

*United Nations*  
**ECONOMIC  
AND  
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**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

LONDON  
E/REF/24  
12 April 1946  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Church House, Dean's Yard, London  
on 12 April 1946, at 10.30 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. WINIEWISZCZ (Poland)

Continuation of discussion of the Chairman's plan of work (E/REF/9)

Article 2: Methods to be adopted to screen war criminals and other undesirables and ensure that they do not benefit by any assistance provided for refugees as a whole.

The Chairman opened the meeting and informed the Delegates that the first meeting of the sub-committee on definition, which had been set up yesterday, would take place at 17.00 in the House of Lords, Church House. It was for the Committee to decide whether the meetings of this sub-committee should be held in public or in private.

The discussion was opened on this question.

As this sub-committee on definition could be regarded as a working sub-committee, the delegate for France was of opinion that it should sit in private. This proposal received the support of the delegates of the USSR and Czechoslovakia. The delegate for Poland also supported the suggestion of the delegate for France, and recalled, in this connection that all the drafting committees or sub-committees of the League of Nations in the past in Geneva had always met in private. Since the report to be drawn up by the sub-committee would be submitted for final approval to the Committee in plenary session, the delegate for Yugoslavia also expressed himself in favour of a private meeting.

Explaining that the British Government was opposed in principle to private meetings, the delegate for the United Kingdom, Sir George Rendel, was in favour of the sub-committee sitting in public, so as to avoid any impression of mystery and also the creation of a precedent.

This proposal was supported by the delegates for Belgium, the United States and Canada.

In view on the one hand, of the small number of delegates (seven) who were to constitute this sub-committee, and, on the other hand, of the fact that the summary records of the meetings are not reproduced in extenso, the delegates for Australia and the Lebanon also agreed that the publicity of the meetings was justified.

The discussion then dealt with Rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure which ran: "the meetings of the Committee shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise".

The special nature of the sub-committee on definition which had been set up was explained by the delegate for the United Kingdom Sir George Rendel. The Secretary of the Committee wished to emphasize the necessity of arriving at a rapid solution on the application of Rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure to this sub-committee, which would probably not last a very long time.

As a result of various exchanges of views, the following three motions were before the Committee:

- (1) application to sub-committees of the terms of Rule 22 (USSR version)
- (2) public meetings (proposal of the delegate for Australia, supported by the delegate for the United Kingdom)
- (3) publicity to be applied to the discussion, and private session for the actual drafting.

A vote being taken, the Soviet proposal, (application of Rule 22 to sub-committees) was rejected.

The French delegation proposed the following amendment, to be added to the Australian proposal in favour of the publicity of meetings; "it being understood that the sub-committees will have the right to appoint drafting sub-committees which will sit in private". This amendment was supported by the delegate for Belgium and the proposal thus amended was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.35 and would be resumed on 13 April at 10.30 a.m.