

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

of the

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

Verbatim Report

of the

FIRST MEETING

of

COMMITTEE V

held in

Committee Room 5,  
Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

on

Friday, 18th October, 1946.

at 5 p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE (UK).

(From the Shorthand Notes of  
W.B. GURNEY, SONS & FUNNELL  
58 Victoria Street,  
Westminster, S.W.1.)

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring open the first session of Committee V of the Preparatory Committee on Trade and Employment, the Committee on Administration and Organisation. The agenda for to-day's meeting, which I hope we shall be able to make a short one, is set out in Journal No. 4, which was issued to all delegations this morning; but before we come to the agenda, I would just like to introduce to the Committee the secretariat. The secretariat of the Committee consists of Mr. Bruce Turner, who is sitting on my right, and Mr. Wang, who is sitting on my left. I have told them, in common with the other Committee Secretaries, to be completely unsparring in finding work for the Delegates; and we shall equally expect that you will require similar effort on our part. There are two points to which I should like to refer before taking up the first item on the agenda. The first is to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the rules of procedure which have been adopted by the Plenary Committee and which will, therefore, govern the proceedings of this and the other Committees. In particular, I would like to invite your attention to rule 57, which provides that the Committees and Subcommittees may by agreement decide to adopt rules of procedure regarding interpretations or translations of a more simple character than those laid down in the rules. In the absence of any such agreement to vary the procedure, the business of the Committee will be conducted in the working languages, English and French, with interpretation between the two. Now we come to the first item of our agenda, and that is the election of a Chairman. Are there any nominations for the office of Chairman of the Committee?

Mr BURY (Australia): Mr Chairman, I should like to nominate Mr. Edminster of the United States Delegation as Chairman of this Committee.

TEMPORARY

THE CHAIRMAN: The Australian Delegate has nominated Mr Edminster of the United States Delegation. Is that nomination seconded? The nomination is seconded by the Delegate of France. Are there any other nominations? (After a pause:-) There being no other nominations, I declare Mr. Edminster elected as Chairman of the Committee. (Applause.)

(Mr. Lynn R. Edminster (USA) accordingly took the Chair.)

THE CHAIRMAN: To be designated Chairman of this Committee is an honour to my country and to me for which I am most grateful. The next item of business is the selection of Vice-Chairman of the Committee. I will now entertain nominations.

M. HAKI: (Lebanon): Mr Chairman, I have pleasure in nominating Mr. Cabal, the Delegate of Brazil, for the Vice-Chairmanship of this Committee V.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a seconder of this nomination?  
(speaking in French - interpretation):

M. MERINO (Chile):/ Mr Chairman, the Delegate of Chile wholeheartedly supports the nomination of the Brazilian Delegate to the post of Vice-Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other nominations for this position? (After a pause:-) If not, I shall declare the delegate for Brazil elected Vice-President. (Applause.) Mr Wyndham White desires to make a further announcement.

Mr WYNDHAM WHITE: Mr Chairman, as part of the elections of officers to this Committee, it would I think be appropriate for the Committee to appoint a rapporteur. On the other hand, it might be that the Committee would rather defer a decision on this point until they have had an opportunity of seeing how the work of the Committee develops. In that case, the Committee may merely wish to take note of the fact that it will be desirable or may be desirable at some stage to appoint a rapporteur and to defer consideration of that question until a later meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next item on the agenda is the preliminary consideration of an agenda and programme of work for this Committee. It is my understanding that the heads of the various delegations agreed this morning that the heads of sections or articles in the appropriate chapters of the Charter as proposed by the United States should be submitted for consideration, and, unless there is amendment, those headings should be used as the basis of each Committee's work. Copies have been prepared and I understand they have been distributed to the Committee. I take it that this will afford an opportunity for members of the Committee to consider both the content of the agenda and the order in which the items on the agenda might best be taken up to advantage.

