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INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York

Friday, 20 February 1948, at 11.00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. Charles MALIK	(Lebanon)
	Mr. Wu	(China)
	Mr. Boris	(France)
	Mr. de Folin	(France)
	Mr. Kamenev	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Alexander	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. Hyde	(United States of America)

<u>Also Present:</u>	Mr. Tange	(Australia)
	Mr. Borberg	(Denmark)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

International Labour	Mr. Metall
Organization	Mr. Lemoine

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. Owen	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs
	Mr. Pelt	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conferences and General Services
	Mr. Yates	Secretary of the Council

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/SECOND REPORT

SECOND REPORT OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS TO THE
SIXTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The CHAIRMAN submitted for the Committee's consideration the programme proposed in document E/608. The suggestion by the representative of France, Mr. de Folin, to postpone the opening of the Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press until the end of March could be considered when the Committee examined the programme of meetings in detail.

Mr. WU (China) said it had been suggested that the opening of the Seventh Session of the Economic and Social Council be postponed until August. This would have repercussions on the calendar as a whole.

Mr. YATES (Secretariat) reminded the Committee that such a postponement would prolong the session beyond the middle of August and make it coincide with the period of preparation for the Assembly; it would be difficult for the Secretariat to get translations and documents prepared and the results of the Council's proceedings could not be submitted to the Assembly on time.

If the date of the Council's session were put forward it would enable certain members of the Secretariat to return to New York during the interval between the Council's session and the General Assembly. A break of ten or fifteen days would entail only a relatively small increase in cost; any longer interval would give rise to serious administrative difficulties. Generally speaking, a change in the date of the Council's session would perhaps affect only the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. Pelt (Assistant Secretary-General) was in favour of advancing the Council's session ten or fifteen days for various reasons connected with the preparations for the General Assembly and with staff leave in Europe. It should be possible to make use of this staff there at the end of their leave, which should be fitted into the interval between the two sessions.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) stressed the difficulty in which delegations would then find themselves in having to remain in Geneva between the end of the Council's work and the opening of the Assembly.

As regards staff leave in Europe, some of this could, he thought, be taken before 1 August so that the staff would be in Geneva for the opening of the Council and the work of the latter would be combined to some extent with the preparations for the Assembly. He therefore favoured the Chinese proposal to postpone the Council session.

The CHAIRMAN was of opinion that the Bill of Human Rights Drafting Committee should work from 3 to 20 May and that the Commission itself should sit from 24 May until the middle of June. In view of the time required to prepare and distribute the report of the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee should, in the light of the observations made by the Secretariat, aim rather at postponing than advancing the Council's session.

/In reply

In reply to Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom), the CHAIRMAN pointed out that 3 April was the deadline for receipt of the replies from Governments and therefore, allowing for the time needed by the Secretariat to prepare the report, the Drafting Committee would not be able to meet before the month of May.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) explained that it was in order to make a large saving in Assembly costs that the paid leave due to the European staff was being made to coincide with the journeys entailed by the Assembly. This staff ought therefore to take leave immediately before the Assembly, say from 1 August on. If they were sent on leave any sooner they would be at the Secretariat's disposal again at an earlier date when there would be no work and they would have to be paid a per diem allowance for which there was no justification.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) thought that was not a valid argument in favour of advancing the date of the Council session.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) stressed another difficulty: that of the preparation of documents.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) thought the method he had advocated for drafting the report and other Council documents would not involve a great number of documents having to be prepared between the Council and Assembly sessions. As far as leave was concerned, it would be best to stagger it before and after the Council session. The real problem would be to get the documents submitted assuming the Council session were to produce a great number of documents. In any case the Secretariat ought not to overlook the viewpoint of delegations.

Mr. YATES (Secretariat) informed the Committee that the preparation of documents (reports, verbatim records of the session, various documents intended for the Assembly) would require several weeks' work. If the period of preparation were too short, if the Council documents were not available sufficiently in advance of the opening of the Assembly, the work of the latter would be made extremely difficult.

