

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCILCONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIALSECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.Corrigendum to Verbatim Report of Fourteenth Meeting
in Executive Session (E/PC/T/EC/PV.2/14)

On page 11 of the Verbatim Report of the 14th meeting in executive session held on Monday, June 9th, 1947, the statements made by Mr. Speekenbrink (Netherlands) should be amended to read as follows:

"Mr. Chairman,

You have mentioned that Mr. Forthomme has delivered his statement on behalf of the Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg Customs Union. But this is not the case as Mr. Forthomme has spoken on behalf of the Belgium-Luxemburg Economic Union. However, I would like to say the following:

The position of Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands is different in several respects, especially at this moment owing to the war. There are important differences in our economic position, in consequence also; in certain cases, in our points of view. In the Netherlands we have f.i. to a certain extent state trading in agricultural produce. The Netherlands delegation acts on behalf of undeveloped countries like the Netherlands Indies, Surinam and to a certain extent Curacao. Moreover owing to the war we are already at this moment in serious balance of payment difficulties.

I am therefore obliged to differ somewhat from the comments of my Belgian friend but that mainly for the moment owing to the difference in the present economic position of the Netherlands and of Belgium and Luxemburg.

Notwithstanding that we fully share the feeling of uneasiness of our Belgian colleague with regard to the trend the discussions in our committee have taken on certain matters, I should like, if I may, to quote one example. I understand that the matter is now being studied by a special sub-committee. I mean here the opinion expressed by several delegates that the consolidation of low duties should not be comparable with the reductions of high duties. We consider this point of view to be in violent contradiction of the principles adopted in London and I have to state at this moment, not having been here the last week, that we cannot accept that point of view. This is only one example and there are several others but I mention it here especially as it is one of the reasons why I support my Belgian colleague in the expression of his feeling of unhappiness about the trend of our discussions in the last weeks."