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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-NINTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York,
Tuesday, 29 July 1947, at 3.45 p.m.

Acting President : Mr. Jan PAPANEK (Czechoslovakia)

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The PRESIDENT: I declare the ninety-ninth meeting of the Economic and Social Council open.

TRANSFER TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF FUNCTIONS AND POWERS PREVIOUSLY EXERCISED BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1921 AND 11 OCTOBER 1933, AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE CIRCULATION AND OF THE TRAFFIC IN OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS OF 12 SEPTEMBER 1923

Mr. LAMARLE (France)(Interpretation from French): There is no need for^{the} French delegation to give its express agreement to this proposal. The reason I took the floor was to clarify one point.

According to the agreements of 1904 and 1910, which regulated the question of traffic in women, and the agreement of 1910 with respect to registering and obscene publications, the French Government was charged with /communicating the new Members and the denunciations. The French delegation therefore feels it is quite normal that after the transfer of this activity has been made to the United Nations, this international Organization should assume the functions of communicating the new Members and the denunciations. I think, as a matter of fact, that the practice of 1904 and 1905 was followed and that actually an organ of the League of Nations communicated the denunciations. The French delegation therefore gives its full approval with respect to the substance of the proposal and to all the points contained therein, and in particular, to the last point I just mentioned.,

Mr. McNEIL (United Kingdom): I just want to say briefly that my Government welcomes most warmly the proposal to transfer to the United Nations the functions and the powers previously exercised in this field by the League of Nations. We have submitted to the Secretary-General a paper containing some amendments to the draft protocol. Apparently it has not yet been possible to circulate the paper, but I can assure my colleagues that the amendments are all of a drafting nature and in no way conflict

with the substance of the subject. I would therefore suggest that these amendments and similar amendments which I have no doubt will come from other delegations, might be conveniently remitted to the Social Committee.

I would however equally briefly like to make two remarks of a general kind. My Government considers and hopes that this is a subject which the Social Commission and the Social Department will pursue with urgency and with vigour.

The present action required by the Council simply continues what the League of Nations was doing under the then existing conventions. I agree with paragraph 7 on page 11 of the Secretary-General's paper, that it is desirable to transfer these functions now rather than to delay to a point where they may be more perfect or more completely applicable.

At the same time I should like to say that I would have welcomed in this paragraph which is headed with a definition unusual with civil servants, either national or international, "Final Note," a reference to the fact that the subject is on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Social Commission. I therefore would have wished to believe that that was not the final note. I rather hope it is the prelude to vigorous action by the Social Commission and the Social Affairs Department, and I am confident that indeed this will be the case, because it is a subject upon which there is never any disagreement in principle, although years of study have shown us many disagreements in method.

As to method, I imagine that future action will lie in two directions. First there is what has normally been called the police aspect of the subject. Just before the war the League of Nations had elaborated a draft international convention designed to make the keeping of brothels and the procuring of persons for prostitution a punishable offense. Perhaps I might be permitted to say that while, of course, no one -- or at any rate very few people -- would condone the keeping of brothels, the business of procuring is of the utmost repugnance to everyone. We cannot for a second tolerate and accept as legal a code of behaviour which treats women or female children as something less valuable and less sensitive than a cat, a dog, or a horse. About this there is no disagreement.

The League draft convention is, I think, as good as anything that we are likely to get, and it was the result of considerable work by the Social Committee of the League of Nations which dealt with the subject. At the first meeting of the Social Commission, a representative of my Government suggested that this convention should be sent at once to governments for their views as to the practicability of putting it immediately into force, in order that the convention might be considered in the light of the governments' comments and, when those have been co-ordinated, submitted to the Council.

There was some feeling in the Social Commission that it would be desirable to give the matter further study, and I believe the Secretariat is at present doing so. They will then report to the next meeting of the Social Commission.

We welcome this study, and we make no complaint that our advice was not accepted, but I hope there will be no delay in getting this new elementary convention -- because it is no more than that -- adopted because

of trying to secure a convention which will solve all the problems at once. It is a complex subject, it is a subject of which there has been endless study, it is a subject about which no one knows all the facts and all the problems. In seeking perfection, do not let us put off the application of a measure which would provide at any rate a basic remedy.

This convention, as I have said, is confined exclusively to the police aspect of the matter, but we all know that that is only one side of the problem. It is, however, an important part, and it is one to which the Department of Social Affairs should insist on giving a high priority.

