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FOURTH PLENARY MEETING--(AM) TAKE #3

The third speaker this morning was DR. STANISLAW RACZKOWSKI of Poland. (For text of his address, see ITO/39).

Dr. Raczkowski said:

"Our main doubts concerning the Draft Charter are based on fears that its introduction at the present time is premature. It seems to us that the right moment for the introduction of this Charter is still rather far away and that the actual world conditions do not tend to facilitate and hasten its forthcoming."

Mr. Raczkowski declared that while his delegation agreed with quite a number of the provisions included in the Draft Charter, particularly in regard to the necessity of expansion of world trade, Poland has some serious doubts concerning the draft as a whole. Poland, he said, was not opposed to the multi-monetary situation in Europe that his country had to rely almost exclusively on bilateral trade agreements.

One of the basic principles of the Draft Charter, continued the representative of Poland, was the non-discriminatory treatment of all members of the Organization. Such a principle, he said, could only be applied when actual economic conditions could warrant such equality. This, however, he said, was far from being the case since the last war had actually accentuated the economic differences between the various countries. It was true, said Mr. Raczkowski, that the Draft Charter contained special provisions to take into account existing inequalities, but in his opinion the authors of the Draft Charter were too optimistic concerning the length of the transitional period at the end of which the world's "economic equilibrium" would be fully restored.

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In Mr. Raczkowski's view it would be better to postpone the establishment of permanent rules governing the international trade, but if the contrary were decided, the exceptional provisions should become the core of the Draft Charter and be liberalized gradually as the economic conditions of the world improved.

Speaking of the inter-relation between employment and international trade on one hand, and the international financial and investment policy on the other hand, Mr. Raczkowski affirmed that as long as the latter remained unchanged, the new International Trade Organization would be of no help.

Many countries, he said, and especially those devastated by the war, needed financial help in order to increase their production and improve the standard of living of their population. Taking Poland as an example, Mr. Raczkowski declared that the coal production of his country could be substantially increased if a certain amount of mining equipment could be imported from abroad. Such an increase, he added, would be profitable not only to Poland, but to the whole of Europe. However, he said, it was made impossible at this time because Poland was being subjected to a sort of credit blockade on the part of the governments and institutions which dispose of international investment capital. The flow of capital goods, he affirmed, was based mainly on political considerations and this fact would not only deepen the economic inequalities, but would force all countries, which are denied outside help, to rely on bilateral agreements in order to safeguard their balance of payments.

There could be no sound development of international trade, said Mr. Raczkowski, without a sound international investment policy.

After recalling the efforts made by Poland to develop more and more her commercial relations, Mr. Raczkowski concluded by saying that the presence of his country at the Conference was actual proof of its genuine interest in the revival and development of the international trade.

(END OF TAKE # 3)