

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

FIRST MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE (II)

Hold on 18 October 1946 at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: MR. WYDHAL WHITE (Executive Secretary)

Later: DR. COOMBS (Australia)

The temporary Chairman (MR. WYDHAL WHITE) declared the meeting open.

He introduced the Committee Secretariat.

He called attention to the rules of procedure, particularly to rule 57 providing that Committees may adopt more simple rules with respect to translations.

1. Election of Chairman

MR. HIGINIO GOMEZALEZ (Chile) proposed DR. COOMBS (Australia).

The proposal was seconded by delegates of Brazil, Belgium, India and France.

The meeting unanimously elected DR. COOMBS as CHAIRMAN of the General Commercial Policy Committee.

DR. COOMBS took the chair.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

MR. JOHNSON (New Zealand) proposed DR. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands).

The delegates of Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Brazil seconded the proposal.

DR. SPEEKENBRINK was elected unanimously.

3. Preliminary consideration of agenda and programme of work

The CHAIRMAN said that the provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to members of the Committee was based on the United States draft Charter and suggested that discussion be limited to major points.

In response to the question by MR. HOLMES (United Kingdom) the CHAIRMAN indicated that acceptance of the Agenda would not necessarily mean that the subjects would be taken up in the order listed.

DR. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) and MR. HOLMES (United Kingdom) asked whether technical advisers of the delegates would be permitted to participate in discussions of the technical questions on the Agenda. The CHAIRMAN indicated that many technical items could best be dealt with in Sub-Committees and that each delegation could determine who should represent it in discussions of Sub-Committees. He also indicated that, if delegates so desired, advisers and technical experts might speak in meetings of the main Committee.

MR. RICHARD (France) thought that, although many technical matters could best be dealt with in Sub-Committee, the question of quantitative restrictions (Item C of provisional Agenda) should have priority in discussions of the main Committee. The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretariat to take the suggestion of the French delegate into consideration in planning the work of the Committee.

MR. NEHRU (India) felt that discussion of Item B of the Agenda (Tariffs and Tariff Preferences) should be limited to general principles and that actual negotiations for tariff reductions should not be undertaken at this time. The CHAIRMAN agreed that the Committee should concern itself only with general principles and should not undertake tariff negotiations.

The Agenda was adopted provisionally.

4. Explanation by Secretariat of arrangements for records of Committee Meetings.

MR. WINDHAM-WHITE (Executive Secretary) indicated that each delegation will receive a "restricted" verbatim report of each meeting and also a "restricted" précis of Committee proceedings. He said that the Secretary of the Committee would prepare a summary of the Committee's work for the Journal. The summary would be a public document. Views

expressed would not be identified as those of particular countries. It would not be issued until after approval of the CHAIRMAN had been obtained; if necessary or desirable the CHAIRMAN would consult with delegations concerned before approving the summary.

The meeting approved the Secretariat's proposed arrangement for records of Committee Meetings.

5. Joint Meeting with Committee II.

The CHAIRMAN announced receipt of a communication from Committee I, suggesting a joint meeting to discuss matters concerning industrial development.

The meeting agreed to meet with Committee I at the close of the session.

6. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the CHAIRMAN and the Committee Secretariat should meet on Saturday 19 October 1946 to plan the Committee's future programme of work and that the Committee should meet on Monday, 21 October 1946 at 3 p.m.

The Meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.
