

COSTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT  
AND ITS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Note by the Executive Secretary

There is circulated herewith for the information of delegates a letter from the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the costs of the Conference on Trade and Employment and its Preparatory Committee. Delegates will be aware that the Working Party on the Interim Organization is considering a proposal that the study of this question be included amongst the tasks of the Interim Commission of the Organization.

2 February 1948

Sir,

At its first session, held in London in February 1946, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution (Resolution of 18 February 1946, Journal of the Economic and Social Council, pages 133-134) calling an International Conference on Trade and Employment in the latter part of 1946 for the purpose of promoting the expansion of production, exchange and consumption of goods, and to establish an International Trade Organization as a specialized agency of the United Nations. In accordance with this Resolution, the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment was constituted and met for its first session in London in October-November of 1946.

The expenses of the London meeting of the Preparatory Committee amounted to \$213,114. These expenditures represent only the direct additional costs of the meeting, including travel, temporary assistance, subsistence, rental of premises and other similar items.

At its London meeting, the Preparatory Committee established a Drafting Committee which was to meet at Lake Success in January 1947, and also scheduled a second session of the Preparatory Committee to meet in Geneva in April 1947.

The direct "extra" expenses of the meeting of the Drafting Committee at Lake Success amounted to \$8,654.

The expenses of the second session of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva are estimated at \$221,394 in direct additional costs and at \$563,068 in indirect additional costs not provided for in the United Nations budget.

/The expenses

The expenses of the Plenary Conference on Trade and Employment in Havana which are not being borne by the Cuban Government under the terms of agreement reached with that Government, are presently estimated at around \$300,000 including approximately \$150,000 for salaries and related costs of staff provided to the Conference by the United Nations.

In addition to the above-mentioned expenses of the sessions of the Preparatory Committee, Drafting Committee, and the Conference in Havana, the United Nations has provided about 22 staff members during 1946 and 1947 to assist the Preparatory Committee in its substantive work. The salaries and related allowances of this staff during 1946 and 1947 amount to about \$34,000 and \$160,000 respectively.

The estimated total of the Preliminary Expenses incurred on behalf of the International Trade Organization can therefore be summarized as follows:

<u>1946</u>	
1. First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment (London-November 1946)	\$ 213,114
2. Salaries and allowances of substantive personnel furnished to the Preparatory Committee by the United Nations during 1946	34,000
<u>1947</u>	
3. Drafting Committee of the Preparatory Committee (Lake Success - January-February 1947)	8,654
4. Second Session of the Preparatory Committee (Geneva, April-October 1947)	784,462
5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment (Havana, November 1947-February 1948)	300,000
6. Salaries and allowances of substantive personnel furnished to the Preparatory Committee by the United Nations during 1947	160,000
	<u>\$ 1,500,230</u>

I have to request that this information be placed before the Conference, in order that the necessary arrangements for reimbursing the United Nations may be made. I am able to advise the Conference that items 1, 2 and 6 above amounting to \$407,114 have been financed out of budget appropriations of the United Nations. In consequence reimbursement is only required for items 3, 4 and 5, amounting to \$1,093,116, which has been advanced from the Working Capital Fund of the United Nations pending the establishment of the International Trade Organization.

/The various

The various items of expenses are not shown here in detail since the conference in Havana is still in session and certain other costs have not yet been fully accounted. Upon a final determination of all costs a detailed statement will be made to the authorized representatives of the International Trade Organization, or such interim body as may be established.

I should be glad if you would bring the information set forth in this letter to the attention of the Conference on Trade and Employment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

/s/ Byron Price

Acting Secretary-General,

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