

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

WORKING PARTY ON TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Summary Record of the Second Meeting held on Saturday,
10 May 1947 at 10.30 a.m. in the Palais des Nations,
Geneva.

Chairman: H.E. Erik Colban

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document DEL/31, calling upon delegations to submit to the Secretariat, not later than 13th May at noon, proposed amendments for all Chapters of the Charter, so that an annotated agenda could be prepared.

The CHAIRMAN also drew attention to the Annex to document W.P.1/SR.1 recording the changes agreed upon in Article 19 and stated that the second reading of this Article would be taken in a few days time. A delegate suggested that the full text of each Article should be given in the Annex to the Summary Record. The CHAIRMAN welcomed this proposal, and it was agreed that in future this should be done.

1. Article 20 - Marks of Origin

Paragraph 4. Adopted.

Paragraph 5. The Working Party discussed the proposal of the Czechoslovak Delegation (w.52) that paragraph 5 should be re-written to incorporate a time limit of two years within which the Organization should complete a study of measures to bring about the gradual elimination of obligatory requirements as to marks of origin. (In the course of the discussion the

Czechoslovak Delegate agreed to substitute the word "unnecessary" for "obligatory" in his amendments).

The NETHERLANDS Delegate proposed that paragraph 5 should include specific mention of certain products which should be exempted from marking requirements as in the corresponding Article No. 14 of the United States Draft Charter.

Both these proposals were rejected, but it was considered desirable that the discussion of this paragraph at this meeting, as well as those at the Drafting Committee in New York and of the First Session in London should be considered by the Organization when it undertakes its investigation of this problem.

On the suggestion of the NETHERLANDS Delegate, the Chairman and the Working Party agreed that mention should be made in the Summary Record of the desirability of placing particular emphasis upon the word "early" in the first sentence reading " the early elimination of unnecessary requirements "

Paragraph 5 was then adopted subject to the substitution of "study" for "investigate" in the fifth line.

Paragraph 6. It was noted that the comments under (a) and (b) in the Report of the Drafting Committee would not have to be repeated in the report of the present Session.

The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that his reservation on this paragraph could be withdrawn provided the word "should" in the second line were not altered.

The UNITED STATES Delegate advised that he would prefer the word "shall" in place of "should" in the second line, but would not insist upon this alteration.

The paragraph was then adopted in First Reading, subject to the substitution of "is" for "has been" in the fifth line and corresponding changes in the verbs in the following lines.

Paragraph 7. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Working Party to documents W.29 and W.40 containing proposals of the Cuban and French Delegations to revise the wording of paragraph 7.

The CUBAN, FRENCH and CZECHOSLOVAK Delegates strongly opposed the acceptance of paragraph 7 as presented by the Drafting Committee and the meeting closed without a decision being reached.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 12 May 1947.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

Addendum to Summary Record of First Meeting (WP.1/SR.1),
page 4:

Article 20, Paragraph 3: The Delegate for NORWAY withdrew his reservation recorded on page 15 of the Report of the Drafting Committee. The Delegate for the UNITED STATES maintained provisionally his reservation but would ask for instructions on this point.