Mr BURY (Australia): Mr Chairman, I should like to suggest that the agenda should have rather more elasticity than it has as set out here. The first three items could, of course, easily be discussed now. As to the fourth item, the Conference, so much depends on the progress of other Committees, that nothing very much can be decided except in one or two aspects. Again, in relation to the Commissions, this does, of course, closely follow the United States proposals; but there may be other Commissions, and in fact, the whole structure may be considerably changed; so I should like to suggest, Mr Chairman, that we might take, say, the discussion on the first three, and then leave the question of subsequent items to a later meeting.

Mr. HARRY HAWKINS (USA): Mr Chairman, I would suggest that there may be other topics which are not so closely related to the work of the other Committees and that they might be discussed at an early time. Now I cannot say in detail what they are, not having studied it carefully, but I should think 7 and 8 in large part might be discussed at an early date. My suggestion would be that the secretariat look over the agenda carefully with a view to making recommendations as to the order in which the Committee might take up the items, having in mind the relationship to the work of other Committees.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to state that the secretariat has already done some preliminary work on the matter referred to by Mr Hawkins: it has prepared for the consideration of this Committee a suggested order of business which will be distributed for your use. I understand that the principles on which this document has been based are somewhat as follows:- first, that the Committee might take up those portions of the appropriate sections which are of a merely routine character and which are presumably wholly non-controversial; secondly, those items which may be controversial but which may not perhaps be closely dependent upon the outcome of the discussions in the other Committees; and, lastly, those portions which manifestly could not be acted upon until the discussions in the other Committees have proceeded further. I shall ask that copies of this document be distributed. Are there any other suggestions from members of the Committee which might be put before us at this time for consideration in advance of our next meeting? (After a pause:-) If not, I take it that the programme would apply, that we should give consideration to the various suggestions over the week-end and that we should determine the content of the agenda and the order of discussion at our next meeting. The next item on the agenda is an explanation by the secretariat of arrangements for records of the Committee meetings.

THE SECRETARY: Mr. Chairman, I think members are probably aware more or less of these arrangements. The records which will be prepared by the secretariat of meetings of this and of other Committees fall into three general categories: first, there will be a verbatim record taken of the entire proceedings of this Committee. That will be issued as a restricted document. That means to say it will be distributed only to Delegations; it will not be distributed to the public or to the Press. Secondly, there will be a summary record kept of each meeting of this Committee. That will be in the nature of minutes of the Committee meeting, which will comprise texts of Resolutions or decisions taken and

a gist of the discussions. That also will be issued as a restricted document to Delegations only, not for publication. Thirdly, it has been suggested that the secretariat/<sup>should be</sup> responsible for preparing at the end of each day's session a very brief summary of the day's proceedings - very much briefer than the summary record, the purpose of this very brief summary being for publication in the Journal; that is to say, it will not be a restricted document, as the other two will be: it will be published and available for general information. It is the suggestion of the secretariat, in which we hope very much you will concur, that the Secretary of the Committee should clear this brief summary at the end of each day with the Chairman of the Committee, with the understanding that the Chairman, in his discretion, would consult certain members of the Committee, or, if necessary, the Committee as a whole, although for practical reasons we hope that that latter necessity will not arise very frequently. I should only add that as far as this Journal record is concerned, it would be prepared very carefully indeed; it would be a very brief description of what took place. There will be no attributions of any kind, that is to say, that no point of view or statement will be attributed to any particular delegate or delegation. Mr Chairman, it is hoped that the Committee will see fit to approve that general arrangement.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next item of business concerns the date of our next meeting. The secretariat has suggested that the next meeting be at 5 o'clock on Monday. I understand that that hour is not to be taken as a precedent for further meeting, but for Monday the suggestion is 5 o'clock. What are the views of the Committee with regard to that? (After a pause:-) In the absence of any objection from Committee members, I take it that our next meeting will take place at 5 o'clock in this room on Monday.

Mr CABAL (Brazil): (speaking in French - interpretation): Mr Chairman, before ending this meeting, I wish to thank the members of the

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Fifth Committee for having chosen me and my country for the post of Vice-Chairman. I wish to tell them that I will spare no efforts to do the best I can in order to help them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business that anyone wishes to bring up at this time? If not, I declare this meeting adjourned.

(The meeting rose at 5.33 p.m.)  
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