The second part, as distinct from the police aspect, is the broad, social aspect with which we are all in some degree or other familiar. Bad social conditions, and I think this is beyond argument, reflect themselves in lower standards of morality, both public and private.

I cannot attempt to say that merely by raising the public and private standard one can be certain of securing a cure for this beastly problem, but I am quite certain that as the moral standards are raised, so an opportunity is given for the social and individual conscience and for the moral factors to have a greater application.

I hope, therefore, that in addition to the police side of this question, attention will be given to the social conditions and the economic circumstances which accompany traffic in women.

At the risk of being boring, I repeat that I have never been able to pretend to myself, from a study of the most valuable work that is available on this subject, that merely by arresting the economic factors one makes certain of bringing to an end the traffic in prostitution. But I do insist that there is a correlation, and if we are really going to bring our guns to bear on this subject, not only must we devote ourselves to the police aspect which lies immediately to our hand, but the Council must see that the appropriate instrument deals with the social aspect

Some of my colleagues may think that this is to verge on the sentimental. -- I do not believe any of them will -- but it really is not. We cannot base ourselves upon a Charter which insists upon the equality of mankind, which insists upon the rights of the individual which insists upon the dignity of the people we represent, and yet neglect in any way any instrument by which we can tackle this story which is as old as history, but which is still so distasteful and repugnant to decent individuals, and which can be such a festering condition in any society which does not address itself to the problem.

Mr. LAMARLE (France)(Interpretation from French): I wish to refer to the interesting observations which were just presented by the representative of the United Kingdom. In this connection, I should like to ask the representative of the Secretary-General how long it would take to communicate to the representatives or to their respective governments the documents referred to by the representative of the United Kingdom. The first document to be communicated would be the easier of the two -- that is, the group of amendments to the form of the proposal which was alluded to. The second document, to be sent to those who do not have it at present, would be the draft convention which was prepared before the war by the League of Nations.

The PRESIDENT: I should like all those Members who wish to speak on this subject to do so, after which the representative of the Secretariat will answer questions and make his statement.

Mr. DAVIDSON (Canada): It seems to me that this item on our agenda need not occupy very much of the time of this Council in plenary session, because it deals not so much with the broad social and economic aspects of the problems which have been referred to so well by our United Kingdom colleague as it does merely to certain formal steps which are required to be taken in order to transfer a number of conventions already in effect under the auspices of the League of Nations to the auspices of this Council. Those three conventions are referred to in the document itself, and the document contains a proposed text which makes the necessary changes that are required in order to bring this protocol into line with the Narcotics Commission protocol in another field.

I should agree, therefore, with the suggestion made by the United Kingdom representative that the most expeditious way of dealing with this matter would be to refer it to the Social Committee so that this Committee might review the draft text and report the final text back to the Council for distribution to the Member governments.

I should like to refer to one or two other aspects of this problem in so far as they concern other conventions or draft conventions that have been referred to. I was very glad to hear the observation of the representative of France with regard to certain earlier conventions referred to in the footnote on page 6 of the Report under discussion, in which the functions pertaining to the Secretariat are carried out by the French Government rather than by any more central authority. This was for the reason that at the time these conventions were entered into there was no League of Nations or United Nations, and I was interested in hearing his observation, which had occurred to me also, that, at some appropriate time, steps might be taken to have such functions as must necessarily be carried out in connection with these older conventions transferred to the United Nations Secretariat in the same way that we are proposing to deal with these present conventions. I suggest it might be appropriate for the Social Committee to consider the possibility of drawing this to the attention of the Social Commission in a resolution so that the Social Commission might give some attention to it and report to us at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

I would like to say finally one word about the draft convention which was referred to by the United Kingdom representative on procuring and making it an offense to conduct a brothel. Discussion on that was held at some length in the meeting of the Social Commission, and the view which finally prevailed in the Social Commission itself was that it might be inappropriate for the Social Commission to send forward to governments, or to suggest that this Council should send forward to governments, a draft convention which was some eight years old, which had not actually been implemented in any way, and which might, in some respects at least, be out of date and be subject to improvement by review of the Social Commission itself.

It was for that reason, and not because of any desire on the part of any representative on the Social Commission to delay the development of a suitable convention on this subject, that the Social Commission decided that it should have the Secretariat study the text of this proposed draft convention first and report it back to the Social Commission with the idea in mind that at that time the Social Commission would make suitable recommendations with regard to the circulation of this document to Member Governments and with the eventual hope that it would form a part of the body of international conventions on this subject of which we have now several examples before us.

