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5 February 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

SUB-COMMITTEE ON TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success on 5 February 1947, at 12:15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. B. N. ADARKAR, M.B.E.

On the suggestion of its Chairman, Mr. JOHARI, the Drafting Committee constituted itself as SUB-COMMITTEE ON TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS.

Mr. LEDDY (United States) proposed the election of Mr. B. N. ADARKAR (India) as chairman; the proposal was seconded by several Delegates. Mr. ADARKAR was unanimously elected.

The CHAIRMAN suggested, and the Sub-Committee approved, that Summary Records of the Meetings should be kept and put at the disposal of the Delegations. It will be the first task of the Sub-Committee to select such Articles of the Charter which should be embodied in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The language of these Articles will be revised with the view of incorporating them in the General Agreement. The Sub-Committee will recommend further suitable provisions with regard to the period of duration, the putting into force and termination of the General Agreement and some other legal and technical provisions.

Mr. LEDDY (United States) suggested that an Interim International Body should be set up to ensure the working of the General Agreement before the Charter comes into force, and called attention to the "Draft Clauses for the Interim Agreement" circulated by the United Kingdom Delegation (document C.6/W.40). He also informed the Chairman

/that the United States

that the United States Delegation was preparing a draft of Articles of the Charter to be embodied in Article 1 of General Agreement.

The Sub-Committee considered the "TENTATIVE AND PARTIAL DRAFT OUTLINE OF GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE" as suggested by the First Session of the Preparatory Committee in Annexure 10 of its Report (page 51, Section K).

THE PREAMBLE was considered adequate, but the Sub-Committee may wish to reconsider it at a later stage.

Article 1

Mr. LEDDY suggested that the adopted text of the Articles of the Charter should be made part of this Article.

The Sub-Committee discussed the question how the General Agreement will be put into operation by the countries.

It was understood that the General Agreement will be subject to the appropriate ratification by legislative bodies of the contracting parties.

The Sub-Committee decided that Article 14 of the Charter should form a part of Article 1 of the General Agreement, and that Articles 15-23 of the Charter will be considered after the Technical Sub-Committee has presented its report on them.

Next meeting: tomorrow at 2:45 p.m.