

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENTWORKING PARTY ON TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Summary Record of the Fifth Meeting held on Wednesday,
14 May 1947, at 10.30 a.m. in the Palais des Nations,
Geneva.

Chairman: Mr. R.J. Shackle

1. Article 22 - Information, Statistics and Trade Terminology,

Paragraph 1. On the suggestion of the Canadian and
Netherlands Delegates it was agreed to insert the words ", or to
such agency as may be designated for the purpose by the
Organization," after the word "Organization" in the second line.

In Sub-paragraph (a) it was decided to remove the words
"where applicable" from the third line and to insert these words,
preceded by "and", after the word "exports" in the second line.

It was pointed out by the French Delegate that the French
equivalent of "in warehouse" was "en entrepôt", not "à l'entrepôt".

Paragraph 5. The United Kingdom Delegate proposed that the
word "shall" in the first line be changed to "may". After
discussion the CHAIRMAN asked each Delegation for its opinion
and, in view of the fact that the majority favoured the retention
of the word "shall", it was agreed to retain in the first reading
the wording proposed in the Report of the Drafting Committee.

On the proposal of the Delegate for South Africa it was
agreed to ask the Legal Officer of the Secretariat whether he

considered it advisable to retain in Article 22 the specific statements of the functions of the Organization which appear in paragraph 5 or to incorporate them in Article 61. The United States Delegate pointed out that the Charter had been planned to leave only the statement of general functions for Chapter VIII on Organization while stating the specific functions in the relevant Articles throughout the Charter; and it was hence agreed that the Legal Officer should consider not only the paragraph under review but the corresponding point in relation to the lay-out of the Draft Charter generally.

The Delegate for FRANCE mentioned that many countries would encounter practical difficulties in supplying the information required under paragraph 1 in relation to subsidy payments and quantitative restrictions. He agreed to the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN that his remarks should be placed on record so that the question could be raised again, if necessary.

The Delegate for FRANCE requested that the Minutes of the Meeting should record the positive desire of the Working Party that the Organization should take up as soon as possible the work begun by the League of Nations on the preparation of a standard customs nomenclature. The Delegate for SOUTH AFRICA said that he could not agree to express such a desire. It was decided that the remarks of the FRENCH Delegate should be given in the Summary Record.

(Note: The relevant extracts from the verbatim report will be found in the Annex to this Summary Record)

At the request of the Delegate for the UNITED STATES it was decided to mention in the minutes that Chapter VIII on organization should be so framed as to give the Organization sufficient latitude to call into consultation the experts of

various governments when investigating technical problems such as standard classifications.

Paragraph 6. It was noted that the remarks in the Report of the Drafting Committee referring to paragraph 6 called for no comment by the Working Party.

2. Article 23 - Boycotts.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the notes in the Report of the Drafting Committee referring to Article 23 appeared to require no special attention in view of the important amendment proposed by the Delegation of LEBANON-SYRIA (Document W.61); he drew attention to the fact that the Lebanon-Syria Delegation proposed the deletion of the whole of the Article. At the request of the Delegate for Lebanon-Syria, it was agreed to postpone discussion of Article 23 until a later date.

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The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

ANNEX

To the Summary Record of the Fifth Meeting

Article 22 Paragraph 5 - Extracts from verbatim report on statement by the Delegate for France on standard tariff classifications.

M. ROUX (France) There is a recommendation at the end of paragraph 5 which is concerned with the possible international adoption of standard tariffs and commodities classification. I think we should state in our minutes that we wish the work which was started before the war to be continued, that it be reviewed in connection with the evolution of industry and commerce in the period which has elapsed and that we wish the Organization to proceed as soon as possible with the review and with the continuation of this work.

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If I insist on this matter it is because all those who have been personally concerned with the drawing up of the tariff statistics know that these statistics are correct only insofar as they are based on tariff terms, so that if the statistics are to be comparable it is necessary that the terms of the tariffs themselves are comparable. That is why the London Drafting Committee considered it necessary to note that the purposes which are contained in the Charter - so far as the uniformity of international commercial statistics, international comparability of those statistics, and the adoption of typical definitions of standards are concerned - could be reached only insofar as the work begun by the League of Nations for the uniformity of tariff nomenclature is taken up again and carried to a successful conclusion. The tariff statistics could only be established

upon the basis of the statement of the persons who pay the duties and these statements could only be based on the tariff nomenclature of the different states. That is why the condition of the tariff statistics being in conformity with the tariff terms of every country is a condition of the tariff terms and nomenclature.