

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

SUMMARY RECORD.

Second Meeting, in Executive Session held on Tuesday,  
April 22, 1947, at 10.00 a.m. in the Palais des Nations,  
Geneva.

Chairman: M. Max SUTENS (Belgium)

The CHAIRMAN referred to document E/PC/T/40 and proposed, and the meeting approved, the election of the following five Vice-Chairmen of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee: Mr. COLBAN (Norway), Dr. AUGINTHALER (Czechoslovakia), Sir Raghavan PILLAI (India), M. CLARK (Cuba) and M. WILGESS (Canada). In the case of absence of the Chairman, Mr. Colban will take the chair as first Vice-Chairman, with Sir Raghavan Pillai as second Vice-Chairman.

M. COLBAN (Norway) and M. PILLAI (India - in the absence of M. Pillai) thanked for the honour afforded to them and their colleagues.

Mr. de LONGEAUX (France) made a statement explaining the new customs tariffs of France and the territories of the French Union (Document to be circulated).

M. REAGAN (United States) pointed out that in some cases the new French tariff imposed duties from 2 to 10%, sometimes even 20% on goods which hitherto were duty-free. In other cases the old rates were multiplied by from 2 to 20 times. In these instances no quotas were in operation before the war. These

things would no doubt be clarified in the course of the negotiations and in this respect the United States Delegation looked to the general statement of M. de Longeaux who pointed out that the proposed level of protection was equivalent to that of 1938. In their approach to the negotiations with the French delegation, the United States delegates felt that they should look accordingly to the equivalent of the level of 1938.

Mr. de LONGEAUX replied that all cases would be looked into during the negotiations. The number of higher duties was not too large. In some cases it was necessary to bring the rates of duty of the new tariff into harmony with each other and that might account for higher duties. The grouping of goods in the new tariff had been rearranged and also new products and new methods of production recently introduced, had to be taken into account.

Mr. REAGAN pointed out that the cases he had in mind were rather numerous.

Mr. NASH (New Zealand) wished to see the statement of M. de Longeaux in print and take up the discussion after further study.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), and M. FORTHOMM (Belgium), pointed out that in the new tariff of the Belgium-Luxembourg-Netherlands Union protection afforded by the quota system was not taken into consideration and an average between the old Belgian and Netherlands tariffs was adhered to.

The meeting adjourned at 12.40 p.m., and was resumed at 3 p.m.

Dr. AUGENTHALER made a statement on the new Czechoslovak customs tariff which was handed to the delegations a few days earlier (document to be circulated).

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK asked if the coefficient of 1,7, mentioned by Mr. Augenthaler, was to be changed if prices of goods should drop in the future.

Mr. AUGENTHALER replied that the coefficient was established at such a low figure so as to anticipate future reductions of prices.

The CHAIRMAN invited discussion of the Report by the Ad hoc Working Party on Tariff Negotiations (E/PC/T/47 Rev.1).

Mr. NASH proposed, and the Chairman of the Ad hoc Working Party, Mr. Wilgress, concurred, to delete the word "only" in line 6 of paragraph 2, page 2 of the document, so as not to weaken the obligation of the delegations to make lists of offers available to other delegations. Subject to this amendment the Report was adopted.