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E/PC/T/132
21 July 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

The attached letter and accompanying observations relating to Chapter VIII (particularly Article 81(3)) have been received from the Representative of the International Co-operative Alliance.

In accordance with the established procedure, these observations are hereby drawn to the attention of all Delegations and particularly of those representatives who have been designated to serve on the Consultative Committee (Non-governmental Organizations).

The comments by the International Co-operative Alliance on other parts of the Charter have already been circulated in the following documents:

- E/PC/T/80 - Comments on Chapter VI
- E/PC/T/114 - Comments on Chapter VII
- E/PC/T/128 - Comments on Chapter I-IV

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE,

14 Great Smith Street,

London, S.W.1.

18th July, 1947.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to hand you herewith the Comments of the International Co-operative Alliance on Chapter VIII of the Draft Charter.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) THORSTEN ODHE

Permanent Representative of
the International Co-operative
Alliance.

The Executive Secretary of the
Preparatory Committee of the United Nations
Conference on Trade and Employment.
GENEVA.

DRAFT CHARTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANISATION (I.T.O.).

COMMENTS ON CHAPTER VIII.

Presented by MR. THORSTEN ODHE,

Representative of the INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE (I.C.A.).

The comments which the International Co-operative Alliance desires to make in connection with Chapter VIII of the Draft Charter of the International Trade Organisation concern only Article 81(3) - Relations of the International Trade Organisation with Non-Governmental Agencies.

In the principles laid down by a special committee of the Economic and Social Council (E/43/Rev.2) regarding working relations with non-governmental organisations, reference was made to Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, where it is provided that the Economic and Social Council may take suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organisations which are concerned obviously with matters within its competence. This provision applies also to the different Commissions and specialised agencies collaborating with the Council.

The I.C.A. is well aware of the distinction made in Article 71 between non-governmental organisations, on the one hand, and, on the other, States non-members of the Council, as well as specialised inter-governmental agencies. Further, the I.C.A. is satisfied with the rights of consultation accorded to it as a non-governmental organisation in Category A and does not ask that these rights should be extended with regard to the International Trade Organisation, which is intended to function as one of the specialised agencies referred to in Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations. In the Comments submitted to the Preparatory Committee on previous Chapters of the Draft Charter of the International Trade Organisation, the I.C.A. has expressed its readiness to enter into full consultation with the I.T.O. generally, as well as in connection with specific tasks and obligations to be performed by the I.T.O. according to the provisions of the Charter, particularly Chapters III, IV, VI and VII. In so doing the I.C.A. has had in mind the definition given by the Council's N.G.O. Committee of the non-governmental organisations of Category A, viz. "Organisations which have a basic interest in most of the activities of the Council and are closely linked with the economic and social life of the area which they represent". As the World Organisation representing the primary interests of the Consumers' Co-operative Movement, as well as manifold co-operative activities of small producers, the I.C.A. has deemed it of considerable importance to lay down the aforementioned proposals to the Preparatory Committee for more closely outlined forms of consultative arrangements with regard to some of those specific tasks just mentioned, in the full assurance that these proposals will be thoroughly and fairly considered by the Committee.

In view of the nature of these specific tasks and the valuable services which the I.C.A., as a Category A non-governmental organisation, can render to the I.T.O. in their accomplishment - provided the opportunities for consultation be fully utilised - the I.C.A. feels called upon to propose that the wording of Article 81(3) be slightly altered in order to express more fully the nature of the mutual relationship between the non-governmental organisations of Category A and the International Trade Organisation. While the I.C.A. does not consider it necessary that the consultative arrangements, which eventually will be defined more closely with regard to different non-governmental organisations of Category A and a wide range of specific tasks in the different Chapters of the Draft Charter, should be conclusively codified or enumerated in Article 81(3), it is of the opinion that it would be very useful if a reference were made in this Article to the principles laid down in the Report of the Council N.G.O. Committee, stressing that consultative arrangements referred to in the Draft Charter should be afforded, generally, on the invitation of the I.T.O. or at the request of the organisation, and include arrangements of a more permanent and closely defined character.

The I.C.A. accordingly desires to submit for a closer examination by the Preparatory Committee the following draft for a revised text of Article 81(3):-

"The Organisation may, in accordance with the general principles laid down by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of the Report of the Council's N.G.O. Committee, make suitable arrangements for consultation and co-operation with non-governmental organisations concerned with matters within its own competence, and invite them for such consultation and co-operation, either on its own initiative or at their request. The Organisation may also invite them to undertake specific tasks more closely defined in the different provisions of the Charter."