UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

NATIONS UNIES

CONSEIL ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL

RESTRICTED

E/PC/T/A/SR/5.Corr.1
June 3, 1947.
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Corrigendum to the Summary Record of the fifth meeting of Commission A.

The following amendments should be made:

Page 4, Line 4 - Delete "was" and insert "had been". Insert after "stated" "than the others".

Page 5 - Delete second paragraph commencing "He did not believe the question" etc., insert in place of this paragraph the following: -

"The South African delegate had raised the question of national sovereignty but so far as the Australian Delegation could see, the question of sovereignty did not arise. There were no sanctions provided for in the Charter. In the event of a country failing to carry out its obligation, it was provided that the country whose economy was impaired could, first of all, make representations to the country in which the conditions of failure had arisen and then if necessary could seek the assistance of the Organization to investigate the matter and to arrange for consultation about it. The Organization could offer recommendations to the countries concerned. Those recommendations could be accepted or rejected. If they were rejected, the Organization had no powers of coercion. All it could do was to authorise the Member whose economy was impaired to suspend some or all of its obligations to some or all of the other Members. Thus, instead of a country which was unable to carry out its obligations because of circumstances beyond its control, being forced to withdraw from the international community, it had the opportunity to state its case to the international community, and have its obligations reviewed with full international approval. It was, in the opinion of the Australian Delegation, infinitely preferable that those obligations should be modified by consultation.

To the Australian Delegation, the undertakings in Chapters 3, 4, 6 and 7 were fundamental. They alone created the conditions in which a substantial advance along the road of the reduction of trade barriers and the development of international co-operation in the field of trade became possible. Upon their implementation depended the capacity of other countries to implement their other specific contractual obligations.

The interdependence of the obligations in all sections of this Charter should be clear; and there should be no distinction drawn in principle between any of those obligations.