

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

Note by the Chairman concerning a message received from the Economic and Employment Commission requesting the views of the Preparatory Committee on the most appropriate form of international action to maintain world full employment and economic stability.

The first meeting of the Second Session of the Economic and Employment Commission commences at Lake Success on 2nd June, 1947. (see E/PC/T/69). The provisional agenda for this meeting includes consideration of a resolution on employment and economic development adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 28th March, last. The Secretary of the Economic and Employment Commission has drawn the particular attention of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment to Item 6 of the provisional agenda. This item reads:

"6. Recommendation to the Economic and Social Council regarding international action in maintaining full employment and economic stability (see Section (c) of the Economic and Social Council's resolution on employment and economic development - E/PC/T/56)."

Section (c) of the Resolution referred to, requests the Economic and Employment Commission to consider and report to the Council at the earliest practicable time regarding the most appropriate forms of international action to maintain world full employment and economic stability. In so reporting the Commission is directed to take full account of any views put

forward by a number of international agencies including the Preparatory Committee of the Trade and Employment Conference (particularly the draft resolution on international action relating to employment appearing in the report of the First Session of the Committee). The Commission is also to bear in mind that the action to promote full employment when unemployment or under-employment results from the lack of effective demand may differ from that which is appropriate, when, as in devastated areas or undeveloped or under-developed countries, the obstacle is the deficiency of certain factors such as equipment, fuel and raw materials which are necessary to employ productively the available supply of labour.

The Secretary of the Economic and Employment Commission enquires whether the Preparatory Committee wishes to present any written statement for the consideration of the Economic and Employment Commission.

In my judgment it will not be feasible for the Preparatory Committee to express further views on this subject beyond those contained in the reports of the First Session and of the Drafting Committee within the time remaining before the meeting of the Commission. In order to be in a position to express more comprehensive or definite views it would be necessary, as a minimum, for the Preparatory Committee to complete consideration of at least Chapters III and IV of the Charter, to consider the draft resolution on employment which appears in the report of the First Session (E/PC/T/33, page 6), and to discuss more specifically the above mentioned resolution of the Economic and Social Council which appears as Item 7 (3) on the general agenda of the present session of the Preparatory Committee. For the purposes of the

June meeting of the Economic and Employment Commission I would propose that an interim reply along the following lines be communicated to the Secretary of that Commission :-

"The resolution of the Economic and Social Council to which reference is made in Item 6 of the agenda for the Economic and Employment Commission is also on the agenda for the Preparatory Committee to be considered at the present session. It is not considered practicable, however, to take up all the important matters raised by this resolution until the completion of discussion in the Preparatory Committee on the various related subjects. I have no doubt that members of the Commission are familiar with the previous discussion on these subjects in the Preparatory Committee as set forth in the Report of the First Session and in the Report of the Drafting Committee. I should be grateful if the attention of the Commission could be drawn to the views presented in those reports, particularly in Chapters I and II of Part II in the Report of the First Session (pages 4-9 of E/PC/T/33), with special reference to Sections G, H and I of Chapter I which are most directly relevant to the subject which will be discussed in the Commission. It is hoped that the Commission will give full consideration to the views set out in those reports. Any developments in the discussion of these subjects in the present session of the Preparatory Committee prior to, or during the course of, the June Session of the Economic and Employment Commission which may be relevant to the consideration of these matters by the Commission will be communicated to you as early as practicable.

"In the further consideration by the Preparatory Committee of the relevant chapters of the draft Charter, of the draft resolution on international action relating to employment which had been formulated at the First Session, and of the resolution of the Economic and Social Council on Employment and Economic Development, it would be of great assistance if the Preparatory Committee were to have an opportunity to consider the results of the discussion on these and related matters at the June Session of the Economic and Employment Commission. Accordingly, I shall be grateful if the report of the Commission for that session can be made available to the Preparatory Committee as soon as it is issued in order that appropriate account may be taken of the views and conclusions which may be expressed therein. In this connection the Preparatory Committee would welcome the attendance of a representative of the Economic and Employment Commission after the end of the June session in order that the Committee might have the benefit of a discussion of the Commission's report with him."