

SIXTH COMMITTEE: ORGANIZATION

WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF AN INTERIM COMMISSION
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

NOTES ON THE SECOND MEETING

Held 22 January at 6.00 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. COLBAN (Norway)

The Working Party first considered document E/CONF.2/C.6/W.63, being a note by the Executive Secretary upon the tasks which committees and Sub-Committees of the Conference had already agreed to entrust to the Interim Commission. It was noted that two of these tasks were already included in the draft arrangement submitted by the Executive Secretary (see document E/CONF.2/C.6/W.55) and it was agreed that the third task, that is the one relating to studies regarding economic development, should entail the recruitment of any large Secretariat. On first reading it was agreed, therefore, to insert this task in sub-paragraph (h) of paragraph 2 of the draft arrangement.

The Executive Secretary suggested that a new sub-paragraph (1) should be inserted in the draft arrangement at the end of paragraph 2 to authorize the Interim Commission to consult with the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the reimbursement of the expenses of the Preparatory Committee and the Havana Conference and to report to the first regular session of the Conference upon this subject. This suggestion it was accepted on first reading.

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5

Accepted on first reading without change.

Paragraph 6

The Executive Secretary explained that the second sentence of this paragraph had been drafted in a flexible manner because the sentence would confer a contingent liability upon governments. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had stated that any advances made to the Interim Commission would depend upon a guarantee to be given by the governments

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participating in the Commission that, should the International Trade Organization not be established, such advances would be repaid by such governments. It was hoped that by the general phraseology which had been employed governments would not feel obliged to submit the arrangement for ratification even although it might result in this contingent liability.

After the representatives of France and the United States had expressed the viewpoint that the wording suggested by the Executive Secretary should meet the purpose for which it had been used, the Working Party passed paragraph 6 on first reading.

Paragraph 7

Accepted on first reading without change.

Paragraph 8

The representative of France suggested that the headquarters of the Commission should be located at Geneva. The representative of the United Kingdom strongly urged that the headquarters should be situated in Europe. The representatives of Turkey and the United States favoured Lake Success. Further discussion of this question was adjourned until second reading.

Paragraphs 9 and 10

Accepted on first reading without change.

Paragraph 11

Discussion of this paragraph was postponed pending decision upon paragraph 1.

Paragraph 1

It was agreed to accept alternative A on first reading.

The representative of the Philippines suggested that the arrangement should include a paragraph on the following lines:

"Signature of this arrangement shall not be interpreted as meaning either explicit or tacit agreement with the provisions of the Charter approved by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment."

Decision on this proposal was postponed until second reading.
