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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

COMMITTEE II

INTERIM STATEMENT OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION REGARDING ARTICLE 8: GENERAL MOST-FAVOURED-NATION TREATMENT

In view of the great importance of the unconditional most-favoured-nation principle to China's future trade relations with other countries, this Article is still under careful study in all its aspects by the Chinese Government. We would, therefore, like to postpone a final definition of our attitude in this matter. Meanwhile, we would like to seek some clarification, for drafting purposes, of the second sentence of Paragraph 1, Article 8, relating to the "awarding of governmental contracts for public works". In our opinion this sentence should be so clearly worded as not to imply any restraint on the freedom of action on the part of the member government concerned. If the phrase "fair and equitable treatment" in this sentence means "same opportunity of bidding", as was explained by the United States Delegation at the fourth meeting of Committee II, then that sentence should be so revised as to convey clearly this meaning.