

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

Chairman's Committee  
(Heads of Delegations)

Summary Record of Seventh Meeting held on  
Tuesday, 17 June 1947, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suetens (Belgium)

Second Agenda Item - Date and Place of World Conference  
(E/PC/T/DEL/40) (Continued).

1. In accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting that it was essential to agree a date for the World Conference before determining the place, the Committee resumed the consideration of this item with a discussion of the date of the World Conference.
2. Sir R. PILLAI (India) suggested that the World Conference should not be held earlier than the middle of January 1948 for reasons of the greatest importance to India. The principal reason offered by Sir R. Pillai was that, in view of the transformation shortly to take place in the Indian political scene, it was essential that the new authorities should have time to study the Draft Charter in the light of the requirements of the territories for which they were responsible, make judgments and arrange for suitable representation at the World Conference.

3. Dr. WU (China) proposed that the target date for the termination of this Session be advanced or alternatively that the World Conference be delayed beyond the proposed date. He did not believe his Government would be able to hold public hearings as contemplated and formulate its views by 21 November, particularly in view of the time required for the Chinese representatives to communicate with their Government or travel to and from China.

4. Mr. WILCOX (United States) recognized that all countries had political necessities and that the United States had no right to insist on theirs receiving more consideration than those of other countries. However, if the World Conference was not held until January, it was extremely unlikely that the Draft Charter could be acted on by the Congress before its adjournment prior to the Presidential election. This would mean that the Charter could not be submitted for ratification until 1949. In other words, postponing the World Conference from November to January would most likely mean a delay of a full calendar year in the consideration of the Draft Charter by the United States Congress and consequently in the establishing of an International Trade Organization. Mr. Wilcox reminded Delegates that the original United States proposals for the reduction of trade barriers were available in 1945, the Reports of the First Session and the Drafting Committee had been available for some time and the Report of the present Session should be available around 15 August, if the target dates were adhered to. He did not believe it could be said, therefore, that governments had not had sufficient time in which to study these proposals.

5. Mr. MOULREK (Lebanon) supported the views expressed by the Delegates for India and China. He believed governments would need more time in which to prepare for the World Conference,

particularly those which had not participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Mobarek proposed that when the work on the Charter had been completed, this Session should be concluded. At that time, the status of the tariff negotiations should be noted and participating countries asked to continue their negotiations via the usual channels between capitals with a view to concluding them prior to the World Conference.

6. Mr. COLBAN (Norway) considered it essential that the World Conference be convened not later than the last half of November. As for the points that governments would need more time for preparation prior to the World Conference, he pointed out that all Members of the United Nations, as well as the countries participating in this Conference, had been supplied currently with all relevant documentation.

7. Mr. FAIVOVICH (Chile) supported the date proposed in the Secretariat paper - 21 November. Although he believed the work of this Session should be completed as soon as possible, he did not agree with the suggestion made by the Delegate for Lebanon that tariff negotiations should be continued between capitals after the Session. He proposed alternatively that tariff negotiations should be continued in Geneva in accordance with strict rules of procedure established by the Preparatory Committee prior to its adjournment.

8. Dr. COOMBS (Australia) regarded it as extremely important to take full advantage of the impetus already achieved in the preparatory work for establishing an International Trade Organization. For this reason, he would prefer 21 November if the difficulties to be faced were only those caused by the brevity of the interval between the end of this Session and the World Conference. If, in

addition, there were certain political difficulties to be faced, particularly in the United States, it might be preferable to postpone the World Conference until any possible doubts had been resolved. In view of the uncertainties involved, Dr. Coombs proposed that a decision on the date of the World Conference be deferred for at least a week.

9. Mr. FERREIRA-BRAGA (Brazil) favoured convening the World Conference on 21 November, and supported the suggestion made by the Delegate for Chile. (See paragraph 7 above).

10. Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) advised that the Preparatory Committee's recommendation regarding the date of the World Conference could be sent to the Economic and Social Council as late as the first week in July. The Committee therefore agreed to Dr. Coombs' suggestion to postpone a decision regarding the date of the World Conference.

Agenda Item 3. Invitation to Non-Members (E/PC/T/Del.39 Contd)

11. Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) explained the two recommendations contained in the draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. First, it was believed that a general recommendation that all Non-Members should be invited would put the Secretary-General in an embarrassing position in having to distinguish between a number of small countries, some of which participated very little, if at all, in international trade. For this reason, the Secretary had adopted the objective criterion of "an appreciable interest in world trade" and had used a minimum figure of 0.25% to define "appreciable interest". The second recommendation was submitted more tentatively and had been put forward primarily as a means of clarifying the question of whether territories not responsible for the full conduct of their international relations but possessing full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations and other matters

provided for by the Draft Charter should be invited to the World Conference.

12. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to discuss first the question of invitations to Non-Members.

13. Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) suggested that while a number of countries omitted from the proposed list were insignificant in world trade, there were four - Albania, Mongolian People's Republic, Transjordan and Yemen - whose trade, if not internationally, at least with neighbouring countries, would justify their inclusion. He proposed that they should be invited.

14. Mr. WILCOX (United States) expressed the view that participation in the World Conference should be as wide as possible. He noted that Albania, Transjordan and Yemen had been invited by the Economic and Social Council to the International Health and Maritime Conferences, and wished to support the proposal that they should be invited to the World Trade Conference.

15. Mr. COLBAN (Norway) opposed any additions on the grounds that the proposed list complied with the Economic and Social Council's request to prepare a United Nations Conference, and to advise which states not yet Members of the United Nations should be invited. He deprecated inviting practically all countries in the world regardless of their interest in international commerce.

16. Mr. MOBAREK (Lebanon) supported the addition of Transjordan and Yemen to the list of countries to be invited.

17. Dr. WU (China) and Mr. GOTZEN (Netherlands) supported the view expressed by the Norwegian Delegate on the grounds that the criterion for extending an invitation should be the extent of a country's participation in international trade. Mr. Gotzen pointed

out that membership in the Organization would still be open to other countries after the World Conference, subject to the approval of the Conference.

18. Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) supported the addition of Albania, Transjordan and Yemen to the list, but did not believe that an invitation should be extended to the Mongolian People's Republic because the question of whether or not the latter was a state was being adjudicated currently in the Security Council.

19. Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) proposed that the Preparatory Committee should recommend to the Economic and Social Council the list proposed by the Secretariat with the addition of Albania, Transjordan and Yemen, leaving it to the Council to decide whether any further countries should be invited.

20. Dr. GOOMBS (Australia) proposed that the Preparatory Committee recommend merely that all countries, whether Members or Non-Members of the United Nations, having an appreciable interest in world trade, should be invited unless excluded by action of the United Nations. This would avoid the Preparatory Committee's making specific recommendations involving inevitably political as well as economic considerations.

21. Mr. JOHNSEN (New Zealand) supported the Australian Delegate's proposal, but added the suggestion that the Committee append to its recommendation a proposed list of the countries it believed would come within this category.

22. Sir R. PILLAI (India) believed that if Dr. Coombs' suggestion were adopted, the Committee would not be discharging fully its responsibility under the Economic and Social Council's directive.

23. Mr. WILGRESS (Canada) agreed with the view expressed by the Indian Delegate and supported the addition to the list of Albania, Transjordan and Yemen.

24. M. BARADUC (France) had no objections to the addition of Albania, Transjordan and Yemen.
25. The Committee agreed that Albania, Transjordan and Yemen should be added to the list proposed in the Secretariat paper and that any necessary redrafting of the resolution in the light of the Committee's discussion should be left to the Secretariat.
26. Mr. WILCOX (United States), supported by Dr. Coombs, proposed that invitations be extended to the Control authorities in Germany, Japan and Korea to send observers on the grounds that these countries would at some future date clearly again have an appreciable interest in world trade and it was important that policy in these countries meanwhile should take into account the principles enunciated in the Charter.
27. Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom), supported by M. Baraduc, proposed alternatively that any of the controlling countries should, if they so desired, include on their Delegation observers for Germany, Japan and Korea.
28. Mr. MOFAREK (Lebanon) and Mr. FAIVOVICH (Chile) objected to Mr. Wilcox's proposal.
29. Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) supported the suggestion made by the Chairman that each of the occupying powers include on their Delegation experts in the trade of Germany, Japan and Korea.
30. M. BARADUC (France), supported by Mr. Helmore, proposed that a decision be deferred until the representatives of the three occupying countries participating in the work of the Preparatory Committee had consulted their governments so that a common recommendation could be presented to the Committee.

31. The Committee agreed to defer further consideration of Agenda Item 3.

32. Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) suggested that two English speaking and two French speaking Delegations might each volunteer to make available for this committee a drafting expert and that the committee should be presided over by someone whose native language was neither of the working languages.

33. Mr. FAIVOVICH (Chile) proposed, on behalf of the Brazilian as well as his own Delegation, that Dr. Gutierrez of Cuba serve on the drafting committee.

34. M. BARADUC (France), Mr. Helmore and Mr. Wilcox supported the Secretariat's proposal, but M. Baraduc expressed the hope that the work of the Legal Drafting Committee would not preclude sub-committees from establishing both French and English texts during the course of their work.

35. It was agreed that the Belgian, French, United Kingdom and United States Delegations would each make available one of their representatives to serve on the Legal Drafting Committee, that Dr. Gutierrez of Cuba would serve as Chairman, and that the Secretariat Legal Adviser would assist in the Committee's work.