Mr. WU (China) remarked that last year, in similar circumstances, the Secretariat had done a wonderful job in producing the documents in good time between the Council and Assembly sessions.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) pointed out that printing facilities when divided over France, Belgium, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, were more or less the same as those to be found in New York. However, there was a shortage of paper and more time would have to be allowed for printing work than here, another reason for providing a longer interval between the Council and Assembly sessions than normally required.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN noted that there would be no advantage in advancing the Council session; this was only a suggestion on the part of the Secretariat. If that was what the representative of China intended, the Committee would simply have to give its opinion as to a possible postponement of the session.

Mr. WU (China) asked if the Committee would agree to the opening of the Seventh Session being postponed until 28 July.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee's terms of reference limited it to consideration of the programme of the meetings of the Commissions. The Chinese representative's suggestion could therefore be considered only unofficially.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) thought that, if meetings of the Drafting Committee of the Bill were to continue until 23 May, the beginning of the work of the Human Rights Commission would have to be postponed until 24 May and the Commission would not finish its work earlier than 20 June. It would therefore be advisable to put the date of the Council Session back provided, of course, the Council's work was not hindered by the preparation of documents intended for the Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the six weeks rule for submitting the reports of Council Commissions had already been waived and there would be no objection to the report of the Commission on Human Rights being submitted to the Council only two or three weeks before the session opened. As for the Chinese proposal to postpone the Seventh Session of the Council to 28 July, that was a proposal which the Chinese representative could lay before the Council; the Committee would merely report on what such a proposal would imply.

Mr. WU (China) felt that the Committee's terms of reference entitled it to suggest dates for the Seventh Session of the Council.

The CHAIRMAN then pointed out that the Committee was empowered to suggest changes in the dates of the meetings of the subsidiary organs, but not of the Council itself. The Committee could therefore merely give an opinion on the repercussions of the Chinese proposal, if it were adopted. After an observation by Mr. Owen on this subject, he also emphasized that the Committee's terms of reference required that the Secretary-General be consulted on so important a matter.

At the request of Mr. de FOLIN (France), Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) agreed to furnish members of the Council with a statement on the relation between the question of leave for United Nations staff and the Seventh Session of the Council.

PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION

Mr. KAMENEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought no date could be fixed for the meeting of this Committee as the Council had not yet finally decided to establish it.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) felt it necessary, nevertheless, to suggest a date now for the meeting of the Committee in case it should be established.

The CHAIRMAN proposed to insert a note to the effect that, if the Committee were set up, it could meet in the interval between the Maritime Conference and the Conference on Freedom of Information.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) supported this proposal.

The Committee decided to insert a note to the effect that the Planning and Co-ordination Committee, if finally established, would meet on the dates scheduled (8 - 18 March).

CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE - TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. de FOLIN (France) proposed that in order to avoid adjourning the Conference on Freedom of Information a few days after it opened, on account of Easter, it should open on 30 or 31 March instead of on 23 March.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) said that for administrative reasons it was desirable to avoid overlapping and to plan the dates of the various large meetings in such a way that the work would be distributed more or less uniformly. There might be disadvantages in again altering the date of the meeting of the Transport Commission, which had already been changed twice. On the other hand, the Conference on Freedom of Information could probably be postponed for a few weeks and scheduled for 12 April - 15 May, which would avoid a clash with the meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe. Simultaneous meetings of the Conference and the Economic Commission for Europe would involve heavy additional expense.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) and Mr. WU (China) thought that, in view of the preparations already made by the various Governments participating in this Conference, which would be a very important one, it would be better to postpone other meetings.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) supported the French proposal to postpone the Conference on Freedom of Information for only a few days, so that it would open after Easter. As the Danish delegation proposed, the session of the Economic Commission for Europe could also be postponed a few weeks.

/Mr. PELT

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) also thought that in view of its importance the Conference on Freedom of Information might open on 31 March and continue to the end of April. The Economic Commission for Europe could then be held from 1 to 15 May.

