

SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Plenary Session

Following the completion of the draft of the I.T.O. Charter the Preparatory Committee today opened a two-day plenary session to receive and adopt the Report of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment. The draft Charter, which is contained in the Report, was adopted unanimously, chapter by chapter.

The Second Session of the Preparatory Committee was convened at Geneva on 10 April 1947. The First Session was held in London from 15 October to 26 November 1946.

M. Max SUTENS, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, announced at the beginning of the Session that a substantial number of reservations made by member countries of the Preparatory Committee concerning certain parts of the draft Charter had been withdrawn earlier in the day. (See E/PC/T/180.Corr.8)

The draft Charter is now ready for consideration as the basic document at the World Conference on Trade and Employment to open in Havana on November 21.

During the course of today's plenary session various delegates appraised the work of the Preparatory Committee.

Dr. H.C. COOMBS (Australia) said that he felt proud of the work of the Committee in constructing a skeleton on which the nations of the world could construct a truly living organism, capable of enduring the economic climate of the world.

(P.t.o.)

Baron VAN DER STRATEN-WAILLET (Belgium) commented on the remarkable team spirit of the Preparatory Committee, and on the close cooperation between the Belgian and Netherlands delegations.

H.E. DE VILHENA FERREIRA-BRAGA (Brazil) said that Brazil had during the discussions on the Charter acted in the spirit of conciliation. He hoped that the questions left open for discussion at the World Conference would be approached in a truly democratic spirit.

Ambassador L.D. WILGRESS (Canada) affirmed his belief that the same spirit of cooperation as had produced the draft Charter would also help to produce the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and would finalize the tariff negotiations still in progress. The Charter represented inevitably a compromise between conflicting views of countries with diverse economies and philosophies.

H.E. Mr. WUNSZ KING (China) emphasized the great financial and economic difficulties being faced today by China and stated that China would wish to examine very carefully any parts of the Charter which might hinder her immediate recovery.

Mr. SERGIO I. CLARK (Cuba) termed the draft Charter the most daring experiment in commercial affairs ever attempted.

M. ANDRE PHILIP (France) pointed out that the realization that every country was "in the same economic boat" made it obvious that international cooperation provided the only way out. The draft Charter was a realistic document constituting a great advance on earlier approaches to the problem.

Dr. J.E. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) said that the whittling down of fundamental principles had brought the draft Charter into a dangerous situation and any further escape clauses might be fatal to its success.

J.P.D. JOHNSON (New Zealand) called attention to some of the difficulties faced by the smaller delegations. In the last few weeks economic realities had been forced upon the delegates and new provisions had been introduced into the Charter.