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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

of the

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Verbatim Report

of the

FIRST MEETING

of

COMMITTEE III

held in

Committee Room 4,
Church House, Westminster, S.W.1

on

Friday, 18th October 1946

at

5. p.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr J.A. LACARTE (Uruguay).

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

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I wish to declare open the first meeting of the Committee on Restrictive Business Practices. As you will probably be aware, the agenda for today's meeting is contained in today's Journal and consists of four points; but before going into the agenda I hope you will permit me to introduce to you the Secretariat which will serve you on this Committee. The Secretary will be Mr. Koriwan, who sits here, the Associate Secretary will be Mr. Renouf, and the Assistant Secretary will be Miss Wachenheimer. If at any time you feel there are any suggestions you can make as regards the work of the Secretariat of this Committee, such as improving their procedures or their service to you, I hope you will let Mr. Koriwan or one of his associates know. For the benefit of those delegates who may not have been in this room a little while ago at the first meeting of the Inter-governmental Commodity Arrangements Committee, may I say that the Secretariat understands that the Rules of Procedure as adopted by the Preparatory Committee the other day will apply to the work of this Committee. Rule 57 refers to simplified arrangements in respect of languages in Committees or any Sub-Committees whenever those bodies deem it necessary, so, although a full language service will be provided at all times, if the Committee should feel that at any time it wishes to simplify its rules as respects languages it is entirely free to do so.

I should now like to take up the first item of today's agenda, which is the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. May I ask first of all for nominations for the post of Chairman of this Committee?

MR WILCOX (USA): Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to place a nomination for the Chairmanship of this Committee.

M. Dieterlin of the French Delegation is a member of the Ministry of National Economy in France and has long specialised in the field of work, which will be the subject matter of the deliberations of this Committee, and he is thus well qualified to preside over this work.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United States of America has nominated the French delegate, M. Dieterlin, for the post of Chairman of this Committee. Is this motion seconded?

MR STEYN (South Africa): I second.

M. CALMES (Belgium): I also support this nomination.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Are there any other nominations?

I think we may take it that M. Dieterlin has been unanimously elected Chairman of this Committee. I invite him now to take the Chair. (Applause).

(M. Dieterlin then took the Chair.)

THE CHAIRMAN (Speaking in French: interpretation): As you have done me the honour of calling me to the Chair, my country will now be represented by M. Lecuyer. I would like to thank the Committee for honouring me and my country also in this manner.

We now come to the second item in the agenda, which is the election of a Vice-Chairman. Has anyone any nominations to make? . . . I would like to propose Mr Gonzalez, of Chile, who is very well qualified to help me in guiding the discussions of this Committee.

MR HOLMES (U.K.): I shall be very happy to second that suggestion.

THE CHAIRMAN (Speaking in French: interpretation): Has anyone any further observations to make on the suggestion? . . .

I think I may take it that Mr Gonzalez is unanimously elected Vice-Chairman. (Applause).

MR GONZALES (Chile): I am very grateful for the honour that has been done me, and to the Chairman for having nominated me.

THE CHAIRMAN: (Speaking in French: interpretation): We now take up the question of the preliminary observations on the agenda and on the working programme which has been submitted by our Secretariat. This agenda has just been distributed by the delegation of the United States. Does anyone wish to speak on this agenda? I think it would be very useful if the United States delegate (they having submitted this agenda) would perhaps say a few additional words with regard to it.

MR WILCOX (USA): Mr Chairman, I have no particular comments to make on this agenda. The heads of delegations in meeting today came to the conclusion that it would forward the work of the working Committees of the Preparatory Committee if that work were to be established on the framework provided by the suggested Charter prepared by the United States; and this agenda which we thereafter typed out is merely a presentation of the various headings in the chapter relating to restrictive business practices.

MR HOLMES (U.K.): Mr Chairman, may I assume that in accordance with the decisions taken at some, at any rate, of the other Committee meetings this afternoon, we should regard this rather as a provisional agenda which can be added to or even subtracted from in the course of our proceedings?