I would hope that, with the United Kingdom representative, this matter would be on the agenda of the Social Commission at its forthcoming session late in August, and that at that time the Social Commission might be able to give urgent consideration to the question which is dealt with in this draft convention that he has referred to, along with the point that was raised by the representative

of France, with respect to these earlier conventions dating back to the earlier part of the century.

Mr. DAVIDSON (Canada): I think there was some confusion in the interpretation into French of the early part of my remarks. My intention was to suggest, as the United Kingdom representative did, that this Report, insofar as the drafting aspects are concerned, should be referred to the Social Committee of this Council, and not to the Social Commission.

My second suggestion was that the Social Committee, to whom we refer this Report, should be asked to prepare a draft resolution which this Council can transmit to the Social Commission, asking the Social Commission to look into the possibility of transferring the responsibilities which are now being carried by the French Government to the United Nations along the lines suggested in the opening remarks of this debate, as I understood them, made by the representative of France.

Mr. DELIERNIEUX (Social Division)(Interpretation from French): I will attempt to summarize very briefly the action taken by the Secretariat. We received very clear and precise instructions from the Economic and Social Council with respect to the matter of traffic in women and children. There was a Resolution on 30 March 1947 which embodies these instructions. We were to prepare the transfer of conventions which were established under the League of Nations to the United Nations, and this is the subject of the report which is before the Council.

We were also to prepare and review the draft convention of 1937 and then we were to submit this reviewed draft convention to the respective governments in order to receive their opinion and recommendations. Then we were to forward this draft convention to the Social Commission.

If we had not received instructions to submit this draft convention to the respective governments, then it would have been possible for us to submit this draft convention to the next meeting of the Social Commission, inasmuch as this draft convention is already amended and will be forwarded to the respective governments in a few days for advice and recommendations. This draft convention particularly stressed the police aspect of the matter and we tried to present the social aspect of it, inasmuch as the traffic in women and children is so closely linked to the problem of prostitution that it is impossible to separate these two sets of problems. The Secretariat feels, not only from a sentimental and idealistic viewpoint, but from a biological, moral and practical viewpoint as well, that it is impossible to separate these two problems. This draft convention will therefore go to the Social Commission after advice and recommendations have been received from the respective governments.

We also attacked the problem of how to prevent prostitution. It is well known that after the World War prostitution increased because of the movement of the populations, and so on. We will try to find a solution, and international action may be necessary. We are also contemplating establishing regional bureaus in order to intensify the struggle against traffic in women and children.

This is a brief answer to the questions which have been put to me.

The PRESIDENT: Document E/444 and the proposed amendments are referred to the Social Commission.

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL TIMBER CONFERENCE CONVENED BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. THORP (United States): I think anyone who looks over this Report of the Timber Conference cannot help but be impressed by the careful way in which it covers the various post-war problems of forest police, the use of timber, and so forth. If these recommendations are ever carried out in any substantial degree, this particular problem would certainly be solved.

Most of the recommendations I think require no consideration by our group. They are suggestions to the specialized agencies of the United Nations and would be properly considered by them. There is one recommendation that I cannot permit to pass by unchallenged. That is a recommendation which deals with the relationship between two different specialized agencies, and therefore is a matter with which I think we have a particular reason for being concerned. I have in my mind Recommendation 10. This Recommendation is that the FAO, on the request of any individual government applying for a loan, should call the attention of the appropriate international organizations to the need of international credit, for the following purposes--and then it lists certain purposes.

In other words, the recommendation is that the FAO should undertake the consideration of or support of, if you will, an application for a loan, which application presumably ~~will be~~ made with the International Bank. I think this is a reversal of the order which should exist. The request for advice from the FAO should be made by the International Bank rather than by the country which is applying. In other words, the FAO should comment on the merits of the request, when asked to do so by the prospective lender, and not at the instance of the individual country seeking the loan. This places the FAO in a position of being an advocate of a particular loan before the International Bank.

I think, for the purpose of protecting the FAO and **providing** a proper relationship between the organizations, we should suggest to the FAO that this recommendation is in inverse order and that the FAO should be prepared, on the request of an international organization, to consider and **review** an application for credit made by an individual member government. Otherwise, the recommendations look very much in the constructive direction and I think this report can be adopted with the one observation I have made.

