

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Seventh Meeting  
held on Thursday, 21 November 1946  
at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: M. SUTENS (Belgium)

1. Resolution on Employment (E/PC/T/DEL/12)

The CHAIRMAN explained that the procedure suggested had been settled after discussion with Dr. WUNSZ KING and other delegates.

Agreed

2. Preparatory Committee representation at FAO Preparatory Commission (E/PC/T/DEL/9/Add.1)

The CHAIRMAN said that the Food and Agriculture Organization Preparatory Commission had sent a telegram suggesting that officials who had taken part in the work of Committee IV should join their national delegations in Washington. A reply had been prepared after consultation with Committee IV agreeing substantially with this suggestion.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom), Chairman of Committee IV, proposed to add, in the sixth line of the proposed reply (DEL/9/Add.1), after the word "discussions", the words "as members of their various national delegations".

Dr. COOMBS (Australia) suggested that what had been agreed in Committee IV might not be entirely satisfactory as the officials who went to Washington for this purpose would form part of their national delegations and might be embarrassed by a division of loyalty if they were to be expected also to speak for the Preparatory Committee. He had supposed that the Rapporteur would be attending, but otherwise some one delegate should be given the task of speaking formally for the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) said that Committee IV had discussed this possibility and had taken the view that such a task would be more embarrassing to the chosen Delegate than the present arrangement. The report and records of the Committee were in the custody of the Secretary, who would attend and produce them as necessary, and an Observer from EAO had attended all the Committee's meetings. The Rapporteur, a Member of the Canadian Delegation, had been recalled to Ottawa urgently, but the Canadian Delegation intended to summon their representative at Washington back to Ottawa for quick consultation, so that the Canadian Delegation would achieve the same effect by different means.

Mr. WYNDHAM-WHITE (Executive Secretary) said that he had advised Mr. A.D.K.Owen, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs that if a more formal statement on behalf of the Preparatory Committee were called for in the Washington discussions, he (Mr.Owen) should go to Washington to give it and be briefed by the Secretary of the Committee and by the members of Committee IV who would then be in Washington.

Agreed, as amended.

3. Preparatory Committee's relations with WFTU (E/PC/T/DEL/13)

Mr. WYNDHAM-WHITE (Executive Secretary) explained the document.

M. NATHAN (France) emphasized the importance to the success of ITC of a favourable public opinion, and suggested that the representative of WFTU should be heard at a Plenary Session.

Mr. KUNOSI (Czechoslovakia) felt that at the present stage of the Conference it would be extremely difficult to hold full discussions with the representative of WFTU. As the representative had made a special request that he be heard in Plenary Session, the Conference should not refuse.

H.E. Mr. COLBURN (Norway) thought that to hear the views of WFTU in Plenary Session would be very useful.

Mr. MCKINNON (Canada) asked for clarification in connection with the reason why only four non-governmental organizations had

accredited representatives to the Preparatory Committee, and enquired why such bodies as the International Federation of Agricultural Producers had not been included.

Mr. WYNDHAM-WHITE (Executive Secretary) pointed out that the Economic and Social Council had established a special classification of non-governmental agencies, in which the Preparatory Committee was concerned only with Category A. Consequently the four agencies invited to be represented at the Conference were all in category A and on an equal footing with each other. The representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers had been fully satisfied with this explanation.

Dr. WUNSZ KING (China) hoped that the fact that the representatives of non-governmental agencies would speak - which he would welcome - would not deprive delegates of the opportunity of speaking in Plenary Session.

The CHAIRMAN agreed with Dr. WUNSZ KING and said he would propose that such representatives should not speak until after the delegates had expressed their views.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) supposed that the CHAIRMAN would, in thanking representatives of non-governmental agencies for their statements, observe that many of the points they raised had been dealt with in the report of the Preparatory Committee, and in amendments to the Draft Charter.

The CHAIRMAN accepted this suggestion.

4. Resolution on the Drafting Committee: amendment proposed by United States Delegate (E/PC/T/DEL/15)

Mr. WILCOX (United States) desired to alter his Delegation's amendment by deleting, at the end of the fifth line and the beginning of the sixth, the words "if any".