THE CHAIRMAN(Speaking in French: interpretation): Personally, I think that the proposal just made by the delegate of the U.K. is a very prudent one, and I am ready to agree to it, provided the rest of the Committee are of the same mind.

MR STEYN (South Africa): I would support it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Speaking in French: interpretation): Subject to the U.K. comments that have just been made, I think that we should

look into this provisional agenda that has been submitted by the United States delegation and, in order to clarify it, I should like to make the following observations.

The agenda consists of seven items taken from the various headings of the Draft Charter, but the character of these items varies. The first one, for instance, takes up the position of principal and the following ones are concrete applications resulting from the first item, and I therefore think the best method of work would be first of all to discuss these general principles, and each delegate might perhaps make plain what is the stand of his own Government; and after that, if we have reached agreement of a general nature, we could take up the more practical aspects and regulations. Does the Committee agree to this, or have delegates any other opinions to put forward regarding this suggestion? Does anyone wish to speak on my suggestion?

MR MCGREGOR (Canada): Would these proposals be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN (Speaking in French: interpretation): I think that it would be better for us to discuss this now - unless, of course, the Committee wishes to have time to think it over.

DELEGATE OF CHINA: As far as the Chinese delegation is concerned, I think we want to have time to think it over.

THE CHAIRMAN (Speaking in French: interpretation): In view of what the Canadian and Chinese delegates have said, I propose that we should postpone the discussion of this question of general principles until our next meeting. (Agreed.)

We now have to consider the question of publication of records of our deliberations, and I call on the Committee Secretary to make a statement.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY: I would like briefly to explain the method of keeping records of these meetings which has been put forward. There is a slight change in our arrangements necessary owing to the change in the provisions of a Rule of Procedure with regard to keeping these meetings closed. We will therefore distribute three different types of records. First of all, the verbatim record, which will be restricted and which will be handed to every delegation; then minutes of proceedings, which will contain a kind of rather extensive summary record, which will also be restricted and handed only to members of the delegations; and finally we are going to provide a very short, purely procedural, summary, which will be handed to the Journal for publication in the Journal; and we have anticipated that for these short summaries we shall always have agreement reached beforehand between the Chairman and the Secretariat, in order to make sure that it will not reveal too much of the procedure taking place in this Committee. Is that arrangement satisfactory to the delegates, or are there any suggestions in regard to this procedure?

MR HOLMES (U.K.). Mr Chairman, I wonder whether it would be in accordance with your views that instructions should be given that in preparing these short summary statements for the purposes of the Journal the actual definition of the views expressed might not be allied with the names of the people who express them? That is, I think, the rule that again is being adopted in other Committees, and I imagine you would feel it should apply to this Committee also.

THE CHAIRMAN (Speaking in French: interpretation): I am in agreement with this suggestion made by the U.K. delegate and he is correct in saying that this method has been adopted by other Committees, and I believe that the first summaries

that have already been drafted have been drafted along these lines. Have any other delegates any observations to make on the U.K. delegate's suggestion? . . . Then the summaries for the Journal will be drafted along the lines suggested by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

I would draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that a letter has been received from the International Chamber of Commerce and there are certain points in this letter which refer to matters in regard to which this Committee is competent to make recommendations. The letter itself has been distributed and delegates are asked to study it. It is proposed that these requests that are contained in this letter shall be studied under the first item of the agenda of our next meeting.

This, then, concludes our agenda for today, but before closing the meeting I would be glad to know whether anyone has any observations to make concerning the agenda, or otherwise.

MR STEYN (South Africa): Mr Chairman, I would like to raise a point. Perhaps we can decide now when this Committee is going to have its next meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is that the next meeting, if the Committee agrees, will take place on Monday, 21st October, at 3 p.m. in this room. Is that date and time agreeable to the members of the Committee? (Agreed.) The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.