

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCILCONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIALUNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD
AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

Item 4 of the Agenda.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION
TO THE PROPOSALS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT
(Document E/CONF.8/25)

The Czechoslovak delegation thanks the delegation of the United Kingdom for its endeavour to remedy certain lacunae in the draft Convention now under consideration and has the honour to state its views with regard to certain provisions of Annex 2 concerning Chapter VIII of the Convention.

While the Czechoslovak delegation fully recognizes that circumstances may change, it could not agree to an international convention becoming so unstable and the position of its signatories so uncertain as the United Kingdom proposal would tend to make them. For that reason it wishes to propose that the first paragraph of Article 25 should provide for the summoning of a conference in the fifth year from the date of the entry into force of this Convention for the purpose of reviewing the provisions of the Convention. If no amendments were proposed, such a conference could be called after a lapse of a further five years.

The Czechoslovak delegation further proposes that the first paragraph of the United Kingdom amendment, providing for the summoning of an extraordinary conference for the purpose of making amendments to the Convention or to any of the Annexes thereto should form the second paragraph of the Article. It leaves it to the Conference to decide the number of countries at whose request such a conference could be summoned. It considers, however, that it should not be possible for a small minority to do so and that at least half the signatories should request such a conference before steps are taken to summon it.

/We cannot

We cannot agree with the provisions of the following paragraphs of Article 25. It appears to us indisputable that international conventions cannot be changed by a majority, thus excluding some of the Parties who observe the original provisions of the Convention. We believe on the contrary that those who find the Convention inapplicable for themselves should denounce the Convention if they are unable to obtain the consent of all the other signatories.

We have no objection to Article 26, and we should merely like to suggest with regard to the first paragraph that the time for which the Convention would remain open for signature should be not less than six months.

We have no objections of principle to Article 27 either, although the first paragraph needs clarification.

As regards Article 28, we do not quite see why a distinction has been made between denunciation of the Convention by a sovereign State, and by a State which denounces it in accordance with Article 29 in respect of the territory for the international relations of which it is responsible. In both cases, there should either be a certain time-limit, say two years, or denunciation should be allowed at any time.

Naturally, if a non-sovereign territory has in the meantime become independent and sovereign in its international relations, the denunciation could take place at any time. In Article 29, we should also like to add the following: "It is understood that territories under military occupation cannot be considered as territories for the international relations of which a State is responsible."

We have no observation to make with regard to Article 30. With regard to Article 31, we would suggest that in the first paragraph, after the words "in case of war", there be added the words "in the case of a serious crisis in international relations".

Article 25: Amendment

(i) In the fifth year from the date of the entry into force of this Convention a Conference shall be summoned for the purpose of reviewing the provisions of the Convention.

Proposed amendments to the Convention shall be circulated at least six months before the opening of the Conference.

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(11) At the request of at least Contracting States the Secretary-General of the United Nations may at any time summon a special Conference for the purpose of making amendments to the Convention or to any of the Annexes thereto. Copies of the actual amendments proposed shall be transmitted to all signatories at the same time as the invitation to this Conference.

Article 28: Denunciation

(1) This Convention may be denounced by a Contracting State at any time. Denunciation

Article 29: Territories

At the end of paragraph (1) add the following words:

"It is understood that territories under military occupation cannot be considered as territories for the international relations of which a State is responsible."

Article 31: In the case of war

(1) In case of war or in case of a serious crisis in international relations
