

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

E/CT.2/11
9 October 1946

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(Council N.G.O. Committee)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Wednesday, 2 October 1946 at 11 a.m.

The following were present:

Chairman:	Mr. W. Kotshnig	(United States of America)
	Mr. Chatenet	(France)
	Mr. H. M. Phillips	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. V. Zuev	(U.S.S.R.)
	Mr. Y. C. Yang	(China was present during the latter part of the meeting)
	Mr. A. Deakin	President of the World Federation of Trade Unions
	Mr. Louis Saillant	Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade Unions
	Mr. A. E. Carthy	World Federation of Trade Unions
Secretariat:	Mr. Stanczyk	Department of Social Affairs
	Mr. Perez-Guerrero) Division of Co-ordination
	Mr. Lyman White) and Liaison of the Economic
) and Social Affairs
) Department

The CHAIRMAN, opening the meeting, regretted that the President of the Economic and Social Council, who was ex officio Chairman of the Committee, was unable to preside, since a plenary meeting of the Council was taking place simultaneously. In view of the great importance of the Committee's work, he hoped that in the future it would be possible to ensure that the President would himself be in the Chair, as provided for by the Council's decision of 21 June establishing the Committee (Journal No. 29, Page 483, Section II, Paragraph 1).

In extending a warm welcome to the representatives of the W.F.T.U. which was the first organization to consult with the Committee - the Chairman recalled that the Council had recently extended the Committee's terms of reference and entrusted it with the task of acting as the Standing Committee provided for in the Resolution of 21 June (Journal No. 29, Page 485, Paragraph 3). Under the terms of that Resolution the Committee was charged with the responsibility of acting as a major link between the Non-Governmental Organizations in category (a) and the Council itself.

Mr. DEAKIN (PRESIDENT OF THE W.F.T.U.) much appreciated the facilities which had been accorded to the W.F.T.U. to express its opinion on the procedure to be employed to give effect to the decisions contained in the Report of the Committee, approved by the Council on 21 June last. He regretted that two of his colleagues, Mr. Tarasov of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the U.S.S.R., and Mr. Rosenblum of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (C.I.O.) of America, had been unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting.

The W.F.T.U. believed that it had a great contribution to make to many spheres of the Council's work. Its Executive Committee had carefully considered the decisions of the Council and had come to the conclusion that certain conditions were essential to enable it to collaborate fully and effectively.

In the first place, it should receive, in advance, a copy of the agenda of the Council, in order that it could study it and submit memoranda or observations if it so desired. Secondly, it should be authorized to submit items for inclusion in the Council's agenda, together with memoranda in support of them. In addition, it should be enabled, from time to time, to reinforce those written communications with oral statements before the Council on matters which it considered specially suitable.

From an organizational standpoint, the W.F.T.U. desired office facilities within the Organization, in order to enable it to remain in close contact with the work of the Council at all times and thus to develop

a policy which would permit it to take an effective part in that work.

The fulfillment of those conditions would go a long way to meeting the request of the W.F.T.U. to participate in the work of the Council.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) welcomed the representatives of the W.F.T.U. and the constructive approach of its President to the question under discussion. He saw no difficulty in acceding to the request that the W.F.T.U. receive a copy of the provisional agenda before the opening of the sessions of the Council, nor that it be accorded the right, inherent in the Report, to submit memoranda relating to items on that agenda. The right to submit items for inclusion in the agenda was, however, not provided for in the Report but was governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Council itself.

The CHAIRMAN, after expressing his appreciation of the helpful and constructive suggestions made by the President of the W.F.T.U.; suggested that the Committee discuss those suggestions point by point.

Communication of the Agenda

The Committee agreed, without further discussion, that a copy of the provisional agenda for each session of the Council should be communicated to the W.F.T.U. at the same time as it was sent to Governments, together with the relevant documents.

Submission of Items for Inclusion in the Agenda

The CHAIRMAN, quoting Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, suggested that it offered wide scope to an organization such as the W.F.T.U. to obtain the inclusion of a particular item in the agenda. Under paragraph (d) in particular, both the President of the Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had the power to include any item which they deemed necessary. If the W.F.T.U. were to communicate its request to either the President or the Secretary-General, it would certainly receive due consideration, though there would be no obligation to accede to it.

Another means would be to communicate with the Committee, which would always give sympathetic consideration to any proposal from the W.F.T.U.

The whole question really depended on the extent of collaboration and real understanding which would grow up between the two organizations.

