

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE & EMPLOYMENT
Department of Public Information
Havana, Cuba

Press Release ITO/194/Corr. 1

CORRECTION TO SPEECH BY MR. CLAYTON, U.S. DELEGATION

The following change to ITO/194, Mr. Clayton's speech,
has been requested by the U.S. Delegation:

Insert the following passages: . . .

"I have reference to Articles 15 and 42 of the Havana Charter. These Articles represent an important departure from the Geneva Draft Charter, in the facilities which they provide for the formation of regional economic systems. Although the U.S. Delegation has cooperated in the drafting of these changes we approached this task at first with considerable reluctance. However, we have been impressed by the arguments which have been put forward at this Conference in favor of these changes. More especially we have been influenced by the desire of our near neighbors, the Central American Republics, for a Charter which will promote rather than hamper their long and praiseworthy aspirations for political and economic unity. Those republics have constituted in the past a single political unit. All of their constitutions recognize the desirability of and the need for their eventual return to political unity. As recently as the early 1930's they constituted a free trade area. Free trade exists even today to some extent between them, and they have a number of tariff preferences now in force. The United States Delegation believes that this historical background, together with the start which has already been made toward the lowering of tariff barriers within this area, form an unusually favorable basis for closer union. The U.S. Delegation strongly supports the aspirations of the Central American republics to re-establish the closest possible economic and political relationships. We hope that these changes that have been made in the Charter of the International Trade Organization will facilitate and encourage the achievement of those aspirations.

(MORE)

On behalf of the United States Delegation I wish to add my voice to that of many others in expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude for the very gracious hospitality and for the many courtesies which have been extended to the people of this Conference by the charming people of Havana and by the government and people of the Republic of Cuba. We have remained here a little longer than was expected and maybe a little longer than considerate guests should remain. But our Cuban hosts must share in this responsibility, since the longer we stayed the warmer grew their hospitality and courtesies.

And, Mr. Chairman, may we add our appreciation to you, Sir, for the very fair way in which you have presided over the meetings of this Conference and the very intelligent manner in which you have assisted in guiding its affairs. I should like to extend the appreciation of my delegation also to the industry and effectiveness of the Secretariat.

We are leaving now, all of us, soon, to return to our respective countries, but happy memories of our stay here and of the many friends we have made here will remain with us always.

(End of Press Release ITO/194/Corr. 1)