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ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Fourth session

PART VIII

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

(Agenda Item 8)

1. Noting Resolution 139 (VII) C of the Economic and Social Council relative to the organization of the Economic and Employment Commission, and consequent on the action taken by the Commission at its third session (document E/790, Part X), the Commission considered the Report of its Committee on Organization (document E/CN.1/73), which it approved.*
2. The Commission recognizes that the matter of the organization of the Economic and Employment Commission is entirely within the competence of the Economic and Social Council. It feels, however, that an expression of its opinion, based upon its own experience since its organization, may prove of some value to the Economic and Social Council in arriving at conclusions relative to the organization of the Economic and Employment Commission and its two sub-commissions. Accordingly, the Commission submits its conclusions and recommendations relative to this problem, together with the reasons that led it to arrive at the decisions it has reached.

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- * 1. The Committee on Organization consisted of the members of the Commission from Brazil, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
2. The summaries of the discussions held by the Committee on Organization are contained in E/CN.1/W.40, W.53, W.54, W.58 and W.62.
 3. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) E/CN.1/SR.54 and 55 and E/CN.1/W.31 referred to the Committee by the Economic and Employment Commission. (See E/790, Part X, paragraph 2).
 - (b) E/CN.1/63, Addenda 1 - 5, containing the views of Member Governments presented in response to resolution 139 (VII) C of the Economic and Social Council.
 - (c) E/CN.1/W.42, E/CN.1/W.47 and E/CN.1/W.48, containing views of members of the Committee on Organization presented in writing.

/The Sub-Commissions

The Sub-Commissions on Employment and Economic Stability and on
Economic Development

3. The Commission recommends that the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability and the Sub-Commission on Economic Development should be abolished and the Commission should be assisted in its work by the Secretariat strengthened, if necessary, by additions to its staff, by ad hoc groups of experts and by individual experts selected and appointed by the Secretary-General for the purpose of performing specific tasks proposed by the Commission and reporting to the Commission in their own name. The individual or ad hoc groups of experts should be selected by the Secretary-General on the basis of their expert knowledge of specific fields irrespective of their country of residence and appointed for a period sufficiently long to complete the work assigned to them. In selecting such experts the Secretary-General should, wherever appropriate, avail himself of the facilities available through the specialized agencies in their respective fields.

4. The Commission wishes to make several observations in connection with this recommendation and to state some of the reasons which led it to this conclusion:

(a) In recommending the elimination of the two sub-commissions the Commission wishes in no way to imply any criticism of the members of the sub-commissions. The Commission believes that the reasons for the inability of the two sub-commissions to cope with their tasks are implicit in the manner in which the sub-commissions are constituted and in the manner in which they have been required to work.

(b) While called upon to apply objective and scientific analysis to the problems before them, members of the two sub-commissions have for one reason or another found themselves in the position of representing governmental attitudes and consequently have devoted too much of the limited time at their disposal to reconciling the divergent political and economic views of their Governments. There are ample facilities and opportunities for the reconciliation of views of Governments in the machinery of the United Nations, namely the Commission itself, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, which are specifically constituted for this purpose. In the opinion of the Commission expert studies, reports and analyses which the sub-commissions have not succeeded in providing satisfactorily will add greatly to the value of the work of these representative bodies.

/(c) As experts,

(c) As experts, the members of the sub-commissions are expected to undertake detailed investigations into the problems of economic development and economic stability. Yet the problems in these fields are so complex and require such a variety of expert knowledge in many different fields that it could not be reasonably expected that the same small group of experts would possess in every instance the necessary qualifications to cope with the numerous problems before them.

(d) Infrequent sessions of the sub-commissions, once a year for two or three weeks, prevented them from undertaking thorough investigations and drawing conclusions in a form and manner which could be readily used by the Commission. As a result, the contributions made by the two sub-commissions, contained in the reports of each sub-commission, were of limited value. They did not provide adequate analyses of problems and were not sufficiently specific to assist the Commission in formulating concrete proposals to the Council.

(e) The Commission further believes that the work required by it, which it was intended should be carried out by the sub-commissions, could be performed more effectively in the manner recommended in paragraph 3 above. The Commission stresses the necessity for a great degree of flexibility in methods of consultation within the limits of budgetary consideration. Such an arrangement would further provide more flexibility in that different groups of experts could be working at the same time on different matters as these arise. Whether the work of such groups of experts result in unanimous findings or in majority and minority reports arising out of divergent schools of thought, they will be dealing with specific and concrete issues which are fully developed and could provide the basis for specific courses of action.

