

E/PC/T/C.IV/PV/1

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

of the
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

Verbatim Report

of the

FIRST MEETING

of

COMMITTEE IV

held in

Committee Room G,

Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

on

Friday, 18th October, 1946.

at

at 3.45 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. J.A. Lacarte (Uruguay).

(From the Shorthand Notes of
W.B. GURNEY, SONS & FUNNELL,
58, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.)

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have pleasure in declaring the first meeting of this Committee open. As you all know, the agenda for today is to be found in the Journal. It is a short one and consists of four items. Before we enter on to the agenda, I should like to introduce to you the secretariat of this Committee. The Secretary is Mr. Judd, who sits here. The Associate Secretary is Mr. Gilpin, here, and the Assistant Secretary is Miss Hadevary. If you have any suggestions of any kind as to the manner in which the work might be carried out, we shall be very glad to receive them through Mr Judd, and, as far as humanly possible, put them into effect. The rules of procedure which we understand will be in order in this Committee are those which have already been adopted by the Preparatory Committee. As was previously done today at the meeting of Committee I, I might draw your attention to rule 57, which refers to languages, and reads that Committees and Subcommittees may decide to adopt rules of procedure regarding interpretations or translations of a more simple character than those laid down in the rules. We will, of course, have adequate language staff at all times, but if the Committee should ever feel that it wishes to simplify these rules, it is at perfect liberty to do so. Now we come to our first item on our agenda to-day, which is the election of a Chairman. I should like to call for nominations.

M. ALPHAND (France) (speaking in French - interpretation): Mr Chairman, I would like to propose the election of Mr. Holmro, the Delegate of the United Kingdom, as President of this Committee. I do so first in homage to the United Kingdom, which is our host country, which is one of the countries to which all countries, and especially my country, France, owes a great debt. I do so, secondly, because Great Britain is a country which has always led in matters of trade, which has a kind of vocation for international trade, and which can teach us very much. Thirdly, I do so because

of the personal capacity of Mr Helmore himself. I have not yet had the pleasure of knowing him for any length of time, but I know about his position at the Board of Trade; I know his outstanding capacity. I can myself judge of one of his qualities: he possesses a quality which is rare but a very useful one for a Chairman. I have heard that he has a very strong sense of humour. Without a sense of humour it is quite impossible to treat serious questions seriously. Therefore I propose that the Members of this Committee should unanimously by acclamation elect Mr Helmore Chairman. (Applause.)

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I take it that Mr Helmore has been accepted as Chairman of this Committee, and I now request him to take the chair.

(Mr. J.R.C. Helmore, C.I.C. (United Kingdom)
accordingly took the chair.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen and M. Alphand, it is my privilege to thank you for the way in which the suggestion has been received, and especially to thank M. Alphand for the two grounds on which he based his suggestion. In the name of the United Kingdom I thank him for what he said. As regards my position as Delegate of the United Kingdom, I thank him for what he said about me; but as to that I have some doubts. In the first place, it was almost too much for the interpreter. In the second place, we in the United Kingdom sometimes fail in our sense of humour by assuming that we have a monopoly of it. The next item on our agenda is the election of a Vice-Chairman. Are there any nominations?

Mr. McCARTHY (Australia): Mr Chairman, representing Australia, I have pleasure in nominating Mr. Bjarne Robberstad of the Norwegian Delegation as the Vice-Chairman of this Committee. He holds a position of prominence in the Norwegian Supply Department, and I believe his qualifications are such as to render him an appropriate Vice-Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any Delegate wish to second that suggestion?

Mr. HAKIM (Lebanon): I second the nomination of the Delegate for Norway, Mr. Robberstad.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other nominations? (After a pause:-)

Then I have very much pleasure in declaring the Delegate of Norway elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

(Applause.) Before we pass on to the next business, I think it would be the Committee's wish that we should say a word of welcome to the representatives of the specialised agencies. The four guests sitting at the bottom of the table will no doubt read our minutes and learn from them that we shall very much welcome their assistance when they can contribute to the solutions of the problems before us. Then, Gentlemen, I suggest we go on to item No. 2 of the suggestions by the secretariat which were circulated in the Journal; that is preliminary consideration of agenda and programme of work. The United States Delegation, I understand, have been good enough to make some suggestions to us which are now being handed round.

