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TEXT OF ADDRESS BY MR. MORRISSEAU LEROY, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION
OF HAITI, IN PLENARY MEETING

Mr. President, Gentlemen:

The success of the Havana Conference marks a new stage in a great endeavour with the history of which you are only too familiar. A new and a decisive stage: we have written a Charter of Trade and Employment. Looking towards a fair, peaceful and ever-increasing utilization of the advances of technology, and as a condition for the economic progress of all nations, great and small, we have established the principle that full employment and rising demand are interrelated.

We have morally pledged ourselves to submit to our parliaments and to public opinion in our respective countries the formulas we have devised for putting this principle into effect.

These formulas are and could only be the results of compromise.

Today, economic thought is at a crossroads. The slow death of the formulas discredited by the Industrial Revolution is accompanied by the impatient enthusiastic clamouring of the masses converted by relatively recent revelations.

I suppose each one of us, as we read over the final draft of our work, must, alternately, or in accordance with our personal reaction to the conflicting trends of contemporary thought, ask ourselves one or other of these questions: Could we not have done better? Have we gone too far?

Such uncertainty is the most abiding characteristic of our time and our Spanish-speaking colleagues who attach a special meaning to the word "anxiety" are perfectly justified in applying it to our state of mind.

Practical problems vary so much from one region to another that the universal application of the most logical rules encounters obstacles which cannot be swept aside even with the best will in the world.

That is why there are so many exceptions to the rules we have formulated, why there is such a mass of particular cases which some people will regard as too numerous not to undermine the general principles, while others will consider them too few to take into account all the inequalities which have already existed for too long.

However, I am inclined to believe that we have defined our objectives carefully enough, and if we have got into deep water in setting out the methods of action, the fault rests with the extraordinary complexity of the questions
/with which we

with which we have tried to deal.

Fortunately we have not ruled out the possibility of reconsidering the particular cases on which we have been called to take a decision. The Organization can, and must, secure the additional information which is necessary for a wider and more flexible appreciation of the factors which go to make up the extremely diverse economic and social panorama of the world.

My delegation attaches the greatest importance to the experimental method which the Havana Charter has been careful wise enough to advocate and it was advisedly that I used the expression "new stage" at the beginning of these few remarks.

My country has only submitted a very small number of amendments to the Draft which we were called upon to examine. Faithful to the diplomatic traditions of Haiti, my delegation gave firm and sincere support to all the proposals which were designed either to repair an injustice or eliminate discrimination or ensure the victory of reason over reasons of State.

Haiti unreservedly applauded the adoption of those constitutional provisions which give the Organization the democratic character without which a United Nations Specialized Agency would not answer the purpose of the founders of that world government to which the great majority of the countries represented here belong, nor the aspirations of the peoples whose representatives we are.

My delegation also welcomes the amendments which will allow a greater number of countries to co-operate in the development of trade without having to renounce, for the moment at least, those protective measures which are justified by present - and let us hope temporary - difficulties in world economy, or by the individual position of nations less favoured by geographical, economic, cultural, social and other circumstances.

I must pay particular thanks to those delegations which took part in the redrafting of Article 7 and the drafting of the Resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council, for their generous efforts on behalf of justice for the workers, anxious to avoid any discrimination in the distribution of the riches and comfort produced by the worker's daily labours. The connection between higher wages and increased demand is too obvious for me to emphasize once more the attention which the ITO and the other organs and agencies of the United Nations must pay to the programme which we have only sketched in the text of Chapter II of the Charter.

While deploring the difficulties which have presented the immediate establishment of a Committee for Economic Development my delegation is satisfied with the provisions of Chapter III. Incomplete as they are, they will encourage co-operation between industrial countries anxious to create broader markets and regions for which agricultural production is no longer enough, - a co-operation which could only be prevented by a blindness at

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once incomprehensible and lamentable from every point of view. My country which more than many others requires technical assistance and co-operation of capital to develop its natural resources, states once more that it is ready to welcome any steps taken either by the United Nations or by individual states or their nationals, which are in accordance with the Articles of the Charter dealing with economic development.

These remarks naturally imply the withdrawal of my delegation's reservation to Article 15.

I should like to express my gratitude to those delegates who shared our misgivings with regard to certain paragraphs of Article 17 of the Geneva Draft and who sought for and found a wording which was capable of smoothing over the difficulties of certain countries which, like Haiti, are anxious to adhere as soon as possible to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

I am very pleased to be able to inform you, Mr. President, that my delegation has received instructions from its government to withdraw yet another reservation.

I have been instructed to ask you to have included, if possible, in the Summary Record of this plenary meeting, the following statement "In withdrawing its reservation to Article 16, the delegation of Haiti wishes once more to demonstrate its spirit of co-operation, and regards this conciliatory attitude as an important concession which should be taken into account in negotiations under Article 17."

I wish to take this opportunity to clear up a misunderstanding, which, I should add, has never affected the courteous and sympathetic attitude shown by the Cuban delegation to the delegation of Haiti.

None of the arguments we have advanced in support of our amendment to Article 16 has been specially directed against the Republic of Cuba.

My delegation has shown that the commercial position of Haiti is more than threatened by the preferential systems established in the Caribbean area, and has on many occasions detailed both the annexes and the paragraph in which those preferences find a place. We have also understood the attitude of the United States delegation, which is in principle opposed to any form of preference. When the United States delegate, Mr. Hawkins, with typical candour, said, during a meeting of the Joint Sub-Committee of the Second and Third Committee, that the very fact that Haiti could be so seriously injured by preferences showed that they were a bad thing, he recognized the situation which exists and at the same time stated a great truth.

On this point my delegation agrees with the United States delegation, inasmuch as any serious prejudice suffered by a Member of the Organization should receive direct or indirect compensation.

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I regret that circumstances prevent my withdrawing immediately my delegation's reservation to Article 35. I hope that my government will not fail to do so "at the earliest practicable date".

By way of conclusion, may I express my good wishes for the future of the child we have christened the Charter of Havana.

The nations of the world are at a parting of the ways. Either they can choose not to ratify the Charter and join the club of non-members, or they can ratify it and refer to the Organization those problems for which a final solution has not been found in this Conference.

I hope that the way the ITO operates will lead the majority of countries to choose the second course, and gradually lead to the abandoning of the first.

Finally, I should like on behalf of my government to express our sincere and profound gratitude for the friendship and courtesy shown my delegation by the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba during our most agreeable four months' stay in this capitol of beauty and of rhythm.

One of the pleasantest memories of this Conference will be the great unity shown by the delegations of Latin America. I should like to pay a special tribute to the delegation of Cuba, both for the self-sacrifice which it has shown in giving up something to which it was entitled in the interests of Latin American unity, and for the way in which its general attitude at the Conference has made us appreciate still more the hospitality of this beautiful country and the vitality of its people.

I should like also to express my delegation's gratitude to all the delegates who have shown their sympathy and friendship during this unforgettable meeting of men of goodwill.

I should like also to offer you, Mr. President, my personal congratulations and the thanks of my delegation for the impartiality, the scrupulousness and the patience with which you have directed our debates and guided the progress of the Conference.