The consequence of the amendment would be as follows. The words

"editing for clarity and consistency the portions of the text on which the Preparatory Committee has come to a substantial identity of views" described the work that the Drafting Committee would have to do on Chapter II (Membership), Chapter III (Employment Provisions), the new Chapter on Economic Development, Chapter V (Restrictive Business Practices), Chapter VI (Inter-governmental Commodity Arrangements), most of Chapter VII (Organization), and substantial sections of Chapter IV (General Commercial Policy).

The second section of the amendment, "preparing alternative drafts of those portions, if any, on which there remains a division of general views", would describe Article 53 (Conference - Voting) and Article 57 (Executive Board - Membership).

The third section, "preparing suggested drafts covering such uncompleted portions as are referred to it by the Preparatory Committee", would describe the present status of Chapter I (Purposes), Articles 9 to 17 on General Commercial Policy, Article 32 on Exceptions, Article 64 (Functions of Commission on Commercial Policy), and Article 66 (Functions of Commodity Commission).

The resolution would not cover two Articles which were not referred to the Drafting Committee but were held over till the Geneva meeting - Article 28 on State Monopoly of Trade and Article 31 on Relations with non-members.

Dr. COOMBS (Australia) asked whether, in planning their representation on the Drafting Committee, delegations had to consider the different functions that it was now proposed it would perform. He had supposed that they should send persons who, while not possessing any special technical knowledge, would be capable of doing the work of editing and general tidying up which had been contemplated. If, however, many alternative drafts had to be prepared in an acceptable form in the light of comments made at the

Conference, the delegations would have to appoint some specialists in the highly technical subject matter of General Commercial Policy.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) suggested that the Australian Delegate was really asking if he should send a customs expert to work on the matter covered by the Technical Sub-Committee. He himself did not intend to do so, as this would be conducive to repeating the result which had been reached in that Sub-Committee. It would be more useful to send non-specialists, whose drafts would be considered by Governments and later at Geneva.

Amendments agreed to.

5. Programme for Plenary Sessions (E/FC/T/DEL/14)

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) asked whether the specific resolutions from the Committees should be presented by the National Delegates who had moved them in Committee, or by the CHAIRMAN of the Committees.

The CHAIRMAN answered that the Chairmen would perform this task.

All Heads of Delegations indicated that they would wish to speak in Plenary Session.

In answer to Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), the CHAIRMAN said that it would not be necessary for delegates to record reservations at the Plenary Sessions, and that it might in fact be undesirable to do so.

M. NATHAN (France) complained of faulty translation into French of amended Articles, and requested that texts be cleared with the French Delegation before being reproduced.

The CHAIRMAN asked the delegates to speak briefly at the Plenary Meetings, and to send to the Secretariat as early as possible the text of their remarks, to assist the simultaneous interpreters and the Press. It was further agreed that a Plenary Session should be held on Tuesday morning, 26 November 1946.

Procedure at Geneva

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) said that the work at Geneva would fall into two sets of discussions, on the general clauses and on the tariff schedules. At the present conference great progress had been made with the general clauses; work on tariff negotiations had been deliberately postponed, and his delegation thought it would be wise to concentrate at Geneva on the tariff schedules for a considerable time at the beginning of the conference, fixing 8 May as the date on which to start discussing the general clauses. The report of the Drafting Committee would lie on the table for four weeks from the beginning, and then the delegations would summon their experts. This procedure would prevent waste of experts' time. Work on tariff negotiations could continue along with work on the general clauses.

Proposal of United Kingdom Delegation agreed to.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) mentioned the possibility of appointing a Committee to guide discussions for the first four weeks.

Mr. NEHRU (India) asked what action would be taken on any amendments to the Memorandum on Procedure that might be suggested by member governments.

Mr. WYNDHAM-WHITE (Executive Secretary) asked for comments on the Memorandum as early as possible. Many points of doubt could be cleared up by correspondence; weightier questions might be referred to the Preparatory Committee at Geneva.

Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) hoped that any amendments suggested by a government would immediately be circulated by the Secretariat to all members of the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. NEHRU (India) declared that he was satisfied for the time being.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) hoped that no questions would be left over to delay discussions at Geneva, but that as much as possible should be settled before the present Conference dispersed.

The Meeting rose at 6.00 p.m.

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