Mr. MOROSOV (USSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian):

If the substance of the recommendations which appear in document E/455 is to be discussed, I must reserve the right of the Soviet Union delegation to ask several questions and state its position in regard to some of the recommendations. First of all, however, there is a question which we have to settle, and in this connection I would like to say that the conference with which this document deals was convened by FAO. Therefore, would it not be more correct if the recommendations emanating from that conference were first discussed by the organization which convened the conference, namely, the FAO? As a matter of fact, in one of the documents which have been distributed I think I have seen a reference to the intention to have this question included in the agenda of the annual session of FAO. If that is so, it seems that it would be right for the Economic and Social Council to take no decision at present on the substance of the recommendations, taking into account the fact that the work of the conference will be discussed by FAO at its annual session

Mr. ROYER (France)(Interpretation from French): As has been indicated by the United States representative, the work which was done by the International Timber Conference was very substantial, and the recommendations made were so concrete and practical that they are of good omen.

If not all the delegations invited were present, nevertheless, there were numerous representatives present, and the decisions which were taken were unanimous.

Therefore, we feel it is not absolutely necessary to follow the suggestion of the Soviet Union representative to wait for the meeting of the FAO next month before the Economic and Social Council takes action on the recommendations which have emanated from the Conference which was held in Czechoslovakia.

I believe that we have precedents whereby action was taken on work done by a preparatory body before a final decision was taken in Geneva. There is in this respect the decision of the Council in respect to the recommendations of the Commission on Trade and Employment dealing with agreement on raw materials. There is also the action of the Economic and Social Council on the report from the consultative organ of the FAO in respect to the establishment of a World Food Board.

Therefore, I feel we should be fully justified in taking action on this recommendation from the Conference. It is with this in mind that the French delegation is submitting a resolution which underlines the three major points of the recommendation.

The resolution first of all deals with the shortage of wood throughout Europe, and one of the measures which would be taken would be more intensive felling of timber in Europe and certain regions in Germany.

Then there are more long-term proposals to remedy the shortage, and then some indication would be given to the governments in order that they might take action upon the concrete proposals which would be submitted to these governments.

Then the resolution underlines the initiative which has been taken by the Economic Commission for Europe in establishing a technical committee which, with the assistance of the FAO, will be able to pay special attention to increasing the production of timber and decreasing the waste of wood, as well as ensuring a fair distribution of the small quantity of timber which is available at the present time.

I will now read the resolution which we shall submit to the Council.

"The Economic and Social Council, having considered the Report of the International Timber Conference held upon the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Czechoslovak Government from 28 April to 10 May 1947 at Mariánské Lázně, notes the recommendations of the Conference designed to relieve the anticipated short-term timber shortage in Europe and the adjacent areas bordering the Mediterranean;

"Urges the governments concerned to take steps along the lines of the recommendations of the Conference, and note with satisfaction that the Economic Commission for Europe has set up a Timber Sub-Committee and, therefore, will be able, with the technical assistance of the FAO, to pay special attention to:

timber
"(a) increasing available/supplies and decreasing waste of wood in order to help in meeting the needs of European reconstruction,

"(b) aiding in reducing economic difficulties on increased production by certain countries, by assisting them in obtaining

necessary economic help; and

"(c) the satisfactory distribution of available timber supplies.

For the purposes of this resolution, timber includes hardwoods, pitprops, railway sleepers, ties, telegraph poles, pulpwoods and plywood."

Mr. PEREZ-CISNEROS (Cuba): My delegation fully appreciates the view which has been expressed by the representative of France. My delegation feels, however, that the Report of the Timber Conference has not yet been considered by the FAO conference, and specific indications from the Council on a problem which is going to be fully discussed at the next session of the FAO conference might be premature and might interfere with the work of that conference.

In this connection, I should like to call attention to the fact that, while it is true that many governments attended the International Timber Conference, it is also true there were only twenty-seven nations represented. I submit, therefore, that a decision of that Conference, however unanimous, cannot be considered by the Council as representing the opinions of all the Members of the United Nations or of the Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization. For these reasons, we suggest that the Council should only take note of the Report which has been submitted by the International Timber Conference.

The PRESIDENT: It seems that the opinions on how we should proceed differ. Perhaps the best procedure to follow would be to refer the item to the Economic Committee to prepare the necessary decision or draft resolution for the Council.

Mr. KAMINSKY (Byelorussian SSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian): I consider that the proposal which was tabled by the delegation of Cuba and a similar proposal submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Social Republics could be discussed and voted upon right now without referring the question to the Economic Committee.

