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

Summary Record

Twentieth Meeting in Executive Session held on  
Monday, 7 July 1947 at 2.30 p.m. in the Palais  
des Nations, Geneva.

Chairman: Mr. Max SUETENS (Belgium)

Agenda Item 1. Draft Report by the Preparatory Committee of the  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment to the Economic  
and Social Council (E/PC/T/117), and Addendum.

Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) presented the Report, suggesting that it covered adequately all the matters with which the Economic and Social Council had charged the Preparatory Committee with one possible exception: the draft Convention which the Council had requested the Committee to prepare along with an annotated draft agenda for the World Conference would not be available by the time this report was submitted to the Council. Since it would, of course, be ready considerably in advance of the World Conference, he suggested that the Committee had nevertheless fulfilled the spirit, if not the letter, of the mandate. If necessary, a pro forma meeting of the Council could be held before the World Conference to receive the text of the Charter as completed at the Preparatory Committee stage.

The CHAIRMAN opened the discussion on the Draft Report.

Part A - Introduction.

Paragraph 1: Establishment of the Preparatory Committee.

No comment.

Paragraph 2: Stages in the work of the Preparatory Committee.

No comment.

Paragraph 3: Participants in the work of the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) proposed the deletion of the first sentence on page 3, "The Soviet Union did not participate in the work of the Drafting Committee or of the Second Session."

Mr. P. BARADUC (France) suggested that the word "The" at the beginning of the second sentence on page 3 be changed to "Two" in view of the fact that there were certain specialized agencies not represented at this Conference.

Part B - Recommendations of the Preparatory Committee.

Paragraph 1. Annotated Draft Agenda and Convention for the Conference on Trade and Employment.

Mr. C. WILCOX (United States) preferred that Chapter headings be indicated in substance rather than precisely in view of the United States proposal, which had not yet been acted upon, to rearrange the Chapters of the Charter and to include in one heading all the general and non-substantive provisions.

Paragraph 2: Date and place of the World Conference on Trade and Employment (and Annexure C).

Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) called the attention of the Committee particularly to the footnote to Annexure C which had been added by the Secretariat as suggested by the Chairman's Committee.

Dr. H.C. COOMBS (Australia) suggested that additional information of a practical character might be included in the footnote, for example, the number and approximate size of delegations and office accommodation requirements, etc., in order to help clarify the reasons for the Committee's decisions as to date and place.

Mr. E. WYNDELL WHITE (Executive Secretary) doubted that it was appropriate to include such information, though useful, in a report which was primarily one of principle, and suggested alternatively that a supplementary document be prepared which could be referred directly by the Council to a technical sub-committee. Dr. Coombs agreed.

In response to an enquiry from Dr. A.B. SPEERENBRINK (Netherlands), the Chairman stated that it had been agreed in principle to send a representative of the Preparatory Committee to present the Committee's Report to the Economic and Social Council but that the appointment had not yet been made.

Paragraph 3: Invitation of Non-Members of the United Nations to the Conference (and Annexure D).

Mr. J.P.D. JOHNSEN (New Zealand) expressed the view that representatives of Germany, Japan and Korea should be attached as observers to the Delegations of the control authority countries rather than act directly as representatives of the countries concerned.

Mr. C. WILCOX (United States) explained that the recommendation regarding representation of Germany, Japan and Korea, which had been drafted by the Delegates for France, the United Kingdom and the United States, had been deliberately left obscure with respect to:

- (a) who the appropriate authorities in Germany, Japan and Korea were ;
- (b) who was qualified to represent them, and
- (c) in what capacity they should attend the World Conference.

While wishing to call the Economic and Social Council's attention to this problem, they regarded the Council as a more appropriate body than the Preparatory Committee to decide these essentially political matters.

Part C - The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Dr. J.E. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) proposed that the words "mutually advantageous" should be deleted from the fourth line and inserted after the word "preferences" in the fifth line.

Dr. H.C. COOMBS (Australia) proposed, on the grounds that the present wording of paragraph 3 assumed certain conclusions which had not yet been reached by the Committee, amending this paragraph as follows: "It is expected that the concessions resulting from these negotiations, together with such other provisions as may be appropriate, will, at the end of the Second Session, be incorporated in a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade."

The Report to the Economic and Social Council was adopted, subject to certain redrafting by the Secretariat in the light of the Committee's discussion.

Agenda Item 2. Report of the Second Session (E/PC/T/116).

Mr. E. COLBAN (Norway) suggested that the question of whether explanatory notes should be treated differently from reservations, which had been raised in Commission B, should be referred to the Charter Steering Committee.

