

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

Summary Record of the Thirteenth Meeting in Executive Session held on Wednesday, 4th June, 1947, at 2.30 p.m. in the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

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

Mr. L.D. WILGROSS (Canada), Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, presented the Sixth Report (document E/PC/T.84 and 84(a)). He drew attention to the fact that, up to and including 31st May which was the date fixed for the completion of the first stage of the Tariff Negotiations, i.e. the holding of initial meetings between the various pairs of countries, 91 initial meetings had been held, 2 would be held in the following week and 9 others requiring the participation of the Chilean Delegation would be held in the near future but no dates had yet been fixed.

Referring to Annex 'E' and the decision at the previous meeting that when agreement is reached in the tariff negotiations between two countries the fact of agreement might be published but without the disclosure of information concerning the tariff rates agreed upon, Mr. S.L. HOLMES (United Kingdom) suggested that it should be made clear by the Executive Secretary, when announcing that negotiations had been concluded, that although an agreement had been reached its terms would be subject to review when all the negotiations were concluded and would be subject to approval by the governments concerned. The

delegate for the UNITED STATES mentioned that some delegations, including his own, had authority to give final approval to agreements, but the delegate for AUSTRALIA mentioned that in the case of his delegation the agreement reached would require the approval of the Australian Parliament as well as the Government; he doubted, therefore, whether any information concerning the termination of negotiations should be published and he said that, so far as he was concerned, he would have to wait until all his negotiations were concluded before reporting that any one of them had reached completion.

The delegate for SOUTH AFRICA said that, if the information that negotiations had been completed were to be withheld, the two countries concerned would not be able to put their agreement into force immediately even though they might wish to do so. Other delegates, however, stressed the multilateral aspect of the present negotiations.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN it was agreed to refer Annex 'E' back to the Working Party for further consideration in the light of the comments by various delegates. With the exception of Annex 'E', the Report of the Working Party was approved.