Mr. McNEIL (United Kingdom): I would not want to press the point, but it does seem to me that there is a fair chance that we might dispose of it here. I rather think that the point made by our Soviet Union colleague is taken care of by Sir John Boyd Orr's letter, which covers the report, in which he asks us to consider this and instructs us that the FAO will be represented -- as it is plain they are represented -- during our deliberations.

I should think that from my Government's point of view the French draft resolution is eminently acceptable. I make only one other suggestion. I do not think the Council can afford to overlook the point made by our United States colleague, but I imagine that we could quite quickly uncover a sentence to be added at the end of this resolution which would therefore take care of all points of view made in the Council, and I hope we might, as part of our business, complete it now as someone already suggested.

The PRESIDENT: There are several proposals before the Council as to how we should act on this document. There is one presented by the Soviet Union representative and another by the Cuban

representative that the consideration of the report should be deferred until after the convention of the FAO. There is a draft resolution proposed by the representative of France concerning the report. Finally, there is an amendment proposed, if I understand correctly, by the representative of the United States.

Mr. ROYER (France) (Interpretation from French): I should like simply to state that the text of our resolution was prepared before the representative of the United States made his suggestion, and although we may have a certain amount of intuition, we are still not in a position to guess what the representative of the United States wishes to say.

In this connection, I should like to say that the French delegation is ready to take into account the observations of the representative of the United States and have the text of the resolution amended to conform to them.

I should like to say a word in respect to the observations of the representative of Cuba. He stated that the Timber Conference expressed only the views of twenty-seven countries, and therefore there was not a sufficient number of countries which expressed their views in order to justify the Economic and Social Council's taking action.

I should like to ask the representative of Cuba what he feels is the minimum number of countries which is necessary in order that a recommendation or resolution emanating from these governments be considered by the Council. I want to remind him that there was a resolution which was considered a few months ago, to which it is true the representative of Cuba presented certain reservations, but just the same that resolution was considered, and it emanated

from only seventeen countries -- from ten countries less than the number that passed the resolution at the Timber Conference.

Mr. PEREZ-CISNEROS (Cuba): It seems to me that the representative of France did not understand what I said some minutes ago. In order to avoid any further confusion, I shall now repeat my remarks.

I said that I wished to call the attention of the Council to the fact that, while it was true that many governments attended the International Timber Conference, it was also true that there were only twenty-seven countries present. I also said that the decision of that Conference, however unanimous, cannot be considered by the Council as representing the opinion of all the government Members of the United Nations or of all the government members of FAO.

I think that my remarks were pertinent, and I think that twenty-seven governments do not represent the opinion of all the government Members of the United Nations or of all the government members of FAO.

The PRESIDENT: Before we continue discussing this subject, perhaps we should decide the question of whether the item being discussed should be deferred for consideration after the FAO Conference. If no Member wishes to speak concerning this suggestion, I shall ask the Members of the Council to vote on whether we should consider this item or not. If the Council agrees that we should, we shall then consider the resolution as proposed by the representative of France and the amendment proposed by the representative of the United States.

Those Members who favour the deferment of the consideration of the Report attached to document E/455 will so indicate.

Mr. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba): Our delegation is not in favour of the deferment. Our delegation is in favour of having the Council take note of the Report, which is a different matter.

The PRESIDENT: The proposal has been made by the representative of the Soviet Union that consideration of this Report should be deferred.

Mr. MOROSOV (USSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian): In my statement I noted that the Conference was convened by the FAO and that the work of this Conference was to be discussed at the annual Conference of the FAO. I suggested, therefore, that the Economic and Social Council take no substantive decision on this question. Accordingly, my view would seem to correspond to the proposal which has been presented by the representative of Cuba, to take note of this Report. To that extent I agree with the representative of Cuba.

Mr. SMITH (Canada): The Canadian Government felt that this

was a good Report and that it was a useful Conference, but as a matter of principle I think the Soviet Union representative is quite right. When a specialized agency calls a subsidiary conference and that conference is to report very shortly before the annual meeting of the specialized agency, I think, in general, that this Council would be wise to have the report studied first by the specialized agency, and then permit the specialized agency concerned to refer it to the Council.

Mr. McNEIL (United Kingdom): This seems to be a bad day for procedure. I do not think there is any question of principle involved here, and I do not think there is any question of prestige involved.

