

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

Summary Record

Eleventh Meeting in Executive Session held on  
Friday, May 30, 1947, at 10.30 a.m. at the  
Palais des Nations, Geneva.

CHAIRMAN: M. SUTENS (Belgium)

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada), as Chairman of the Working Party on Tariff Negotiations, presented the Working Party's recommendation concerning the communication of information on changes in lists of tariff concessions offered (E/PC/T.76). Mr. Wilgress pointed out that although the Working Party's first report provided a satisfactory method for the exchange of original offers, no machinery had been set up whereby various Delegations could be kept informed of changes in these offers. The Working Party therefore recommended a procedure whereby Delegations would have the option of providing information regarding changes in tariff rates directly to other Delegations with which they were in negotiation or of asking the Secretariat to do it. This procedure would fill in the gap still existing in the machinery for tariff negotiations, thereby ensuring the multilateral character of the negotiations, while involving the least possible burden on the Delegations concerned.

The recommendation of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party was adopted.

Mr. HAWKINS (United States), as Chairman of the Charter Steering Committee, presented the Joint Report of the Charter P.T.O.

Steering Committee and the Tariff Negotiations Working Party (E/PC/T.81). Mr. Hawkins explained that the schedule for Charter discussions previously adopted by the Preparatory Committee (E/PC/T.72 and 78) had been revised in order to meet the difficulties being experienced by certain Delegations in providing representation at the same time for Charter discussions and tariff negotiations. The revised schedule, if adopted, would become effective beginning Tuesday, June 3rd. The Joint Steering group strongly recommended its adoption since they believed it would be helpful to all Delegations if a schedule were established as soon as possible.

Mr. FAIVOVICH (Chile) expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Joint Steering group to meet the difficulties of the smaller Delegations. While in general agreement with the report, he suggested that if it were necessary to hold simultaneous meetings of Commissions A and B, as mentioned in the report, the dates and times for such meetings should be discussed and agreed in advance.

Mr. JOHNSON (New Zealand) proposed that Articles 31, 32 and 33 be considered prior to Articles 25 and 27. The New Zealand Delegation had submitted amendments to Articles 4, 13 and 25 with which they did not propose to proceed if they could obtain accommodation in respect to their amendments to Article 33.

Mr. COLBAN (Norway), Chairman of the Working Party on Technical Article enquired whether it was intended to discuss Articles 16-23 and 37 in a Commission meeting or a sub-committee meeting. It was agreed that Articles 16-23 and 37 should be discussed by Commission A.

Mr. HAWKINS (United States) suggested that the Report of the Joint Steering Group be amended to indicate that the Charter Steering Committee, in consideration of the difficulties of the smaller Delegations, would attempt to avoid conflicts between meetings of Commissions A and B.

The Joint Report of the Charter Steering Committee and the Working Party on Tariff Negotiations was adopted as amended.

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