

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

Chairman's Committee
(Heads of Delegations)

Summary Record of the Sixteenth Meeting held
on Wednesday, 20 August, 1947 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: M. M. Suetens (Belgium)

I. Arrangements for the public Plenary Sessions.

1. Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) drew attention to document E/PC/T/180, containing the text of the draft Charter as rearranged in accordance with the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Chapters I, II and VIII which was approved in Commission B. He stated that in the case of Articles 25-29, 30 and 31 and Chapter II (new numbering) the Legal Drafting Committee version, not yet approved in Commission, had been used. In the latter case, Delegations had been consulted by correspondence and the only objections raised were by the French speaking delegations, in the light of which certain corrections had been made in the French text. No formal action had been taken by Commission A on the report of the Sub-Committee on Article 33 (New York draft) but the amendment to former Article 37 (now 43) as adopted by the Commission was incorporated in the Report and the substance of the report of the Sub-Committee on Article 33 appeared as a footnote on page 66.

2. The document was issued as restricted but he suggested that it should be in the hands of the press well in advance of the public plenaries so that they would have time to study it.
3. Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE expressed his appreciation to the Heads of Delegations for their co-operation in bringing the Charter talks to a close reasonably near the target dates.
4. Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) expressed his appreciation of the technical services of the Conference, particularly the documents service.
5. With regard to the releasing of the Report, he suggested that it be given to the press for guidance and study but not made unrestricted while still not in final form.
6. Dr. H.C. COOMBS (Australia) suggested that, before releasing the document, time should be afforded to Delegates to inform their governments. In reply, the Executive Secretary suggested that it be issued with a release date of Friday, 22 August.
7. This was agreed.
8. Dr. A.B. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) objected to the placing of the Indonesian Republic in the list of states on page ii of the Introduction. After some discussion, Mr. E. COLBAN proposed the deletion of the last 14 lines of that page, starting with "Invitations to attend...".
9. This was adopted.
10. The CHAIRMAN requested that Delegates send corrections to document E/PC/T/180 to the Secretariat in order to eliminate any unnecessary discussion in the Plenary Sessions.

11. Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) suggested that an executive session was necessary before the final Plenaries to discuss the Report and that this document should be regarded as subject to correction until the end of the Plenary Sessions.
12. Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) said that certain outstanding items of business, such as the United Kingdom document regarding the note about the former Article 36 and the report of the Sub-Committee on Article 33, could be cleared in the Executive Session. He hoped that this would not mean that the final Plenaries should be purely formal affairs as this would accentuate criticism from the press which had recently been intensified. The programme would then be: an Executive Session on Friday morning for these two matters and any other points in the Report more suitably raised in Executive Session than in the Plenaries, and the concluding Plenaries on Friday afternoon and Saturday. The Report would be issued as a draft, submitted by the Secretariat to the Committee. In this form, it would be released on Friday morning with a clear indication that it was subject to the Committee's approval.
13. There were several suggestions as to the limiting of speeches during the Plenaries and it was finally decided that the Chairman would present the draft Charter for approval, all Delegates wishing to do so would speak, speeches would be limited to 10 minutes and there would so far as practicable be simultaneous interpretation. This should make it possible to finish in two meetings.
14. Mr. W.G. BROWN (United States) stated that the positive achievements of the Conference should be stressed and was joined in this by Mr. ROYER (France).

15. Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) suggested the advisability of bringing the Second Session to a formal conclusion with the final Plenary on Saturday, and making formal provision for the continuation of the Tariff Agreement Committee and the completion by it of the drafting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

16. It was agreed not to reach a decision at the meeting and to revert to this question in the Executive Session on Friday morning.

II. Voting Rights at the World Conference for Non-Members of the United Nations.

17. Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) asked whether Delegates had yet received any replies from their governments with regard to supporting any action which might be taken by the United Kingdom in the Assembly on this matter.

18. Dr. H.C. COOMBS (Australia) said that his Government had advised him that it considered it inadvisable to divide the Charter for voting purposes and to decide that non-Members could vote on some questions and not on others. It saw no objection to this question being raised by the United Kingdom in the General Assembly.

19. Other Delegates stated that they had telegraphed their Governments but received no final replies.

20. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) suggested that it might be helpful if the United Kingdom Delegate could indicate a date by which the United Kingdom Government felt it would require to know the views of other Governments.

21. Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) thanked the Delegates and suggested as a target the end of August. He stated that there was no idea of dividing the Charter on the voting question. The suggested compromise was for all countries to vote on matters relating to the Charter but not on questions of the Conference procedure at Havana.
22. Sir Raghavan PILLAI (India) stated that he believed that all countries should have the right of vote on all questions but that, in order to promote agreement, he had been willing to accept the compromise suggested except in its application to Pakistan, which was in a quite different position.
23. Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) thought that it might be dangerous to put the two questions separately.
24. Dr. H.C. COOMBS (Australia) wished attention to be drawn to the quite distinct situation of Pakistan in that it had been in effect a member of the Preparatory Committee through the representation of the Indian Delegation prior to partition.
25. The question of how to proceed was raised and Dr. H.C. COOMBS suggested that it should at least be placed on record as the view of the Committee and brought to the attention of the appropriate United Nations authority that Pakistan was entitled to voting rights quite apart from any decision that might be made with respect to the other countries.
26. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) stated that, although he was in full sympathy with the position of Pakistan, he was afraid that this suggestion would have no legal basis.
27. Mr. J.R.C. HELMORE (United Kingdom) felt that there could be no doubt in anyone's mind as to the wholehearted support which

the United Kingdom Government was extending to the Dominion of Pakistan but he thought that it would be tactically unwise to raise the question of Pakistan as a separate issue. The view of the Preparatory Committee was on record and it was still possible for the Indian Delegation to reopen the question at the General Assembly should Pakistan by that date not have been admitted to the United Nations and should there be an adverse decision regarding the vote for other non-Members.

28. Sir Raghavan PILLAI (India) accepted this solution.

29. Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) said that in view of the earlier discussion, he wished to place on record that although the Secretariat had restricted the circulation of E/PC/T/180 (Draft Report of the Second Session), he had just been informed that a summary of this document had in fact already been reported by a correspondent to his newspaper. He wished it to be clearly understood that the report had not been made available to the Press by the Secretariat, which would be guided in this matter by the decision already taken by the Committee.

30. Dr. J.E. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) brought up the question of the notes on the Technical Articles referred to the Chairman's Committee by Commission A. The incorporation of the notes in the text of the Report coupled with the note to Article 89 would satisfy him on this point provided that the Delegations principally concerned were also satisfied. The Delegates of the United Kingdom, Australia and Cuba expressed themselves satisfied.

31. The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.