

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENTCHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE

(Heads of Delegations)

Summary Record of the Fifth Meeting held  
on Wednesday, 14th May, 1947 at 10.30 a.m.Chairman: M. Suetens1. Agenda Item 1: Report by the Tariff Negotiations Working  
Party on the Progress of Tariff Negotiations. (E/PC/T/67)

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada), Chairman, presented the report, calling attention to the fact that 50 tariff negotiations had been opened by 12th May as compared to 55 negotiations scheduled to have been commenced by that date. This discrepancy was due chiefly to delays in submitting lists of requests, thereby delaying the opening of negotiations. The Committee accepted the Working Party's report.

2. Agenda Item 2: Base Dates for Negotiations. (E/PC/T/68)

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada), Chairman, presented the Tariff Negotiations Working Party's Report on Base Dates for Negotiations. The Working Party recommended that, in order to enable progress to be made with the tariff negotiations, the amendment to Article 14, 2 (c) (E/PC/T/W.27), submitted by the Delegation of Chile, be considered by the Preparatory Committee at an early date. The Chilean Delegation, at the Drafting Committee, had reserved the right to raise a question regarding paragraph 2 of Article 14 at the Second Session and had now informed the Working Party that they could not name a base date until their amendment had been dealt with by the Preparatory Committee. The Working Party recommended further that the base dates (listed in E/PC/T.68) for all member countries granting preferences (with the exception of Chile) be noted formally as the effective base dates for tariff negotiations. The Committee accepted the Working Party's recommendations.

3. Agenda Item 3: Procedure for Charter Discussions. Proposal  
by the Chairman for the Establishment of a Steering Committee  
(E/PC/T/Del.34).

The CHAIRMAN proposed that a small Steering Committee of six persons should be established to guide the Preparatory Committee's discussions on the Draft Charter.

4. Mr. WILGRESS (Canada) moved the adoption of the Chairman's proposal and nominated for membership on the Steering Committee M. Suetens, as Chairman, and the Heads of the Delegations of Chile, China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

5. Mr. COLBAN (Norway) supported the adoption of the Chairman's proposal to establish a Steering Committee, with the exception of the last sentence in paragraph 1: (E/PC/T/Del.34)

"The Steering Committee would also, upon the request of the Preparatory Committee, undertake the detailed examination of controversial points, consulting with particular delegations on points of special interest to them in the same manner as the Tariff Working Party consults with Delegations on points arising in tariff negotiations."

He doubted the advisability of a decision at this stage to the effect that the Preparatory Committee should be obliged always to refer all controversial points arising from their discussion of the Draft Charter to the Steering Committee. The Preparatory Committee should be free to appoint ad hoc working committees to consider particular points.

6. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the sentence in question was permissive, reserving fully the Preparatory Committee's right to determine by what means special problems should be considered.

7. Mr. COLBAN (Norway) insisted upon his point, indicating that he preferred the deletion of the last sentence in paragraph 1.

8. Dr. NORVAL (South Africa) supported the Chairman's proposal, agreeing in principle that the Steering Committee should be small. He pointed out, however, that the approach of the highly industrialized countries to the Draft Charter differed somewhat from that of the less industrialized countries. For this reason, the Committee should be representative of both. The composition of the Steering Committee suggested by Mr. Wilgress did not satisfy him in this respect. If his delegation was not satisfied that the Steering Committee would represent a cross section of the Preparatory Committee, they would have to reserve the right to discuss any particular point in the full Committee. To obviate this necessity, he proposed that the Steering Committee should be more representative.

9. Mr. FERREIRA BRAGA (Brazil) supported the views expressed by the Delegate from South Africa.

10. Mr. WILGRESS (Canada) suggested that the point made by Dr. Norval (South Africa) and supported by Mr. Ferreira Braga (Brazil) might be met by adding to his previous nominations the Head of the Australian Delegation.

11. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) expressed a desire to consult Dr. Coombs, the Head of his Delegation, before confirming that the latter would accept the nomination.\* Mr. McCarthy then suggested

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\*This has subsequently been confirmed.

that it would be a rather heavy task for the Steering Committee to handle all controversial points. Alternatively, he proposed that although the Steering Committee should assume the other functions specified by the Chairman in his recommendation, special ad hoc committees should be set up to deal with controversial points, according to the subject matter.

