

NOTE CONCERNING THE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES TO THE CONFERENCE

In the reports of the Fourth Committee and the Fifth Committee which have already been issued, it has been found possible to incorporate without too great difficulty substantial portions of the reports of sub-committees. It is doubtful, however, that the same procedure can be followed in the reports of the Second, Third and Sixth Committees, which have had such large numbers of sub-committees. The discussion which would be required for the full committees to examine and approve sub-committee reports in the detail necessary for their inclusion in the reports of the committees would prolong the Conference very considerably. For this purely practical reason alone it would seem desirable to adopt a procedure which would recognize the special position of any observations in sub-committee reports and also of any comments made thereon during the discussions in committee without attempting the incorporation of the bulk of the sub-committees' reports.

Accordingly, it is suggested that as a general rule the draft reports to be prepared by the Secretariat at the end of the second reading for subsequent consideration by these three committees should take the following form:

- (a) An introduction listing the office holders of the committee and describing briefly its activities.
- (b) A section regarding each sub-committee indicating its composition, the document numbers of the proposals referred to it, the document number of the report submitted by it, and the document numbers of the summary records covering the meetings at which the sub-committee's report was considered by the full committee.
- (c) The texts of the articles as recommended by the committee, together with formal interpretative notes intended for annexure to the Charter itself.
- (d) Any provisional reservations which may have been recorded formally by individual delegations.

When these draft reports are under consideration in committee, it will, of course, be open to any Delegation to request the agreement of the committee to the inclusion in its final report to the Conference of any extract from a
/sub-committee

sub-committee report or from a summary record of the committee's earlier discussion if the inclusion of such excerpts is considered necessary in a particular case.

If, in the interest of saving time and avoiding confusion, the above simplified procedure is followed in the preparation of the draft reports, the committee will wish to keep in mind, in considering the need for changes in or additions to the draft reports, that all sub-committee reports and the records of committee discussions thereon are being made available regularly as public documents. It should also be recognized that the General Committee, and eventually the Conference, will probably be giving consideration to the desirability of authorizing the Interim Commission to issue as a printed document for even wider distribution the reports of the principal sub-committees and directly relevant records of committee discussions thereon.

It might be noted also that, following the end of the Conference and after the renumbering of articles has been completed, the Secretariat proposes to issue a document corresponding to Enclosure 4 of the Geneva Report indicating the principal changes in form between the Havana Charter and the Geneva Draft. Accordingly, it is not intended that the draft report of committees will indicate these changes in more detail than is necessary for the immediate purpose.
