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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SUB-COMMISSIONS
OF THE ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York on Saturday, 28 September, 1946
at 10:30 a.m.

The following were present:

Chairman:	Mr. O. Colbjornsen	(Norway)
	Mr. W. A. Mackintosh	(Canada)
	Mr. Y. L. Wu	(China)
	Mr. L. Radimsky	(Czechoslovakia)
	Mr. R. Hoffherr	(France)
	Mr. A. Levardos	(Greece)
	Mr. A. Morosov	(USSR)
	Mr. J. M. Fleming	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. L. D. Stinebower	(United States)

Secretariat: Mr. Wright

The CHAIRMAN said that he understood that the delegates representing the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States were agreed that the membership of each Sub-Commission should be limited to seven persons. However, insofar as the selection of members and the question of agencies were concerned, agreement had not been reached. The Chairman proposed that the Committee should first discuss the selection of members and later consider the question of agencies.

There were two alternatives with regard to the selection of members:

Alternative (a), proposed by the United States and the United Kingdom read as follows:

"The sub-commission shall be composed of persons selected by the Commission in consultation with the Secretary-General and subject to the consent of the Governments of the countries of which the persons are nationals".

Alternative (b), submitted by the Soviet Union:

"The sub-commission shall consist of the representatives of countries nominated by the Commission, subject to the approval or

modification by the Council. The Governments so chosen shall nominate representatives in consultation with the Secretary-General".

Mr. FLEMING (UNITED KINGDOM) wished to make clear that all decisions concerned only the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability and the Sub-Commission on Economic Development.

Mr. HOFFHERR (FRANCE) proposed for greater elasticity that the number of members of sub-commissions should be from seven to nine persons.

Mr. WU (CHINA) seconded Mr. Hoffherr's proposal.

Mr. FLEMING (UNITED KINGDOM) stated that, since representatives of specialized agencies did not affect the number of members of sub-commissions, he would prefer to leave the number of regular members at seven or less.

Mr. HOFFHERR (FRANCE) withdrew his proposal.

The CHAIRMAN urged the Committee to ensure the liaison between the Economic and Employment Commission and its sub-commissions by determining that two members of each sub-commission should also be members of the corresponding Commission. According to the original text of the Council (Journal 29, p. 513) only three persons not members of the Commission could be appointed to sub-commissions. The Committee was drifting towards the other extreme.

Mr. MOROSOV (UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS) felt that his proposal to base composition of sub-commissions on government appointments would solve the problem, since contact between the organs could then be maintained through the chairman.

Mr. FLEMING (UNITED KINGDOM) said that the decision of that question would necessarily depend on whether members of sub-commissions would be experts or government appointees.

The CHAIRMAN proposed to proceed to the question of appointment methods. He called on the United States and United Kingdom representatives to explain the reasons for their proposals.

Mr. STINEBOWER (UNITED STATES) explained that the representatives varied in their conception of the establishment and work of sub-commissions and the latter's relation to Commissions and the Council. While certain representatives assigned to them a more autonomous role, the United States Delegation

considered sub-commissions as expert working parties of Commissions.

Mr. Stinebower recognized the validity of some objections to his proposal, yet he hoped that experts not responsible to their Governments might bring new ideas to the work. Sub-commissions should be composed of experts; governments, however, had often, but not always sent them.

Mr. MACKINTOSH (CANADA) agreed with the United States on the composition of membership. The Soviet Union proposal, if adopted, would make sub-commissions unnecessary by duplicating Commission membership. As regards Mr. Morosov's objections, since sub-commissions would have no power except to advise Commissions, the danger of irresponsible action was greatly reduced.