Mr. DEAKIN (President of the W.F.T.U.) agreed with the Chairman, and felt that Paragraph (d) of Rule 10 would in fact provide the solution. While appreciating that the President or the Secretary-General would not be obliged by the mere submission of an item to place that item on the agenda, he felt that if the matter were of sufficient importance to merit consideration, it would certainly be placed thereon.

In addition, under the provisions of Paragraph 2, of Section IV of the Report, organizations in category (a) could always submit written communications to the Secretariat for transmission to the Members of the Council.

The W.F.T.U. also attached great importance to Paragraph 3 of Section IV which provided for oral consultation, where necessary, in support of written communications.

The CHAIRMAN, confirmed that the W.F.T.U. undoubtedly had the right to present written observations on agenda items or other matters before the Council, and the Secretariat was bound to distribute those observations, in extenso, to all Members of the United Nations. The W.F.T.U. had the additional right to support those observations by oral statements, in the first place before the Committee. If after discussion with the Committee the W.F.T.U. felt that it wished to appear before the Council itself, the Committee would give most sympathetic consideration to such a request.

Mr. SAILLANT (W.F.T.U.) proposed that a meeting should regularly take place, on the opening day of each session of the Council, between the Committee and the representatives of the W.F.T.U. The latter could then inform the Committee of the number of items on the agenda which it considered were within its particular sphere of interest. When

the Committee had recognized the competence of the W.F.T.U. in these matters, the W.F.T.U. should then be accorded the possibility of appearing before the Council to explain its point of view and to support it in documents or by declarations during the course of the subsequent discussions in the plenary meetings.

Discussions with the Committee would certainly be of value to both organizations, but if the W.F.T.U. wished to present a Report and even a draft Resolution on a certain highly technical question, would the Committee have the final right of decision as to whether they should be transmitted to the Council and whether the W.F.T.U. would have the right to appear in support of them? Would the Committee, in fact, act as a kind of "censorship board"?

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) considered that the answer to these points was contained in the text of the Report. The W.F.T.U. had the right to submit written communications to any member of the Council, the Council could invite it to consult with the Committee and the Committee could subsequently recommend, if it saw fit, that the W.F.T.U. be permitted to make a statement to the Council.

The CHAIRMAN approved of the suggestion that the Committee should meet the representatives of the W.F.T.U. on the opening day of each session of the Council. There was, however, no need to pass through the Committee in order to obtain the inclusion of an item on the agenda, or to put forward a recommendation, even in the form of a draft resolution.

As regards oral consultation with the Council, however, the Report did not envisage the granting by the Committee of a general authorization to any non-governmental organization to make an oral statement at any time it wished before the Council. Some limitation was essential in order to ensure the efficient and smooth working of the Council. The Committee had, however, been set up in order to facilitate, and not to hamper, relations between the Council and the various organizations concerned. It was most unlikely that, if disagreement arose between the Committee and

the W.F.T.U. on a point to which the W.F.T.U. attached great importance, the Committee would prevent the case from being heard by the Council. Much would again depend on the spirit in which relations developed.

Mr. CHATENET (FRANCE) felt that at the present stage relations between the W.F.T.U. and the United Nations should depend more on a spirit of good-will and mutual co-operation, than on the letter of the texts. The aim should be to find harmonious solutions to the various problems which arose, solutions which might later be written into the texts.

While it was clear, that consultation between the W.F.T.U. and the United Nations should first take place in the Committee, as had been decided at the last session of the Council, he sympathized with the point raised by the Secretary-General of the W.F.T.U. in regard to technical questions. The Committee as constituted could not pretend to be competent to deal fully with all the questions which the W.F.T.U. might raise. Consultations on certain technical questions should therefore be purely preliminary and not involve the substance of the questions. The Committee should merely assist the W.F.T.U. with advice as to the best form in which to present its recommendations to the Council, or to the appropriate Committee or Commission.

Mr. PHILLIPS (UNITED KINGDOM) pointed out that according to paragraph 3 of Section IV of the Report, it was clear that any invitation to a non-governmental organization to appear before the Council must emanate from the Council itself.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply to the delegate for France, referred to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Section IV of the Report (Journal No. 29, page 485), in which it was clearly stated that the Committee should report to the Council on the basis of a full exchange of views. This certainly involved more than mere transmission of recommendations, no matter how technical, emanating from a non-governmental organization. The Committee was composed of five Powers which all had their technical advisers. There was therefore no reason why they should not be competent to enter into the substance of any matter.

Section V of the Report also provided that consultation with organizations in category (a) should normally be with the appropriate Commission itself. A further opportunity was therefore provided for the organizations to discuss directly matters of special concern to them. It was in the Commissions that most of the work of the Council was prepared.

