

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

HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT.

Appointment of an Interim Co-ordinating Committee  
for International Commodity  
Arrangements.

The acting Chairman has received the attached communication from the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs containing a request by the Secretary General for the advice of the Preparatory Committee as to the choice of an individual to act as Chairman of an Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements and to represent the Preparatory Committee on the Co-ordinating Committee.

The United States delegation have suggested the nomination for this purpose of Mr. J. R. C. Holmore, who acted as Chairman of the Committee on International Commodity Arrangements at the first session of the Preparatory Committee in London. Subject to the comments of other delegates, the Acting Chairman proposes to advise the Secretary General accordingly. Any comments on this proposal should be forwarded to the Chairman not later than noon on Wednesday, May 14th, as the Acting Chairman is anxious to communicate the advice of the Preparatory Committee to the Secretary General as soon as possible.

6 May, 1947.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I have been requested by the Secretary General to inform you that the Economic and Social Council recently passed the following Resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council, noting that intergovernmental consultations are going forward actively with respect to certain internationally traded commodities

and

considering the significant measure of agreement regarding commodity problems and the co-ordination of commodity consultations already reached both in the First Session of the Preparatory Committee on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment and in the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations,

Recommends that, pending the establishment of the International Trade Organization, Members of the United Nations adopt as a general guide in intergovernmental consultation or action with respect to commodity problems the principles laid down in Chapter VII as a whole, i.e. the Chapter on Intergovernmental Commodity Arrangements of the Draft Charter appended to the Report of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, although recognizing that discussions in future sessions of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference, as well as in the Conference itself, may result in modifications of the provisions relating to commodity problems, and

Requests the Secretary General to appoint an Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements to keep informed of and to facilitate by appropriate means such intergovernmental consultation or action with respect to commodity problems, the Committee to consist of a Chairman to represent the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, a person nominated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to be concerned in particular with agricultural primary commodities, and a person to be concerned in particular with non agricultural primary commodities."

In order to enable the Secretary General to proceed with the implementation of this Resolution, he would be grateful if your Committee would as soon as possible offer him advice as to the choice of an individual to act as Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee and to represent the Preparatory Committee.

In order to secure effective co-ordination and to avoid duplication of staff, the Secretary General considers that it would be desirable that the Committee should be served by a single secretariat, to the maximum extent consistent with the interests of all parties. He accordingly proposes that the executive work of the Committee as a whole should be centred in the section of the Secretariat of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment concerned with Intergovernmental Commodity Arrangements. For this purpose the Secretary General proposes to designate an official of that Section in the Department of Economic Affairs to act as Secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee.

The Secretary General is, at the same time, sending an invitation to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization to nominate an individual to serve on the Co-ordinating Committee to be concerned in particular with Agricultural Primary Commodities.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) DAVID OWEN,

Assistant Secretary General  
for Economic Affairs.

His Excellency Mr. Erik Colban,  
Vice-President,  
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee  
of the United Nations Conference on  
Trade and Employment,  
Palais des Nations,  
Geneva.