Mr. MOROSOV (UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS) reminded the Committee that sub-commissions would be permanent organs of the United Nations and would differ from Commissions only in the preliminary nature of their work; therefore they need not be differently constituted. All bodies of the United Nations should be organized in the same manner. An attempt to nominate specialists for certain questions during the second session of the Council had failed because it had been impossible to determine who were the most deserving experts. Those delegates who opposed government appointments to sub-commissions had also opposed government representation on Commissions. The present attitude of some delegates was not consistent with their previous desire to consider representatives of specialized agencies as representatives and not as experts.

Mr. LEVARDOS (GREECE) stated that his Government supported the United States and United Kingdom proposals because they contained three essential elements:

1. selection of members by the Commission;
2. consultation with the Secretary-General, and
3. consent of Governments of the prospective members.

Thus, the technical nature of sub-commissions was combined with national representation.

Mr. WU (CHINA) reserved his position on both alternatives but proposed the addition of the phrase:

"...provided that the principle that not more than one member on each of the sub-commissions shall be of the same nationality, be adhered to."

He also pointed out the difficulty of selecting experts, many of whom were little known outside their own country.

Mr. STINEBOWER (UNITED STATES) unreservedly agreed to apply Mr. Wu's proposal to the two sub-commissions under discussion, but could not accept it as an absolute rule, since in special circumstances more than one expert might be required from one country.

He realized the difficulty of finding experts who were not generally known, but considered that the Commission, with its wide geographic representation, and in consultation with the Secretariat, would be able to cope with the problem. While the question should be recorded in the Rapporteur's Report, he doubted the necessity of including it in the resolution.

Mr. WU (CHINA) said that the Secretariat, in assisting Commissions in their selection of experts, would have to consult the Governments. He was satisfied to have the problem mentioned in the Report to the Council.

Mr. MACKINTOSH (CANADA) stated that, while in practice Commissions might select only one expert from each country, he could not support the insertion of the Chinese proposal, as a principle in the resolution.

As regards the second part of Mr. Wu's statement, Mr. Mackintosh thought that it would be the responsibility of Governments duly to supply the Commissions with names of experts. The Committee could make a recommendation to the Council on the advisability of maintaining a list of specialists.

Mr. MOROSOV (UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS) pointed out that if alternative (b) were adopted, no difficulty of selection would arise.

Mr. FLEMING (UNITED KINGDOM) supported the Canadian view on the principle of the Chinese proposal, but did not object to the application of the proposal to the two sub-commissions.

Information concerning experts could be obtained by consulting Governments and the Secretariat.

As regards Mr. Morosov's observation, a greater problem than selection of experts would be the selection of countries from which the experts would come. Furthermore, by its technical nature, the work of the sub-commissions was distinct from that of the Commissions.

Mr. HOFFMANN (FRANCE) pointed out that both alternatives had weaknesses and proposed as a compromise that the Commissions should choose experts from lists submitted by governments.

Mr. WU (CHINA) urged the adoption of the first part of his proposal for the two sub-commissions.

Mr. MACKINTOSH (CANADA) withdrew his objections in view of the qualified agreement to the Chinese proposal.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as representative of Norway, stated that he would vote for alternative (a).

Mr. FLEMING (UNITED KINGDOM) stated in reference to the French compromise proposal, that alternative (a) already contained a compromise by subjecting the choice of experts to the consent of the governments concerned.

In the light of the Chinese amendment and Mr. Fleming's explanation, Mr. HOFFMANN (FRANCE) withdrew his proposal.

DECISION: The Committee adopted alternative (a) by seven votes to two. The Committee unanimously adopted the Chinese amendment, as follows: "Not more than one person shall be selected from any single country."

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should now discuss the number of members of sub-commissions. He proposed the amendment of the Secretariat text: "The membership of each sub-commission should be limited to seven persons", by the addition of the phrase: "...of which at least two should be members of the Commission." He further suggested that the term of office of sub-commission members should be limited to three years, in conformity with the rules for Commission members.

In answer to a question by Mr. WU (CHINA), the Chairman confirmed that the second part of the Chinese statement would be included in the text of the Report.

The meeting rose at 1:10 p.m.