A specialized agency of good status, in the proper relationship with this Council, arranged a subsidiary conference. It was representative. The Director General of that specialized agency, a man of international status--and, in addition, a Scotsman--has directed his Report to this Council, presumably because he knows the Council is going to meet before the FAO, which is meeting in the latter half of August. If we defer the consideration of this Report until after the meeting of the FAO for prestige reasons--and I cannot see how there are any other questions involved--it means the Council will not discuss it until January. There will, therefore, be a clear loss of five months. I think that is a good and sufficient reason why this Council should not deal with it. In addition, I think it is verging on rudeness to tell a man like John Boyd Orr that he does not know his business and that he should not have directed his Report to this Council at all. Therefore, I hope we shall decide to deal with this Report now and as speedily as possible.

Mr. ROYER (France) (Interpretation from French): I wish to support what the representative of the United Kingdom has just stated. In addition, I should like to ask the Members of the Council to refer to the letter which was sent by Sir John Boyd Orr, Director-General, and in particular to the third paragraph of that letter.

I was particularly happy to hear the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics take the rather unusual position of defender of a specialized agency and its prerogatives. But it seems to me that when a Director-General of an organization writes that in view of the fact the third annual session of a conference is being held the latter part of August, it would be appreciated if the Council could consider this matter early in the course of the forthcoming session, I believe that this means that it is the desire of FAO to have the Council examine this question not after the conference, but before the conference.

I believe that we should not try to out-Caesar Caesar, and that we should give action to this request, and that the actual guardian of the prestige of the organization is its director-general.

The PRESIDENT: I will try to formulate the proposals of the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Cuba, and then I will ask the Council to vote. If we decide to adopt the proposals, then we would defer the consideration of the other proposals. If they are rejected, then we would consider the text of the resolution proposed by the representative of France and amended by the representative of the United States.

The text would read as follows: "The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Timber Conference and defers consideration of the recommendations contained therein until

after they have been considered by the conference of FAO."

Mr. MOROSOV (USSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian):
I want to clarify one point. As it is known, the specialized agencies have the right to ask the inclusion of a point on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council. I do not think one can say that the Economic and Social Council must consider this question. It is possible that after its conference, FAO may decide not to ask for the inclusion of this item on the agenda.

Therefore, we should not prejudge this matter. It would be better to say that we take note of this matter and we leave it up to FAO to ask for the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, if it sees fit to do so.

The PRESIDENT: I wish the representatives would help the Chair in formulating their own proposals, because it is difficult to express their views when they are "floating."

Could I formulate it this way: "The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Timber Conference."
Is that the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union?

Mr. MOROSOV (USSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian):
I wish to remind the Council that this was a proposal which was formally submitted by the representative of Cuba, and that I supported his proposal.

The PRESIDENT: Is the representative of Cuba in agreement with the original text I read, or does he have another formulation of it?

Mr. CISNEROS (Cuba): If I have to formulate a text, I should formulate it in this way: "The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Timber Conference which was held at Mariánské, Czechoslovakia, from 28 April to 10 May 1947, and

The result of the vote was a tie with seven votes in favour and seven votes against.

The PRESIDENT: In this case, if I remember the rules of procedure, we have to wait twenty-four hours and then vote again on this resolution. If there is no change in the division of votes, then the resolution is lost.

Mr. MCNEIL (United Kingdom): In order that we may get on with our business, I withdraw the vote that I cast.

The PRESIDENT: In that case, the resolution is carried. This means that we have disposed of this item on our agenda.

The next item would be the Report of the Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies on negotiations with the Universal Postal Union. I should like to ask the Members of the Council to defer this item until a later date as the Committee on Specialized Agencies is still meeting. In that case, we shall defer this matter until the next meeting and perhaps it will be advisable to have this appear as the first item on our agenda.

DISCUSSION OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The PRESIDENT: I would like to inform the Members of the Council that there will be no plenary meeting tomorrow. The Social Committee and the Economic Committee will meet tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m.

The agenda of the Social Committee will be the communications that are now under discussion, genocide, freedom of information, welfare services, and traffic in women.

The Economic Committee will discuss the Report of the ITO. These Committees will meet all day unless they finish their business beforehand.

The Committee on Rules of Procedure will meet tomorrow afternoon.

I should like to inform the Members of the Council that on Thursday

there will be a plenary meeting of the Council. The items on the agenda will be the Committee Report concerning the Universal Postal Union, document E/483. The second item will be the Report of the ITO. The third item will be the Report of the Commission for Asia, and the fourth item will be the Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

In the meeting of the Council on Friday, the first item on the agenda will be the Latin-American Economic Commission.

The meeting rose at 5:30 p.m.