If, after appearing before the Committee and the appropriate Commission, the W.F.T.U. still felt that it wished to present a particular matter before the Council itself, it was unlikely that it would meet with a refusal, provided mutual relations had developed in the right spirit.

Mr. ZUEV (SOVIET UNION) suggested that the agreement that the W.F.T.U., which was interested in so many aspects of the Council's work, would receive a copy of the agenda and other relevant documents before the opening of each session, should be written into the text of the Report.

As far as oral consultation with the Council was concerned, the present provisions might cause difficulties. The W.F.T.U. might, for instance, obtain the consent of the Committee to support a certain proposal by an oral statement before the Council. But, if in the course of subsequent discussion in the Council, the W.F.T.U. wished to make a further statement or proposal regarding the same question, would it again have to pass through the Committee? Such a course would not be practical. In addition, he agreed with the delegate for France that the Committee would not be competent to decide on the substance of many technical questions which might arise, since it could not contain specialists in all fields of interest to the W.F.T.U.

Since there was unanimous agreement that the closest possible relations should be maintained between the United Nations and the W.F.T.U., the W.F.T.U. should have the right to present its oral observations to the Council without passing through the Committee.

He therefore proposed that the Committee recommend to the Council that the W.F.T.U. be entitled to receive the agenda and relevant documents.

to make proposals and to participate, without vote in the deliberations of the Council. A clear-cut decision to that effect would avoid difficulties in the future.

(At this stage of the meeting, the delegate for China took his place at the table.)

Mr. ~~SAILLANT~~ (W.F.T.U.) feared that the W.F.T.U. might appear to lose some of its independence if the opposition of the Committee to some of its proposals forced it to seek the support of a particular Member of the Council in order to ensure a hearing of its point of view in the Council.

The CHAIRMAN replied that no matter what the decision of the Committee on any particular proposal might be, the W.F.T.U. could always present its views to the Council in writing. If serious disagreement arose between the Committee and the W.F.T.U. on a really important issue, he personally felt that the Committee would be very ill-advised to refuse to let the issue be stated by the W.F.T.U. before the Council. If the Committee did, however, refuse, the W.F.T.U. could always submit a written protest to the Council, with which the final decision would lie.

As regards the remarks of the delegate for the Soviet Union concerning oral statements, the Chairman considered that it was not a question of interpretation, since the text of the Council's decisions on that point was perfectly clear. The Soviet proposal therefore constituted an amendment to the Resolution, which he felt it was not within the competence of the Committee to discuss. It was, however, open to any Government to raise the issue in the Council or in the General Assembly.

If the Committee agreed upon that ruling, he felt that it had almost reached the end of its work, since the other points seemed to have been satisfactorily elucidated. He suggested that the Chairman of the Committee forward a report of the proceedings to the Council for its information in order that it should be fully informed of the interpretation

which the Committee and the W.F.T.U. had given to the various parts of the Resolution of 21 June. If progress reports were regularly transmitted the W.F.T.U. would have a further assurance that its views and the findings of the Committee would be made known to the Council.

Mr. DEAKIN (President of the W.F.T.U.) thanked the Committee for its patient and exhaustive examination of the points under discussion. While the W.F.T.U. had not obtained complete satisfaction on all points, he felt that substantial progress had been made towards a workable misunderstanding which would allow it to present its views in a fairly effective manner. He would suggest to the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. that it accept the arrangements made, proceeding by trial and error to establish the spirit of good-will and understanding which was clearly the desire of all who had spoken at the meeting.

He welcomed the Chairman's suggestion that progress reports be forwarded to the Council.

While appreciating the proposal made by the delegate for the Soviet Union, he fully recognized the position of the Committee in the matter in view of the decision of the Council of 21 June.

Mr. ZUEV (SOVIET UNION) did not agree that the Committee could not recommend an amendment of the Council's decisions, if it considered that the procedure laid down would not, in fact, permit the closest possible collaboration with the W.F.T.U.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had not the impression that the W.F.T.U. wished to press the point at this stage.

Mr. DEAKIN (President of the W.F.T.U.) said that he had been considerably reassured by the Chairman's suggestion that the W.F.T.U. could always submit a written protest to the Council if it were dissatisfied with a ruling of the Committee.

Provided the spirit of good-will which had prevailed during the meeting was always maintained, as he believed it would be, he felt that no difficulty would arise.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives of the W.F.T.U. on behalf of the Committee for the spirit of comprehension which they had shown. He could recall few meetings which had been more harmonious, and he was convinced that a workable understanding had been reached which would permit helpful and constructive co-operation between the United Nations and the W.F.T.U.

The meeting rose at 2:10 p.m.
