

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETINGS

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FIRST SESSION

First Meeting
held on Tuesday, 15 October 1946 at 5 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. M. BROTHERS (Belgium)

The Executive Committee met in the Hoern Memorial Hall under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Brothers (Belgium), Chairman, to discuss the suggested rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference on Trade and Employment (document E/PC/T/2) and certain other matters connected with the scope and conduct of the Committee's business.

Chapters I, II, IV and V were adopted without discussion (Chapter III having already been adopted at the first plenary session).

Chapter VI - Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) proposed to add a provision in Rule 31 for recording the opinion of minorities in cases of divergence of opinion.

He further suggested a provision in rule 30 that a majority of abstentions in the voting on any given motion involved the rejection of the motion.

Mr. WYNDHAM-WHITE, Executive Secretary, said that the views of minorities would be duly recorded in the Preparatory Committee's reports to the Economic and Social Council.

As regards rule 30, Mr. Augenthaler's proposal raised delicate issues. The draft Rules of Procedure of the Preparatory Committee had been modelled on the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

After some further discussion, Mr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) withdrew his amendments.

Chapter VI was then adopted.

Chapter VII - SENOR DON ALBERTO ALVAREZ (Chile) asked, with regard to rule 39, whether Spanish could be used in debate.

Mr. WINDHAM-WHITE, Executive Secretary, replied that, if a delegate spoke in Spanish, his speech would be translated into the two working languages of the Conference, but he hoped delegations would use Spanish sparingly.

Mr. MAURIO MOREIRA D. SILVA (Brazil) inquired whether this rule extended to Portuguese.

Mr. WINDHAM-WHITE, Executive Secretary, replied that the five official languages of the United Nations Organization were Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, while English and French were the working languages.

Chapter VII was adopted.

Chapter VIII was adopted.

Chapter IX - Mr. CLAIR MILCOX (United States of America) raised the question of publicity for the proceedings of the Conference. In his opinion the proceedings of all Committees should in the ordinary way be private.

Mr. ALPHAND (France) agreed. He moved that Rule 49 should be amended to read that the meetings of the Committees should ordinarily be held "in private" instead of "in public", leaving it to each Committee to decide when they should be held "in public."

Mr. LEBON (Belgium) supported Mr. Alpland's proposal.

Mr. OWEN, Assistant General Secretary, felt strongly that, if the Conference was to succeed, the Press and public opinion must be kept well-informed. The nations of the world ought to know of the work that was being done by their delegates.

SENOR DON ALBERTO INOCENTE ALVAREZ (Cuba) was in favour of the fullest publicity, and was against the proposed amendment to rule 49.

Dr. J. E. HOLLOWAY (Union of South Africa) felt that it was undesirable for delegations of experts and technicians, who were not in any sense Government officials, to express public opinions on government policy. It was indeed inconsistent with the Constitution of his country (South Africa) that they should do so.

Mr. ERIK COLBEN (Norway) thought the Rules, as drafted, were sufficiently flexible to allow of adaptation to circumstances. He would like, however, to omit the words "exceptional circumstances" in rule 4b.

Mr. NAJEM DINECHKIE (Lebanon) and Mr. HEMRU (India) were in favour of the fullest publicity.

Mr. MCKINNON (Canada) thought the majority of meetings would have to be private.

Mr. WUNSZ KING (China) supported Mr. Colben's suggestion to omit the words "exceptional circumstances" in rule 4b.

The CHAIRMAN took a vote on the proposal to omit the words "exceptional circumstances" from rule 4b.

The motion was carried.

Rule 4b was then adopted as amended.

Mr. CLAIR WILSON (United States of America) moved three new rules to be added to Chapter IX on the subject of the attendance at the Conference of inter-governmental Organizations, non-governmental agencies and observers of countries, not members of the Preparatory Committee.

At the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, it was decided to adjourn the debate on these three proposed Rules until the following day.

The meeting rose at 7.30 p.m.