Mr. BORIS (France) thought that to postpone the opening of the session of the Economic Commission for Europe, scheduled for 31 March, until the beginning of May, was perhaps too long a delay. If it had to be postponed, it would be better not to postpone it for so long.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) said the important problem from the point of view of material organization and particularly of staff was to avoid overlapping. Thus, if the Conference on Freedom of Information was not to end until 30 April, the session of the Economic Commission for Europe could hardly start before the beginning of May.

Mr. BORIS (France) would have preferred an earlier date, but in view of the administrative reasons just advanced, did not insist.

Mr. WU (China) pointed out that the invitations to the Conference on Freedom of Information had already been sent out. That being so, it would be better to avoid altering the date, and as the Council itself had taken the decision, no doubt it would be the only body which could alter it.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) thought in view of Mr. PELT's remarks, that the meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe should be scheduled for 3 - 15 May.

Mr. BORBERG (Denmark) seconded this proposal.

Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General) felt that psychologically it would perhaps be unfortunate to postpone the session of the Economic Commission for Europe from March until May. It would be better to fix a date at the end of April for the opening of the session.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) repeated that at all costs the two Conferences must not be allowed to overlap. If 23 March was kept as the date for the Conference on Freedom of Information, the session of the Economic Commission for Europe, could open on 26 April.

Mr. BORIS (France) stated that in deference to the objections presented, he would not press his proposal to postpone the opening of the Conference on Freedom of Information until 31 March.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) took over sponsorship of the French proposal.

Mr. HOGAN (Secretariat) pointed out that the Conference on Freedom of Information might last longer than was expected. In addition,

/the Drafting Committee

the Drafting Committee of the Human Rights Commission was scheduled for 3 May and its staff was partly identical. It was therefore preferable not to postpone the opening of the Conference on Freedom of Information.

The proposal to hold the Conference on Freedom of Information from 31 March to 30 April was put to the vote and rejected.

Mr. BORIS (France) thought that, if the dates originally scheduled for the Conference on Freedom of Information were left unchanged, the session of the Economic Commission for Europe could perhaps start a week earlier than the date suggested.

The CHAIRMAN proposed to fix 26 April - 7 May as the dates for the session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

The Committee decided not to alter the dates suggested for the Conference on Freedom of Information (23 March - 23 April) and for the Commission on Transport and Communications (12 - 30 April) and to schedule 26 April - 7 May as the dates for the Economic Commission for Europe.

SOCIAL COMMISSION

The dates scheduled (5 - 22 April) remained unchanged.

SUB-COMMISSION ON STATISTICAL SAMPLING

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Secretary-General's note (document E/C.4/15, sub-paragraph (c)) suggesting that the session of this Sub-Commission, originally fixed for 12 April, should take place at Geneva in the second fortnight of July, as this would allow time for assembling the necessary documentation and as, moreover, several members of the Sub-Commission would be in Europe, at that time, which would reduce travel expenses.

Mr. WU (China) was opposed in principle to this suggestion. He thought that all these Commissions and Sub-Commissions should be held at Headquarters.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) said the Secretariat proposal would mean a considerable reduction of expenses. It would be well to set a date which would allow the Sub-Commission's session to precede the date finally fixed for the Council's own session.

Supporting an observation by Mr. HYDE (United States of America), the CHAIRMAN proposed that the session of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling be scheduled for 1 to 12 July, on the understanding that it would be made clear in a note that these dates could be adjusted to suit the date finally set for the Council session.

This proposal was adopted.

CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) informed the Committee that the Preparatory Commission of that organization had recently decided that the Conference of the World Health Organization, which was originally scheduled to be held in New York from the beginning of June to the beginning of July, would be held in Geneva from 30 June to 31 July. If that decision were maintained, it would involve considerably more expense and greater staffing difficulties. The Committee might recommend that this Conference be held in New York at the beginning of June or eventually, if it were absolutely necessary to meet in Geneva, that the date of the meeting be put forward.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General), in reply to Mr. HYDE (United States of America), explained that, although the number of participants would be fewer, this Conference would probably be just as important as the 1946 Conference. Holding it in Geneva would involve an increase of expenses estimated at approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) thought such an increase in cost called for serious reflection. It would be well to consult the representatives of the Organization concerned.