Mr. E. WYNDEHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) pointed out that the Secretariat's proposals had already been generally agreed to by the members of the Charter Steering Committee. Furthermore, the point raised by Mr. Colban was the major point of principle which this paper was designed to establish. It was not intended to include reservations in the explanatory notes. Explanatory notes which would be relegated to an appendix were intended to prevent reservations or interpretations which might be confused with the agreed text. The Secretariat had hoped that the Committee would give a clear mandate both as to the form of the Report and the explanatory notes, and had suggested that the notes should explain how the text was arrived at, not interpret the text.

Dr. J. E. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) pointed out that a number of texts had already been accepted in the Working Party on Technical Articles and in Commission A on the assumption that explanatory notes would be inserted to interpret these texts. If this were not the case, it was possible that some Delegations would insist on some of the explanatory material being inserted in the text. Dr. Holloway indicated that he might wish to revert to this matter at a later date.

Mr. J. R. C. HELMORE (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. E. COLBAN (Norway), favoured limiting the explanatory notes to those which were essential in the opinion of any Delegation for the removal of a reservation. His suggestion was that the Report should consist of

- (a) a brief introduction; and
- (b) the Draft Charter, together with reservations and those explanatory notes necessary to enable people not to

maintain reservations. In addition, there should be published a document - not a report of the Preparatory Committee - containing selected working papers of the Preparatory Committee.

Dr. H. C. COOMBS (Australia) suggested that the presentation of the Report in this form would be facilitated by the inclusion in the introduction of a reference to the Report of the First Session and the fact that it still provided a basis for the work of the Conference, thus obviating the necessity of producing a similar report at this Session.

The Secretariat's note on the Report of the Second Session was adopted, with the suggestions made by Mr. Helmore and Dr. Coombs.

Agenda Item 3. Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations in Category A. Note by the Executive Secretary (E/PC/T/113)

Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) asked the Committee's instructions on

- (a) membership of the Consultative Committee: and
- (b) how to make consultation with the non-governmental organizations more effective,

on both of which points suggestions were made in the paper submitted. As for the first point, it was suggested that the membership be expanded to include all Delegations, from which panel representatives would be selected for each meeting. As for the second point, it was suggested that the Consultative Committee should report to the Preparatory Committee on points made by the non-governmental organizations on parts of the Charter covered in Sub-Committee reports already adopted.

When the Preparatory Committee had considered this Report, the Consultative Committee and the Secretariat would then be in a position to reply authoritatively to the non-governmental organizations. Every effort should be made to take into consideration the suggestion of the non-governmental organizations on particular points before the relevant reports had been acted upon. It was suggested that the Preparatory Committee instruct the sub-committees to take in account these suggestions, together with the Consultative Committee's comment thereon. If this were done, the Preparatory Committee, in considering reports of sub-committees, would also be dealing with suggestions made by the non-governmental organizations, thus automatically supplying to the Secretariat the material with which they could reply to the non-governmental organizations.

Dr. H. C. COOMBS (Australia) and Mr. J. R. C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) supported the Executive Secretary's proposals, with one amendment, proposed by Mr. Helmore, that the Consultative Committee for each meeting should consist of four or five rather than seven members of the Preparatory Committee panel.

Dr. J. E. HOLLOWAY (South Africa), supported by Mr. E. COLBAN (Norway) objected to the implication that consultation had been unsatisfactory because the authoritative views of the Preparatory Committee on the points raised by the non-governmental organizations had not been brought to their attention. In his view, non-governmental organizations

were not entitled to insist on receiving replies from the Preparatory Committee, but only to submit their suggestions.

Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) explained that it had been his intention merely that the Consultative Committee should be in a position to explain knowledgeably to the non-governmental organizations what had taken place in the Preparatory Committee.

The note on consultation with non-governmental organizations in Category A was adopted with the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom Delegate.

Agenda Item 4. Verbatim Reports. Note by the Executive Secretary.

Mr. A. FAIVOVICH (Chile), M. P. BARADUC (France), M. F. LIEDEKERKE (Belgium), Mr. A. V. FERREIRA BRAGA (Brazil) and Mr. S. MINOVSKY (Czechoslovakia) favoured the first alternative set out in this paper.

Dr. H. C. COOMBS (Australia) favoured the second alternative.

Mr. C. WILCOX (United States), supported by Mr. E. COLBAN (Norway), agreed that the first alternative should be adopted in view of the support expressed therefor, but proposed that each verbatim report should indicate that the only authentic text was that in the original language.

The Committee agreed to adopt the first alternative proposal in the Note by the Executive Secretary, with the suggestion made by the United States Delegate.

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