

## ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Statement of W. A. Mackintosh (formerly Chairman of the Nuclear Economic and Employment Commission) at the First Session of the Economic and Employment Commission, 20 January 1947

1. The Economic and Social Council at its first session established an Economic and Employment Commission with a nucleus of nine members to hold office until 31 March 1947 or until the successor Commission was appointed. This temporary body was instructed to report on the revision of the tentative terms of reference of the Commission, on the definitive composition and on the desirability of a sub-commission on the economic reconstruction of devastated areas.
2. The Nuclear Commission reported on 28 May 1946 during the second session of the Council on these and some other matters. At its second session the Council determined the terms of reference of the Commission itself and its composition and at its third session determined the terms of reference and composition of the sub-commissions on Stability and Employment and on Economic Development. Except for one or two minor matters which are before you on the proposed agenda, your terms of reference are now complete.
3. The Nuclear Commission recommended that a Temporary Sub-Commission on the Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas be appointed and that, though a sub-commission in form, it should report direct to the Council. The Sub-Commission was appointed and presented a preliminary report on European Areas at the third session of the Council. Some of the recommendations of the Sub-Commission have still to be considered by the Council and if adopted may have a bearing on the scope and functions of your Commission. The Sub-Commission has continued its work and has extended it to the Far East.

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and on which the Council did not feel it necessary to take specific action. Most important are the suggestions made concerning the information and services which the Commission will need to carry out its functions. These are set out in Section IV of Part One of the Commission's report. On some of these the Secretariat has already taken action. On some, complete action may have to await the setting up of the sub-commissions. On behalf of my former colleagues, some of whom happily reappear as members of this Commission, I would earnestly direct your attention to these suggestions which should be the subject of discussion between yourselves and the Secretariat. The Nuclear Commission also suggested certain items which appear on your proposed agenda.

5. Following a resolution of the General Assembly on 11 February 1946 a Special Meeting on urgent food problems was convened in Washington and was in session from 20 to 27 May. This meeting, in addition to making recommendations on certain immediate problems, requested the Director-General of FAO to prepare proposals with regard to long term food problems.

6. These proposals, entitled "Proposals for a World Food Board" were submitted to the Second Session of the FAO Conference held in Copenhagen 2 to 13 September 1946. The Conference resolved to accept the objectives of the proposals, i.e. "(a) developing and organizing production, distribution and utilization of the basic foods to provide diets on a health standard for the peoples of all countries, and (b) stabilizing agricultural prices at levels fair to the producers and consumers alike", and considering that international machinery is necessary to achieve these "objectives", to establish "the Preparatory Commission to consider further the proposals and submit recommendations regarding the necessary machinery". The Conference also resolved that the Economic and Social Council should be invited to send two representatives to the Preparatory Commission one of whom would speak specially for the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, that the final report of the Preparatory Commission

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should be circulated to the Economic and Social Council and that, after consideration by an FAO conference, the report with recommendations would be passed on to the United Nations.

7. Accordingly on 3 October 1946 the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to appoint a representative to take part in the deliberations of the FAO Preparatory Commission to speak specially for the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment. The Council itself appointed the Chairman of the Economic and Employment Commission as such or his alternate appointed by him to take part in the deliberations of the Commission. It also requested the Secretary-General to report on the deliberations of the Preparatory Commission at each session of the Council until the Commission completed its work and requested the Economic and Employment Commission to keep itself closely informed of the progress of the deliberations of the Preparatory Commission and to advise the Council as to the nature and timing of further measures that might be required in order to assure progress towards the basic objectives.

8. Pursuant to the resolution of the Economic and Social Council, I attended meetings of the Preparatory Commission and appointed as my alternate Mr. David Weintraub of the Economic Affairs Department of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General appointed, as his representative to speak specially for the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, Mr. David Owen, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Economic Affairs Department. In addition, the representatives of the Council were assisted by Members of the Economic Affairs Department of the Secretariat. The representatives of the Council gave attention particularly to ways and means of effective co-operation between FAO and the United Nations and other international agencies in respect of the matters considered and recommendations to be made by the Preparatory Commission.

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9. The Preparatory Commission began its proceedings on 28 October. After general statements in plenary session the Commission established two committees, the first on development and food programmes and the second on price stabilization and commodity policy. Later the two committees held joint meetings. It is expected that the report of the Commission will be adopted and the last session held during the present week.

10. It is expected that the Report of the FAO Preparatory Commission will be approved this week. It will be circulated to members of the Economic and Employment Commission as soon as it is available, as will also a memorandum summarizing the conclusion of the Preparatory Commission and drawing special attention to recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.

Since the Report has not yet been completed and approved, it might, I think, be misleading and would be improper for me to discuss the recommendations of the Preparatory Commission as they appear in the several drafts which I have seen. It is, however, desirable to emphasize the direct concern of this Commission in the Report.

The Report is concerned with two sets of problems each of which touches the interests of this Commission. First, it is directed to nutrition programmes and to the agricultural and developmental projects which are necessary to their fulfilment. While FAO is expected to play a leading part in reviewing national programmes for nutrition and food production and in providing advice and technical assistance, it is recognized that other institutions and bodies will also have major contributions to make and that success will not be attained unless careful co-ordination of the whole is achieved. Important duties will, therefore, fall on the Economic and Social Council which will presumably be dependent on this Commission and on the sub-commission on Economic Development for information and advice. It will thus be especially important that careful study should be given to the Report and that efficiently working arrangements should be established with the International Bank and other bodies concerned with these matters.

Second, the Report is concerned with the stabilization of agricultural prices, the proper function and form of international commodity agreements, and arrangements for transferring surplus supplies at reduced prices to countries in need. Consideration has also been given to the specific problems associated with individual commodities. These are matters with which, in part, the Preparatory Commission appointed to consider the Trade and Employment Proposals has also been concerned. The recommendations made and the course of future developments will be of great interest and concern to this Commission and to its sub-commission on Stability and Employment.

11. In view of the direct concern of the Commission in this Report and the importance which the Economic and Social Council has attached to it, and since I am not able to report more fully and authoritatively on it at this particular instance, I would respectfully suggest that the Commission should invite the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission, Viscount Bruce, to appear before it as soon as the sessions in Washington are adjourned and to address the Commission on the subject of the Report.

12. Finally, Mr. Chairman, since the work of the Preparatory Commission is not yet completed, I have to inform you that the duty of representing the Economic and Social Council on that body is now transferred from me to you.

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