M. ALPHAND (France) (speaking in French - interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry: I just want to draw your attention to the fact that the documents are distributed in English only, and I do not understand English.

THE CHAIRMAN: If it would meet this temporary difficulty, I am sure the interpreter would be able to read it to us in French.

M. ALPHAND (France) (speaking in French - interpretation): I want to be sure that this will not be repeated.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am perfectly certain that the Secretaries will observe the rules of procedure; and in their defence I must say that this document was, I believe perfectly correctly, handed in in one language only a few minutes ago. Now I might ask the interpreter to read this document in French.

M. ALPHAND (France) (speaking in French - interpretation): I have now read it through; I understand it now and I do not want it translated.

THE CHAIRMAN: Another instance of the monopoly being infringed.

Mr. WILCOX (USA): Mr Chairman, if it is appropriate now, I would like to speak a word about this document. It is my understanding that it was agreed at a meeting of heads of Delegations this noon that, in order to facilitate the work of the respective Committees, as a matter of convenience, the headings of the various sections of the chapters of the suggested Charter prepared by the United States would be used as the agenda of the Committees, subject to such amendments as other Delegations might care to make. In pursuance of that understanding, the United States between that meeting and this one has set forth these headings in a suggested agenda. I regret that, due to the limitations of time, in that interval it was possible for us to present them only in English. There is only one change involved here, and that is a slight re-arrangement in the sequence of the headings; so that principles would be discussed first and details of organisation and procedure subsequently. But the content of the headings is the same as that of the various sections of the chapter regarding commodity arrangements.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other Delegation want to observe at this stage on the suggestions for our agenda?

M. ALPHAND (France) (speaking in French - interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to speak once more. I do not think we have had time in these few seconds to give a real opinion on this agenda. At first sight the suggested agenda seems to me to be quite good and well done; but I think we should have been given time to think it over, and at the beginning of the next meeting we could give our opinion on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would it generally meet the wishes of the Committee if we were to take as our first item of business, when we next meet, consideration of the suggested agenda? Is that agreed? (After a pause;-) Then we will do that. Now I think at this point it might be useful to the Committee if I asked the secretariat to give us an explanation of the arrangements that are suggested for records of Committee Meetings.

THE SECRETARY (Mr. Lacarte): In accordance with the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee when it met in executive session on the rules of procedure, in view of the fact that Committee meetings will normally be held in private, verbatim records will be issued to Delegations, specialised agencies here present and observer countries and members of the United Nations. The summary record will have the same circulation. There will also be a short version of the summary record to be prepared by the Secretary of the Committee and approved by the Chairman of the Committee, which will be inserted in the Journal. We hope that will prove acceptable to the Delegations.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it those arrangements are agreeable to the Committee? (After a pause;-) There is one other matter before we come to consider the date of the next meeting. That is that there has been circulated a document numbered W.17 from the International Chamber of Commerce. It might perhaps be useful if we were prepared with any remarks we want to make on that document at the meeting to-morrow. Before I ask the Secretary to tell us what is contemplated as to programme of meetings, is there any other point which any Delegation wishes to raise? (After a pause-) Then I call upon the Secretary.

THE SECRETARY: It is proposed that the next meeting of this Committee take place tomorrow morning at 10.30. It will almost certainly meet in this room, and you will have confirmation in the Journal. We have made tentative arrangements for a further meeting on Monday at 10.30, and once again the number of the room

will appear in the Journal.

Mr. McCARTHY (Australia): What is expected to be the duration of the meetings?

THE CHAIRMAN: In the morning?

Mr McCARTHY (Australia): In the morning particularly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I am in the hands of the Committee on this.

I think the Plenary Sessions and Executive Sessions have endeavoured to rise by 12.30. Would it be convenient to take that as our aim? (After a pause:-) Then we adjourn till tomorrow morning at 10.30.

(The Meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.)