Terms of reference of the Economic and Employment Commission

5. In the opinion of the Commission its present terms of reference are adequate for the proper performance of the functions it was intended to perform. The present terms are broad, requiring the Commission to advise on economic questions which may be submitted to it by the Council, or to report on its own initiative on problems which it feels require attention and come within its terms of reference. Proper emphasis is placed both on questions of economic development and of employment and economic stability.

6. The Commission has, however, been handicapped in endeavouring to carry out these responsibilities by certain organizational weaknesses and by an inadequate contact with current developments and concrete issues. It is therefore of the opinion that the Commission should continue to advise the

/Council

Council within its present terms of reference but that improvements were necessary in the relationship of its work to that of the Council, in the timing of its meetings, and in the assistance and facilities to be provided by the Secretary-General.

Relation of the Commission's Work to that of the Council

7. In order to enable the Economic and Employment Commission to assist the Economic and Social Council most effectively, the work of the Commission should be more specifically directed to the carrying out of the following functions assigned to it under its terms of reference:

(a) To review the various reports including those of the specialized agencies, the regional commissions, or other reports which will be the subject of subsequent Council examination. The Commission would endeavour to formulate recommendations on economic matters arising out of these reports which would be likely to assist and expedite the work of the Council;

(b) To examine particular economic questions on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council on which the Council may benefit by the technical views and recommendations of the Commission. To facilitate the performance of this function by the Commission, the Council should, wherever possible, specifically indicate any agenda items on which it would particularly value advice. The Commission would, however, retain responsibility to report, on its own initiative, on problems which in its opinion require attention.

Frequency of meetings and assistance to be provided to the Commission

8. (a) The Commission considered that in order to carry out its functions adequately, its meetings should be held in proper relationship to those of the Economic and Social Council. This would mean that the Commission would usually have to meet a few weeks before each session of the Economic and Social Council. This might require some rearrangement of schedules for preparation of reports and other documents which would subsequently be placed before the Council. For certain reports it might also mean waiving the six weeks rule* which normally applies to reports of Commissions. In cases where presentation of reports to the Commission by the Secretariat would mean that the reports would be out of date by the time they were considered by the Council, the Commission would expect only to have such preliminary data before it as the Secretariat could reasonably be expected to provide. The Secretariat should, however, be prepared to appear before the Commission at the beginning

* See Rule 9 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

of each session and present any further information then available but not yet included in official documents.

(b) In order to enable the Commission to carry out its work more effectively and in view of the recommendation to abolish the sub-commissions, the Commission considered it essential that suitable steps be taken to ensure the provision of the necessary up-to-date analyses and expert studies. The Secretariat should so organize its work as to be of most direct assistance to the Commission. This would involve the presentation of adequate reports and analyses on current developments and trends which the Commission requires for the proper performance of its functions. It would also require the Secretary-General to supplement Secretariat resources where that is desirable with the services of individual experts or groups of experts, selected according to criteria referred to in paragraph 3 above, to undertake particular inquiries and studies requested by the Commission.

(c) The Commission recognized that the services of such experts and any additional meetings of the Commission would entail additional budgetary outlays; against these outlays, however, and in addition to the expected gain in accomplishment, should be set the savings arising from the abolition of the sub-commissions.

(d) The Commission suggested that consideration might be given by the Economic and Social Council to the development of procedures for maintaining a closer liaison between the Commission and the Secretariat between the sessions of the Commission.

9. The members of the Commission for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics disagreed with the recommendations of the Commission and considered it necessary to define the aims of the Commission and its Sub-Commissions in the following manner:

- (a) The development of economic relations between all States Members of the United Nations and, in particular, foreign trade and credit on a normal commercial basis without discrimination of any kind;
- (b) Assistance in the economic rehabilitation of countries which have suffered as a result of enemy occupation and military operations;
- (c) Assistance in the economic development of under-developed countries and territories by working out measures for their industrialization, for the development of agriculture, transport and other branches of economy such as can ensure the economic and national independence of those countries.

The basic task of the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability must consist in the study and preparation of the recommendations of the Economic and Employment Commission for the achievement of full employment, for the development of economic relations between all countries, and for assistance in the economic rehabilitation of countries which have suffered as a result of enemy occupation and military operations.

The basic task of the Sub-Commission on Economic Development must consist in the study and preparation of recommendations for the Economic and Employment Commission on the questions referred to in sub-paragraph (c) above.

In discharging its functions the Economic and Employment Commission and both its Sub-Commissions shall be guided by the principle that the economic aid given by certain countries to other countries shall not be made conditional upon demands for political, economic or military privileges for the countries giving that aid.
