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18 February 1948
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

**AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL REGARDING THE DATE OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE SUB-COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC STABILITY**

18 February 1948

"Sir,

The Australian Delegation has the honour to propose that the schedule of meetings recommended by the Interim Committee on Programme of Meetings (E/608) be amended to provide for a meeting of the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability in the period March 15 to March 29 instead of during the period August 23 to September 3.

The Australian Delegation believes that the selection of a date in August is unwise for two reasons. First, and most important, the Sub-Commission would be left in the position where its report could not be studied by its superior body (the Economic and Employment Commission) until possibly April 1949. Even if this requirement of prior study by the Commission were waived, there would be no meeting of the Council to study the report until possibly February 1949, six months after the drafting of the report. Since the Sub-Commission is dealing essentially with short-term economic questions, a delay of this type would, in our opinion, limit the effectiveness of their work and, moreover, cause confusion inasmuch as the Secretariat would be itself preparing another survey of world economic conditions during the latter part of 1948 before the report of the Sub-Commission had been passed upon. Secondly, the delay between the first and second meetings of the Sub-Commission seems unduly long in the light of the Sub-Commission's concern with the current trends of international economic policy to which I referred above.

The Sub-Commission found itself unable to complete its report at its first meeting in January of this year, but the Members undertook considerable preparation for the proposed March meeting. A considerable part of this which is already being done, because it is related to current problems, would be rendered useless if the report of the Sub-Commission

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were not to be considered until early in 1949. Mr. L. G. Melville, Chairman of the Sub-Commission, fears that in these circumstances not to have regard to the desire of these experts to complete their work would be rather discouraging to them.

Finally, I would suggest that the date be reconsidered in the light of the unanimous view of the members of the Sub-Commission at the end of their first meeting that March was an appropriate time to reassemble.

The Australian Delegation has delayed making this proposal until it could obtain the opinions of various delegations attending this Council. We have so far not found opposition to the proposal.

Because of the brief time between now and the 15th March, may I suggest that this proposal be brought to the attention of the Interim Committee on Programme of Meetings at the earliest possible moment for a decision which would then enable members of the Sub-Commission to make arrangements.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Norman Makin)

Leader of the Australian Delegation"

The President,
Economic and Social Council,
United Nations, Lake Success.