

FIFTH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Friday,
15 August 1947, at 10:30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. Davidson	(Canada)
	Dr. P. C. Chang	(China)
	Mr. Stolz	(Czechoslovakia)
	Mr. Mendes-France	(France)
	Mr. Sen	(India)
	Mr. Hakim	(Lebanon)
	Miss de Witteveen	(Netherlands)
	Mr. Haarr	(Norway)
	Mr. Morgan	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. Hyde	(United States of America)
	Mr. Kamenev	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Secretariat:	Mr. Dumontet	(Joint Division of Co-ordination and Liaison)
	Mr. Herman	(Conference Division)

Continuation of the Discussion of the Chinese Proposal for an Interim
Committee on Programme of Meetings (document E/AC.2/6).

Mr. HAARR (Norway) thought some mention should be made of the method of collecting and classifying the observations and suggestions. He asked for some clarification of the phraseology of paragraph 2 regarding this procedure.

Dr. CHANG (China) suggested that the first words of the proposal should read, "An Interim Committee on Programme of Meetings" with initials capitalized.

He explained that the reason for mentioning observations and suggestions as coming only from "members of the Council" was because of the advisability
/of limiting

of limiting the functions of the committee, particularly at the outset. Members of the Council had many ideas to put forward. If specialized agencies, commissions and sub-commissions were invited to submit their observations and suggestions formal communications would be necessary, while in the case of members of the Council these would not be required.

In reply to the representative of Norway, who had requested clarification of the phrase "collect and classify", Dr. CHANG explained that the term "classify" had been used rather than "recommend", because the former implied "comment" as well, while the latter went further than was intended and might be misinterpreted. He thought that the words "classify with comments" might make the phrase clearer.

Mr. HAARR (Norway) thought that if the functions of the committee were only to "collect and classify" its importance would be lessened. Any member of the Council could make suggestions to the Council itself regarding an increase in its efficiency without referring to a committee with terms of reference of such a passive nature.

Mr. MENDES-FRANCE (France) considered that only members of the Council should sit on the committee, and said that it should be made clear that Council members not on the committee could express their opinions if they so desired.

He agreed with the representative of China that the work of the Committee should be to examine and classify proposals and submit a report to the Council, which could make any necessary changes at its next session.

Mr. HYDE (United States of America) had misgivings regarding the premature "streamlining" of the Committee. He suggested it should be composed of permanent representatives at headquarters who could discuss matters on an informal basis with the Secretary-General. He preferred that paragraph 2 should be deleted, but if this were not the decision, he suggested the following amended text:

"To collect and classify for report and comment to the next session of the Council, written observations and suggestions received, in connection with the Committee's functions under paragraph 1, from members of the Council on increasing the efficiency of meetings of the Council and of its commissions and sub-commissions."

In reply to a question by the representative of Czechoslovakia, the CHAIRMAN said that in the light of Rule 14 of the Council's rules of procedure it did not seem that the proposed committee's functions were within the functions of the Agenda Committee.

Mr. MORGAN (United Kingdom) reserved the right to include a reference to the Co-ordination Committee. He was inclined to support the amended text proposed by the United States representative, but suggested that the words

/"improving

"improving and stabilizing" should replace "increasing" the efficiency of the meetings.

Dr. CHANG (China) said he could accept the suggestions of the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States regarding the inclusion of a reference to co-operation with the Secretary-General.

The CHAIRMAN adjourned the meeting so that the members could attend the ceremony in connection with India's Day of Independence.

The meeting rose at 12:10 a.m.
