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SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

VERBATIM REPORT

TWELFTH MEETING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 1947, AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

H.E. Mr. ERIK COLBAN (Chairman) (Norway)

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CHAIRMAN: I think we can start with some questions of a rather important character. We are meeting at present in Executive Session to deal with documents T/79 and T/79A. That is the Fifth Report by the Tariff Negotiations Working Party. If there is no delegate wishing to raise a question on these two documents, I will take it that the Commission approves these documents.

I would now ask the Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party kindly to tell us whether he has anything to add to the Report at this meeting?

Mr. L.D. WILGRESS (Chairman of the Working Party): Mr. Chairman, I have nothing to add in the way of comment to the Fifth Report of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, but I would like to raise a question which portends to the sixth published Report which is given in document T/84. This document was only circulated this morning so it would not be right to submit it for the approval of the Preparatory Committee as it has not yet been in the hands of members for twenty-four hours. There is however one point which I think should be taken up now, because it is not a very complicated point. I refer to that given in Annex E contained in document T/84A. "The members of the Committee will note that the Tariff Negotiations Working Party has been informed that the bilateral negotiations between Czechoslovakia and the Union of South Africa, which commenced on May 5, have been completed". This gives rise to the question as to whether or not it would be advisable to make public the fact that these negotiations have been terminated. The Working Party felt that there would be some - probably the members of

the Committee - who would wish the fact to be made public, and we have recommended that a public announcement of the completion of the bilateral negotiations, as and when they take place, should be made by the Executive Secretary. We recommend, however, that no public announcement should be made as to the rates or items which have been negotiated.

CHAIRMAN: I think that, if there is no other observation made on the Report of the Fifth Session of the Working Party, that Report is unanimously agreed and now we may consider the question made by the Chairman.

Dr. J.E. HOLLOWAY (South Africa): Mr. Chairman, as Mark Twain said when it was announced that he was dead: "The Report is a bit exaggerated." It is perfectly true that the Czechoslovakian/South African delegations reached a substantial agreement. We have not finally terminated our negotiations. There are one or two little details to be fixed up, and in view of that I think we might perhaps defer the consideration of Annex E until we have these absolutely settled.

CHAIRMAN: I think that no objection of principle has been raised concerning the publication of the fact that such and such team has reached an agreement in the tariff negotiations. That principle could probably be agreed to, and we should postpone the publication of the fact that the South African/Czechoslovak negotiation has been concluded until we get information from either of the two delegations that they intend to get it published by the press. Is that agreed?

We have then terminated the Agenda of the Executive Session.

(The Meeting rose at 2.50 p.m.)