

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

RELATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WITH THE
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Note by the Secretariat)

The Heads of Delegations will recall that under Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure it is provided that the Committees of the Preparatory Committee "may consult with the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Co-operative Alliance, the American Federation of Labour, and the International Chamber of Commerce, either directly or through committees established for the purpose. Such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the working committee or on the request of the Organization." Both the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Chamber of Commerce requested opportunities for consultations with the Working Committees of the Preparatory Committee, and in reply were invited to submit their views in writing, when consideration would be given to arrangements for further consultation with these Organizations. The International Chamber of Commerce replied to this invitation by submitting their views on a number of matters under discussion in the Working Committees, and they have been afforded an opportunity for consultation with the principal Committees or with the chairmen and secretaries and certain leading members of the committees. The International Chamber of Commerce have indicated to the Executive Secretary that they are satisfied with the arrangements for consultation which have been made so far.

The World Federation of Trade Unions at first delayed any reply to the invitation from the working committees, except to

send to the Executive Secretary a copy of a communication addressed by the Federation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, informing him that the arrangements suggested by the Preparatory Committee were inadequate to allow of effective collaboration with the Federation. The Federation felt that the arrangements fell short of the spirit of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council in this matter, and requested the Secretary-General to consider possibilities for improving the position. Subsequently, the Federation submitted in a statement to Committee II a number of questions relating to the work of the Preparatory Committee, and pressed for an early reply. The Executive Secretary, in reply to these representations, wrote to the Federation in terms of the letter attached as Appendix I. Further communications from the WFTU are attached as Appendix II.

Heads of Delegations are invited to consider:

1. What further reply should be returned to the WFTU regarding the questions addressed by the Federation to the Preparatory Committee.

In this connection it is suggested that delegations might submit their views on the WFTU's questions to the Executive Secretary, with instructions to communicate them to the WFTU together with a renewal of the invitation to pursue the discussions at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee.

2. What reply should be returned to the request by the WFTU for permission to address the committee in Plenary Session.

In this connection, if the WFTU are invited to address the committee then it will clearly be desirable to send a similar invitation to the International Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX I

Church House,
Dean's Yard,
Westminster, S.W.1.

19 November 1946

Dear Monsieur Duret,

As your enquiry concerns the work of several of the Working Committees of the Preparatory Committee, Dr. Coombs has passed me your letter of 18 November. I understand that you are anxious to have an early reply to the points raised in your statement made on 15 November to Committee II. As the questions you have raised are of a far reaching character and require careful consideration by several of the Working Committees in relation to the extended discussions which they have already had, I am wondering whether the best procedure would not be to envisage further detailed consultations when the Preparatory Committee reconvenes at a second session which is planned to be held in Geneva, beginning 8 April 1947. The interval would give you an opportunity of further consideration of these important matters, in the light of the interim report which the Preparatory Committee will be publishing at the conclusion of the present session. I should also be happy to try to arrange for further discussions during the present session between representatives of the Federation and the Chairmen and some members of the various Working Committees.

Please let me know if these arrangements are acceptable to you. I would add that the suggestions I have made in the first paragraph of this letter are dictated by the desire that the consultations with your Organization should be as thorough as possible, and therefore, not unduly hurried, as might necessarily be the case in the concluding stages of the current session of the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. WYNDHAM WHITE
Executive Secretary

Monsieur Jean Duret,
Representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions,
Alexa Hotel,
71-73, Lexham Gardens,
W.8.

APPENDIX II

November 20th 1946

Dear Mr. Wyndham-White,

I have received your letter of the 19th November and I am very grateful for the efforts you have made to assist me in my work at this Conference.

However, with regard to the questions I submitted on behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions, I should have preferred to hear the replies at a plenary session of Committee II, whose terms of reference cover most of these questions.

I should indeed have been very pleased to hear the delegates of the many nations represented at the Conference give their opinion on the questions submitted by the W.F.T.U. which includes the trade union organisations of their respective countries, even if the replies given you could not be considered as complete and final.

I am confident that you will do all you can to enable me to carry out the task with which I have been entrusted by the W.F.T.U.

I am, Sir, etc.

Jean Duret.

November 20th 1946

Monsieur Julio A. Lacarte,
Deputy Executive Secretary.

Dear Monsieur Lacarte,

I am instructed by the World Federation of Trade Unions to make a speech in a plenary session explaining the Federation's attitude to the main points discussed at the Conference. I shall be most grateful for any assistance you can give me in the carrying out of my instructions.

I am, Sir, etc.

Sgd. J. Duret

Representative of the World
Federation of Trade Unions
at the Preparatory Committee
of the International Con-
ference on Trade and
Employment.
