

GENERAL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TIME-TABLE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

EL SALVADOR: PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The delegation of El Salvador proposes:

- (a) a return to the previous system of two working periods daily, one in the morning and one in the afternoon;
- (b) the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to seek formulas for a compromise on the five or six points of disagreement which have arisen in going through the Draft Charter. The Committee would be formed from the countries which best represent the various trends of opinion, and would be authorized to discuss the points of disagreement from an overall standpoint.

COMMENTS:

During the course of the discussions it has become apparent that in general the position of the United States, the United Kingdom and the European countries is the same and in opposition to that of the Latin American and other undeveloped countries. A number of countries, such as Australia, occupy a position between these two extremes. The Committee would be made up of the countries best representing the points of view noted.

Taking this fact as a starting point, the circumstances underlying our proposal are as follows:

The progress of the Conference has been rather slow as regards the adoption of agreements, due not to lack of time or effort but to the existence of a number of points in the Draft Charter (5 or 6) on which there are apparently irreconcilable differences of opinion, and which will continue to be an insuperable obstacle to the conclusion of the work of the Conference, if they are dealt with separately.

The General Committee's decision to increase the number of sessions held each day does not solve the problem. It can only postpone the conflict. In fact, for lack of time the small delegations will not take part in a series of committee and sub-committee meetings, and the opinion of the committees will be taken without them. In order to defend their points of view they will resort to raising them

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again and with greater vigour in the plenary meetings. The United States delegation (large-scale and efficient like everything produced by that great people) will be present at every meeting. The same will be true of the United Kingdom delegation which, although not very large, is made up of members who, through having attended all the Preparatory meetings, have the Draft Charter at their fingertips. As a result they have more time at their disposal, since it is not necessary for them to spend more time studying the Draft Charter in connection with the problems which have been raised. The same will be true of France and other delegations. Therefore, the opinions taken by the chairmen of the committees and sub-committees will be those of the countries mentioned, worthy of respect but not the same as those of the other countries (including my own) whose position is summed up in the expression "We will be at the Plenary"

On the other hand, if an Ad Hoc Committee is formed representing the various points of view, it will be able to seek formulas for compromise more easily--without involving any cessation of work on the part of the committees and sub-committees--because it will be doing so from an over-all standpoint. Let us take an example. In the case of quantitative restrictions, the view of the under-developed countries is that quantitative restrictions may be established without obtaining the previous opinion of the Organization when they are intended to protect newly established industries, or rather when they are called for to promote or facilitate a plan of industrial development. In a committee or sub-committee the attitude of the delegations concerned will be inflexible because the subject will be dealt with in isolation. Nevertheless, it is closely connected (I am referring to the example) with the principles underlying the composition of the Executive Board of the Organization. A Committee authorized to deal with these views from an overall standpoint will be able to find conciliatory formulas which would make possible the solution of the various aspects of the problem, solving the problem itself, which is in fact the opposition between the trend of opinion which seeks to stress economic development as a means of attaining the objectives of the Charter, and the trend of opinion which seeks to lay greater stress on the mere stimulation of trade by the elimination of everything which may in its opinion prove to be a barrier to trade.

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity of stating its approval of the dissatisfaction expressed in Committee V at the fact that the question
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of schedules was settled in the General Committee and not at a Plenary meeting, although one was held two or three days prior to the General Committee and not at a Plenary meeting, although one was held two or three days prior to the General Committee's decision.

On behalf of the delegation of El Salvador

/s/ Dr. Ricardo Jimenez CASTILLO
Head of the Delegation
