.

The representative of Cuba opposed the mention of customs unions in this paragraph also. The representative of Pakistan maintained his opposition to the phrase "chief economic importance having particular regard to international trade" both in paragraph 2 and in paragraph 3 (a).

Mr. FORTHOME (Belgium), referring to the remarks of the representative of Pakistan, said that the members of the sub-committee might reflect upon the possibility of changing this phrase so as to bring out the real intention behind it, that intention being to ensure that Members whose presence on the Board was necessary for the efficient working of the Organization would always be members of it.

Mr. MACHADO (Cuba) proposed two amendments to paragraph 3. He suggested that the figure eight in sub-paragraph (a) be amended to six and that these six states should be elected by the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting after it had by a similar majority determined the twelve states of chief economic importance having particular regard to international trade. This proposal would combine the processes of selection and election.

/Mr. GAZDER (Pakistan)

Mr. GAZDER (Pakistan) supported the proposed amendment of the figure eight to six.

The representatives of Belgium, Canada, France, India, Norway and the United Kingdom opposed the amendments suggested by the representative of Cuba whilst the representative of Peru supported them. The representative of China reserved his position upon them as did the representative of Argentina who remarked nevertheless that they were very interesting. The representative of Australia said that if the representative of Cuba would agree to changing the phrase "chief economic importance having particular regard to international trade" to "chief trading importance" he would be prepared to recommend the amendments to his delegation.

Mr. KELLOGG (United States) said that he thought the sub-committee had agreed that some kind of semi-selection of the larger trading states for membership of the Board would give it continuity and that the presence of such states upon the Board which would be assured by such a method would lend greater weight to the Board's decisions. If the proposals of the representative of Cuba meant that the six states of chief economic importance having particular regard to international trade might not obtain seats upon the Board, these proposals would be unacceptable to his delegation.

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