12. Mr. WILCOX (United States) believed the Chairman's proposal was designed to expedite the Charter discussions by applying to them the same technique as was used with respect to tariff negotiations, i.e., the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, which had functioned very successfully, had concerned itself primarily with the planning and directing of tariff negotiations rather than with their substance. Similarly, the Steering Committee's main function should be the planning and expediting of the Charter Discussions. On this assumption, it would not appear to detract from the Chairman's proposal to delete the final sentence of paragraph 1. As for Mr. Wilgress' nominations, he believed it would be preferable to select individuals on the basis of their knowledge of the Charter, having in mind the job to be done, rather than to name members by countries.

13. To meet the point raised by Mr. Colban, the CHAIRMAN proposed that Mr. Wilcox's suggestion to delete the final sentence of paragraph 1 be adopted on the understanding that the Preparatory Committee could charge the Steering Committee with the responsibility of resolving certain controversial issues if it so desired. This proposal was adopted.

14. Mr. Nash (New Zealand), supported by Mr. Wilcox (United States), proposed the substitution of the following wording for the whole of the Chairman's recommendations as set out in E/PC/T/- Del 34 :

"To examine and report to the Chairman's Committee on ways and means of expediting the business of the Preparatory Committee during the discussion on the Charter with power to coopt Members when considered necessary or desirable.  
The Committee to consist of :- "

15. The Committee agreed to adopt Mr. Nash's proposal as amended by the addition of the substance of paragraph 4 of the Chairman's original recommendation so as to permit the Steering Committee to report either to the Chairman's Committee or to the Preparatory Committee.

16. Reverting to the Steering Committee's composition, the CHAIRMAN said that he himself had had a slate of candidates in mind, selected on the basis of individual competence rather than on the basis of countries, as follows:

Dr. Coombs	- Australia
Dr. Augenthaler	- Czechoslovakia
M. Baraduc	- France
Sir R. Pillai	- India
Mr. Helmore	- United Kingdom
Mr. Wilcox	- United States

The Chairman said that because of his other duties, he would be unable to serve, but suggested that otherwise his slate was not very different from that put forward by Mr. Wilgress with the exception of a representative of the Latin-American countries. He therefore proposed the addition of Mr. Sitzcovich (Chile). Mr. Wilgress supported this nomination.

17. Mr. WILSON (United Kingdom) suggested Mr. Shackle of the United Kingdom Delegation should serve rather than Mr. Helmore in view of the nature of the work which was likely to be done by the Steering Committee.

18. Mr. NASH (New Zealand) suggested that Mr. Gutierrez (Cuba) would be a good candidate from Latin-America in view of his great knowledge of international law.

19. In order to achieve a better balance between the representatives of the more highly industrialized countries and those of the less industrialized countries, Mr. (China) indicated the desire of the Chinese Delegation to be represented on the Committee, although he would of course be happy to have his Indian colleague serve as well.

20. Mr. COLBAN (Norway) suggested that it might be easier to get a unanimous decision on the composition of the Committee if Mr. Wilgress' slate with the addition of an Australian representative and the Chairman were adopted, leaving the individuals to be designated by the countries concerned.

21. Mr. Sitzcovich (Chile) withdrew in favour of Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. Pillai (India) withdrew in favour of a representative of China, in the interests of keeping the Committee's membership small.

22. Mr. WILCOX (United States) wished to have it made clear on the record that the main function of the Steering Committee should be to expedite the Charter discussions. He believed the Committee could more effectively discharge this function if it were kept as small as possible.

23. The Committee agreed that the Steering Committee should consist of six members, a representative to be designated by each of the following Delegations, from among whom the Committee should elect its own Chairman:

Australia  
China  
Cuba  
France  
United Kingdom  
United States

24. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Preparatory Committee should commence Charter discussions on Monday, May 19th, with Chapter III, continue the discussion of Chapter III on Tuesday, and on Wednesday begin the consideration of Article 14 2(c) of Chapter V, by which time the Chilean Delegation expected to be in a position to discuss their amendment to this Article.