Mr. KAMENEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the reason why the Preparatory Commission had decided to hold the Conference in Geneva was probably because most of the countries which had ratified the Convention were European.

Mr. YATES (Secretary of the Council) said the Secrétariat had no official information on this subject. Some twenty States had ratified the Charter of the Health Organization and most of them were European countries. It might be expected, however, that by the time the Conference met the number of ratifications would reach forty or fifty, but these were only estimates.

Mr. PELT (Assistant Secretary-General) added that he had asked for fuller information but had not yet received a reply.

Mr. BORIS (France) proposed that the question be left over and re-examined in about ten days, after the Secrétariat had obtained the necessary details.

This proposal was adopted and the question reserved.

/SUB-COMMISSION

SUB-COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

Mr. TANGE (Australia) explained the arguments put forward in document E/C.4/13 in favour of advancing the date of the session of this Sub-Commission. The unanimous wish of the members of the Sub-Commission was to meet in March in order to be able to submit the report in time for it to be of use to the Economic and Employment Commission which was scheduled to meet in April. As the Sub-Commission was mainly concerned with short-term economic questions, it would be wholly inadvisable for it not to meet until August. If it did not meet in March 1948, it could not usefully hold a session before March 1949. The Australian delegation therefore proposed that the session be held from 15 to 29 March.

Mr. de FOLIN (France) seconded the Australian proposal.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) asked if there were any objection to setting a date a little after 15 March.

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN the Committee decided to set the date for the session of the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability at 22 March.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Secretary-General's note (document E/C.4/15, sub-paragraph (a)) and proposed that the time allotted to the Commission on Human Rights be extended and that it be scheduled to meet from 17 May until the middle of June.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) asked how the working period of the Drafting Committee on the Bill of Rights would fit in with that of the Commission itself.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the dates scheduled for the Drafting Committee (3 - 14 May) be left unchanged and the period from 20 May to 18 June be fixed for the Commission on Human Rights.

This proposal was adopted.

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that according to the note by the Secretary-General (document E/C.4/15, paragraph (b)), the session of that Sub-Commission would probably have to be postponed until 1949. It should therefore be deleted from the 1948 programme.

Agreed.

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) thought more time should be given to the Co-ordination Committee, which was scheduled to meet from 6 to 8 July. In order that the Council might benefit from the results of that Committee's work, it would be well for the latter to meet in the second half of June.

/Mr. WU (China)

Mr. WU (China) said that would depend on the date of the Council's own session.

Mr. YATES (Secretary of the Council) pointed out that it would chiefly depend on whether they could arrange for all the directors of the Specialized Agencies to meet. It would, however, be well, of course, if the Committee could meet before the Council session. Much depended also on whether that Committee's session would be held in the United States or in Europe.

The CHAIRMAN proposed indicating in a note that the decision as to the time and place of the session of the Co-ordination Committee would be left to the Secretariat, on the understanding that it should take place early enough for its report to be submitted to the Council at its next session.

This proposal was adopted.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) said that one of the documents which had been circulated concerned additional appropriations for the Commission on the Status of Women and suggested that, in order to avoid undue expense, the various subsidiary organs of the Council should be represented by members of the Secretariat rather than by the Governments Members of the organs in questions.

The CHAIRMAN said that observation would be noted. The Committee should also call the Council's attention to document E/642 on the financial estimates.

Mr. KAMENEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered if the Committee were authorized to deal with financial questions which were the business of the Council itself.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the intention was merely for the Committee to communicate the budget estimates to the Council.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) thought it should be made quite clear that the Committee was not expressing approval since these were matters outside its province.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be noted in the report that the Committee was transmitting the Secretariat documents to the Council for such use as the Council desired to make of them.

The meeting rose at 1.50 p.m.