

FIRST COMMITTEE: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Held at the Capitol, Havana, Cuba, Monday, 1 March 1948

Chairman: Mr. E. WAERUM (Denmark)

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE
(E/CONF.2/C.8/7)

Paragraph 1: approved without comment.

Paragraph 2

Miss FISHER (United Kingdom) said it was her understanding that the words "guaranteed to" should not be included in the first sentence of paragraph 1 of Article 7, but that the French text should contain the words "reconnos aux." The English phrase might limit the number of International Conventions to which the paragraph would apply. The representative of Mexico had suggested reference to the Declaration of Philadelphia, which did not "guarantee" rights to workers.

Mr. AGUILAR (Mexico) agreed and stated that the text as set forth in document E/CONF.2/C.8/1/Rev.1 including the words in square brackets but excluding those underlined, was the correct draft.

The CHAIRMAN read from the Summary Record of the meeting held 9 February 1948 (E/CONF.2/C.1/SR.11) and stated that unless corrections were made, it was assumed the record was correct.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) and Mr. LECUYER (France) agreed that the phrase "reconnos aux" although having slightly different meaning than the English text was reasonably equivalent to the English.

It was agreed that the English text of paragraph 1 of Article 7 as contained in E/CONF.2/C.8/1/Rev.1 including the words in square brackets but excluding the underlined words should be accepted, and the French text of that paragraph given in E/CONF.2/C.8/7 should be accepted.

Paragraph 3

Miss FISHER (United Kingdom) said the phrase "as advances in productivity may permit" was more acceptable than "concurrently with advances in productivity". The representative of Belgium had originally objected to the French text because it implied that labour standards could

/be improved

be improved only after advances in productivity had been made. The word "concurrently" seemed to give strength to the implication.

Mr. NASH (New Zealand) read from the Summary Record of the meeting held 9 January 1948, at which time it was agreed that there should be no inference in the Article to the effect that labour standards should be improved only when productivity was increased.

After considerable discussion, and upon the suggestion of the representative of Brazil and Canada, it was agreed to delete the words "advances in" from the last half of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of the English text of Article 7, and to request the Central Drafting Committee to reconcile the French text. The English text of the sentence would then read:

"They recognize that all countries have a common interest in the achievement and maintenance of fair labour standards related to productivity, and thus in the improvement of wages and working conditions as productivity may permit."

The CHAIRMAN stated that the French text would be presented to the Committee for final consideration.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE (E/CONF.2/C.1/23)

Mr. POLITIS (Greece) requested an expansion of the Report of Committee I, as well as of all Committees, in order to be able to place before his Government a clear report of the Conference. He suggested that the Reports of the Sub-Committees might be included as an Annex.

Mr. FORTHOME (Belgium) noted several errors in the French text of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8, and agreed with the Chairman that paragraph 9 should be re-written to state that: "The reports of the Sub-Committees and of the Central Drafting Committee were accepted. Certain questions which the Sub-Committees were not able to resolve have been resolved as indicated in Annex 3."

Mr. MINOZ (Chile) mentioned that the Report of Committee V had included a statement showing the amendments proposed to each Article and the action taken, but Mr. BRONZ (United States) felt that agreement on such a text would be too time-consuming.

After discussion, it was agreed that paragraph 9 should be re-written, and Annex should give a summary of the manner in which the remaining points were resolved, as indicated by the representative of Belgium, and that it was not necessary to include the Reports of the Sub-Committees since they would be referred to by document number. The revised report would be submitted to the Committee for its approval.

The meeting rose at 12.00
