

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE
DELEGATION OF EL SALVADOR TO RULE 38 OF RULES OF
PROCEDURE (E/CONF.2/Rev.4/Add.1)

Note by the Executive Secretary

Although the Secretariat will, of course, spare no effort to carry out any decision arrived at by the Conference, I feel bound to draw attention to some of the administrative problems involved in the suggestion to adopt Spanish as a working language in the Sub-Committees.

The discussion of the proposal in Plenary Session was confined to the question as to whether there should or should not be interpretation into Spanish. It appears, however, somewhat impracticable to confine the problem within these limits since it would follow from the use of Spanish as a working language that the various documents under discussion in the sub-committee should be translated into Spanish. Therefore, in assessing the budgetary and administrative problems, account has also been taken of the need for Spanish documentation.

The financial estimates which are set out below show that although additional costs are not large in relation to the total budget of the Conference, they are nevertheless substantial and as will be seen from the Secretary-General's letter circulated as an attachment to document E/CONF.2/C.6/W.21, it is necessary for the Secretary-General to seek the approval of the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions for any additions to the budget of the present Conference. This is necessarily a complicated and time-consuming process and therefore no immediate decision could be expected.

The following estimates are based upon the assumption that there will be some twenty sub-committees, of which eight or nine will meet each day. Under the present programme, an average of twelve sub-committee meetings are being held each day and the estimate is, therefore, conservative.

1. Interpretation

It is estimated that it would be necessary to recruit a minimum of six consecutive interpreters. Recruitment is necessary in light of the fact that these people are not available from Lake Success. It is considered that their minimum compensation would be \$25.00 per day for locally-recruited

/personnel,

personnel, and \$25.00 per day plus \$12.00 per diem if recruited other than locally. This would entail a salary cost of approximately \$3,600 assuming that the Conference will last one month from this date. In addition, there will be approximately \$1,500 required for travel.

2. Translation

In the event that this proposal results in a demand for translation of sub-committee documents into Spanish, it will be necessary to obtain six Spanish translators (average grade 11), two Spanish revisors (average grade 14), and seven Spanish steno-typists (average grade 5). This would entail a salary cost of approximately \$4,300. In addition, there would be a travel cost of approximately \$7,500. The cost to document these translations would entail an additional cost in the amount of \$2,000.

3. Summary

	<u>Salaries and Wages</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Supplies</u>
Consecutive Interpreters	\$ 3 600 00	\$ 1 500 00	
6 Spanish Translators (average grade 11)			
2 Spanish Revisors (average grade 14)			
7 Spanish Steno-Typists (average grade 5)	4 300 00	7 500 00	
Documents (paper, etc.)			\$ 2 000 00
	<u>\$ 7 900 00</u>	<u>9 000 00</u>	<u>2 000 00</u>
TOTAL.....			<u><u>\$18 900 00</u></u>

4. Other Considerations

A. Interpretation

It is not likely that competent interpreters could be recruited here. Candidates would have to be found and tested before they could be sent to Havana, and this would involve loss of time. As the new interpreters would be unfamiliar with United Nations work, some time would elapse before they would render really efficient service. The difficulty would be all the greater on account of the special and technical nature of the work of the Conference on Trade and Employment.

B. Translation

The Spanish section in Lake Success is known to have very little personnel they can spare, especially among the revisors. (There are only four Spanish revisors in Lake Success). It does not seem that it would be possible to recruit translators locally if we are to maintain United Nations translation standards.

The typists might be recruited locally.

/If Spanish

If Spanish is adopted as a working language for sub-committees, it may be necessary to translate into Spanish all fundamental documents issued so far by the Conference; and especially the annotated agendas and amendments presented in French and English, before sub-committee work can proceed in Spanish, as sub-committees are currently discussing and referring to these documents. It is estimated that the translation of amendments and annotated agendas alone would require eight translators to work for ten consecutive days before they can handle current production.
