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

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE

(HEADS OF DELEGATIONS)

Summary Record of the First Meeting held on  
April 10, 1947, at 11 a.m.

Mr. Eric WYNDHAM WHITE, Executive Secretary, convened the meeting.

Provisional Agenda Items 4 and 5.

Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE urged the importance from the public relations standpoint of Delegates' statements made during the opening public plenary sessions, regarding the scope of the work of the Second Session. The working machinery of the conference would, of course, be established in closed sessions.

Dr. COOMBS (Australia) suggested that an early closed session would provide an appropriate opportunity for Delegates to make clear, prior to the beginning of tariff negotiations, their understanding of certain relevant provisions of the Charter.

It was agreed that Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE'S proposal that the Preparatory Committee go into Executive Session prior to consideration of item 5 of the Provisional Agenda would meet Dr. COOMBS' point.

Office Accommodation and Security Arrangements.

Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE advised Delegates that (a) no additional office space was available, and (b) the Secretariat was establishing a special security system. Passes to the "security block" would be provided to officers designated by each Delegation. The success of security arrangements would depend, however, upon the co-operation of the Delegates particularly with respect to adequate protection of secret documents.

At Dr. COOMBS' suggestion, it was agreed that the Executive Secretary would convene a meeting of one representative from each Delegation at which their respective security arrangements would be outlined for the benefit of all.

### Program of Work for Second Session.

Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE inquired whether Delegates agreed the press should be advised that (a) the first six weeks of the Second Session would be devoted to tariff negotiations and discussion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, including the discussion of such provisions of the Charter as are relevant, (b) consideration of the general provisions of the Charter would begin approximately May 15.

Dr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) considered it difficult to fix a specific date for concluding tariff negotiations and beginning consideration of the Charter until the lists of concessions Delegations were requesting and were willing to grant are available. Meanwhile, it might be more advantageous to discuss general Charter provisions than tariffs.

After further discussion, it was agreed that May 15 should be regarded only as a target date and that consideration of the general provisions of the Charter would not be undertaken until at least that date.

Dr. COOMBS (Australia) considered that Delegations were committed to tariff negotiations during the first few weeks of the Session. However, discussion of any article of the Charter for the purposes of facilitating tariff negotiations should not be precluded, provided it was understood Delegations did not commit themselves at this stage, either to the particular articles to be included in the trade agreement or to their wording. Mr. COLBAN (Norway) as Chairman of the Drafting Committee took the same position as Dr. COOMBS. Mr. WILCOX (United States) and Mr. WILGRESS (Canada) believed the right to discuss relevant Charter provisions during tariff negotiations should be reserved.

It was agreed that the formula proposed by Dr. COOMBS and supported by Mr. COLBAN should be adopted.

### Report of the Drafting Committee.

There were no objections to Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE'S proposal that the Report of the Drafting Committee be classified as unrestricted, in order to facilitate public reporting of the Conference, despite attributions to particular governments. Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) indicated that the United Kingdom Delegation would express appreciation for the work of the Drafting Committee during the opening plenary session.

### Documentation for Tariff Negotiations.

Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE requested Delegations which had not already done so either to submit to the Secretariat information as to base dates for preference negotiations and requested tariff concessions or to advise if and when they would be in a position to do so. Such documentation is an essential prerequisite to the scheduling of tariff negotiations.

Election of Officers.

It was agreed to elect only a Chairman at the first plenary session, postponing election of the several Vice-Chairmen. It was agreed that Rules 7 to 11 of the Rules of Procedure should be amended to permit election of several Vice-Chairmen.

Mr. WILCOX (United States) indicated his intention of nominating Mr. SUETENS as Chairman and the Delegates from FRANCE and CHINA among others their intention of supporting his nomination.

Amendment of Rules of Procedure.

The Executive Secretary will propose at the first plenary session two minor amendments: (a) deletion of Rule 43 so as to obviate the necessity for a Journal; (b) deletion of the names of the four non-governmental organisations mentioned in Rule 46 in view of the fact that more than these four organisations will be represented at this session as Category "A" observers.

Mr. HELMORE proposed that the Rules of Procedure either be adopted provisionally or left open to amendment at a later stage.

Mr. WILCOX expressed concern regarding the application of Rule 47 to tariff discussions. Rule 47 permits representatives of governments not Members of the Preparatory Committee but Members of the United Nations to take part as observers at all meetings of the Preparatory Committee and of its committees and sub-committees. Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE pointed out that Rule 47 would not apply because tariff discussion groups would not be regarded as committees or sub-committees of the Preparatory Committee itself.

The meeting adjourned at 12.45 p.m.