Application of Principles of Chapter VI of the Havana Charter - proposed letter to the Chairman of the ICCICA

Following the conclusion of the discussion of this matter at the emergency session of the Executive Committee, it is suggested that the Chairman of ICCICA be informed of the results of the discussion based upon his letter of 28 June 1949 (ICITO/1/15). The Executive Secretary therefore proposes to send the letter set out below to Sir James Helmore unless any member of the Executive Committee has any objection to its terms. In order to obviate the necessity for a further meeting to approve this letter, members of the Executive Committee are requested to forward their comments directly to the Executive Secretary not later than 10 August, 1949.

to: Sir James Helmore

copy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 28 June to the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding international action on problems arising in connection with world trade in commodities. The Executive Committee of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization has recently given careful consideration to your letter at an emergency session held in Annecy.

In the course of its examination of this problem, the Executive Committee considered the desirability of drawing up and submitting to governments a protocol bringing
Chapter VI of the Havana Charter into provisional application. Whilst all members of the Executive Committee were agreed as to the importance of the observance of the principles of Chapter VI in any international action on commodity problems, the majority considered that in the present circumstances action on the lines of the proposed protocol was not sufficiently urgent to justify the difficulties it would present. It was pointed out:

a) that the principal trading countries of the world are, by virtue of their being contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, under an obligation "to observe to the fullest extent of their executive authority the general principles of Chapter VI . . . . . of the Havana Charter". (see Article XXIX of the General Agreement).

b) that the resolution of the Economic and Social Council creating the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements recommends that all governments members of the United Nations observe the principles of Chapter VI and
c) that the ICCICA - though not a governmental body and operating under handicaps which are described in your letter under reference - provides machinery for supervising the extent to which this recommendation is complied with.

The Executive Committee has therefore decided to take no further action at this time, except:

a) to express its satisfaction at the assurance contain in the last paragraph of your letter under reference that the Committee will continue to carry out the
commitments assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council and

b) to draw the attention of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to the problem and to furnish to the Contracting Parties a draft report drawn up for a working party established by the Executive Committee which contains some suggestions as to how the Contracting Parties might, if necessary, in accordance with the terms of the General Agreement, assist in assuring the application of the principles referred to in the Economic and Social Council resolution and in Article XXIX of the General Agreement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. Wyndham White
Executive Secretary