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31 May 1951

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Ad Hoc Committee on International Trade
Fourth session
Mexico City

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

Held at Mexico City
on Thursday, 31 May 1951, at 1600

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/PRESENT:
E/CN.12/AC.13/SR.2

PRESENT:

Chairman: Mr. HASPERUE BECERRA Argentina
Rapporteur: Mr. BOHAN United States of America

Members:

Mr. SCHIOPPETTO Argentina
 Mr. NAVAJAS MOGRO Bolivia
 Mr. RAMOS Brazil
 Mr. VALVERDE VEGA Costa Rica
 Mr. VALDES RODRIGUEZ Cuba
 Mr. GONZALEZ Chile
 Mr. VITERI LAFRONTE Ecuador
 Mr. CROWER VALDIVIESO El Salvador
 Mr. WYTHE United States of America
 Mr. LEPREVOST France
 Mr. PALACIOS Guatemala
 Mr. BOYER Haiti
 Mr. CALIX MONCADA Honduras
 Mr. AMADOR Mexico
 Mr. JONGBAW Netherlands
 Mr. LLUBERES PEÑA Dominican Republic
 Mr. McVITTIE United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 Mr. MacEACHEN Uruguay

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. CASSERES Food and Agriculture Organization
 Mr. MERWIN International Monetary Fund

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:**Category "A"**

Mr. STEBELSKI International Chamber of Commerce
 Miss ALDANA CANTU World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category "B"

Mr. GALVEZ Organization for Standardization
Secretariat: Mr. SWENSON Executive Assistant, ECLA
 Mr. ALANIS Secretary of the Committee /ORGANIZATION

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (continued)

The CHAIRMAN noted that all the basic documents relating to the agenda items to be dealt with by the Committee had been distributed with the exception of the note on implications of the European Payments Union (E/CN.12/227) and the progress report on the study of intra-regional trade (E/CN.12/228).

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) drew attention to a guide prepared by the Secretariat listing the main points for discussion in connexion with the basic documents. It represented an informal classification of the major aspects of the problem of foreign trade and did not impose any order of priority. The Chilean delegation considered it to be a logical and sound basis of work and was prepared to sponsor it as a guide for the Committee. Moreover, the representative of Chile would be in a position to deal with certain problems of an immediate character at the following meeting and suggested that other delegations study the paper and indicate what points they wished to discuss.

Mr. PALACIOS (Guatemala), followed by Mr. AMADOR (Mexico), suggested that the Committee should defer the debate until all the documents were in the hands of the delegations.

Mr. VALDES RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) supported that view in the interest of more thorough study and more effective discussion.

The CHAIRMAN noted that, in principle, the Committee agreed to adopt the Secretariat guide as a basis for work.

Mr. SCHIOPPETTC (Argentina) proposed that the Committee's work

/should be

should be divided and assigned to two working groups. It would be logical for the first working group to deal with Latin American-European trade, the effects of the United States defence programme and the United States' capacity to absorb Latin-American products. The second working group would study the note on intra-regional trade, the question of scientific, educational and cultural materials and the regulation of traffic on the Inter-American Highway.

Mr. PALACIOS (Guatemala) felt that owing to the very different conditions governing trade between Latin America and Europe as compared with trade between Latin America and the United States, the two problems should be discussed as separate points by separate committees. He would amend the Argentine proposal and set up three working groups: the first would deal with Latin American-United States trade problems; the second would discuss Latin American trade with Europe; and the third would study intra-regional trade and the remaining points on the agenda.

Mr. VITERI LAFRONTÉ (Ecuador) was concerned lest small delegations might not be able to send representatives to three distinct working groups.

Mr. SCHIOPPETTO (Argentina) emphasized the close interrelation of the three topics he would assign to the first working group and added that, if the need arose for a third group, it could be constituted subsequently.

Mr. PALACIOS (Guatemala) withdrew his proposal for three working groups.

/Mr. GONZ

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) pointed out that, in actual fact, the Ad Hoc Committee on International Trade did not have an excessive number of agenda items with which to deal. For example, it could take no action on several lesser topics assigned to it: the problem of supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials, traffic regulation on the Inter-American Highway and, to a great extent, the report on intra-regional trade. Accordingly, it would be free to concentrate its energies on the three major problems of international trade confronting Latin American countries: trade with Europe, trade with the United States, and the capacity of the latter to absorb Latin American products.

In the circumstances, there was no need for the Committee to split into working groups; it could discuss those three items fully in plenary meeting. The Chilean delegation favoured maintaining the present agenda and discussing it, as broken down in the Secretariat guide, in the full Committee.

Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) found considerable merit in both the Argentine and the Chilean proposals and was prepared to co-operate in whatever procedure the majority adopted.

Mr. WYTHE (United States of America) shared the Mexican view but felt that it would be more advisable to study the available documents in plenary meeting.

In order to initiate the Committee's work, he would have been prepared to speak on the problem of traffic on the Inter-American Highway, but was quite willing to defer his statement until a later

/meeting

meeting.

The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on the Argentine proposal to divide the Committee into two working groups.

The Argentine proposal was rejected.

The CHAIRMAN then asked the Committee to vote on the Chilean proposal to consider all agenda items in plenary meeting.

The Chilean proposal was adopted.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) proposed that the Committee should not be convened unless two or more representatives were prepared to speak on the agenda items or sub-items with which they had chosen to deal.

Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) thought that the date and time of the Committee's meetings should be determined by agreement between the Secretariat and the Chairman.

Mr. VALDES RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) strongly supported the Chilean suggestion. Delegations should have the opportunity of studying the basic documentation and of deciding what points they would discuss. Accordingly, he proposed that the following meeting should be held within two days.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that the Secretariat guide which had been approved in principle, would constitute the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Saturday, 2 June 1951, at 900.

The meeting rose at 1715.
