

SIXTH COMMITTEE: ORGANIZATION

WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF AN INTERIM COMMISSION
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

NOTES UPON THE FIRST MEETING

Held 19 January 1948 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. COLBAN (Norway)

The working party had before it documents E/CONF.2/C.6/W.21 and E/CONF.2/C.6/W.55 prepared by the Executive Secretary.

The working party, after agreeing that it would be necessary for the Conference to establish an Interim Commission upon as economical a basis as possible, commenced a first reading of document E/CONF.2/C.6/W.55.

Paragraph 1

In reply to a question by the representative of Brazil whether or not the arrangement regarding the establishment of the Interim Commission was an international engagement, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the Secretariat had taken care to draft the arrangement in such a way as to ensure that it would not be necessary for governments to obtain ratification. If the Conference were to decide that ratification was necessary, there would be no point in establishing an Interim Commission for ratification of the arrangement would take just as long as ratification of the Charter.

The Chairman pointed out that he considered the arrangement did not amount to an international engagement as the body to be constituted was merely in the nature of a working party which would operate between the end of the present Conference and the convocation of the first regular session of the Conference of the Organization.

The representative of the United Kingdom said that he thought the arrangement did not involve any commitment apart from one to enter into discussions. The leader of his delegation would therefore be able to sign the document unconditionally.

Paragraph 2

Sub-paragraph (a)

It was agreed that sub-paragraph (a) should be redrafted to read "to convoke the first regular session of the Conference of the Organization
/ (hereinafter referred

(hereinafter referred to as "the Conference") not less than ~~three~~ ~~six~~ months after receipt of the last acceptance needed to bring the Charter into force."

The representative of the United Kingdom asked for the insertion in the arrangement of some wording which would ensure that governments not represented upon the Interim Commission could submit proposals and views to it. In reply to this request, the Executive Secretary said that the insertion of such wording depended upon whether the working party accepted Alternative A or Alternative B of paragraph 1. If Alternative B were accepted he would agree that a provision such as that suggested by the representative of the United Kingdom would have to be inserted.

Sub-paragraph (b)

It was agreed to change the word "prepare" to "submit."

Sub-paragraph (c)

It was agreed to delete the phrase "and, pending consideration of such a draft agreement by the Conference, to establish such interim relationships as may be considered desirable." It was also agreed to delete similar phrases in sub-paragraphs (d) and (e).

The representative of Peru suggested that sub-paragraph (c) should merely read "to prepare a draft agreement of relationship as contemplated in Article 84 of the Charter." The Chairman and the representative of the United Kingdom favoured the retention of the present draft. The representative of the United States suggested that the word "consult" should be changed to "negotiate."

Sub-paragraphs (d), (e) and (f)

No changes were made in these sub-paragraphs except those mentioned in the notes to sub-paragraph (c).
