INTERIM COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

Held at the Capitol, Havana, Cuba, 24 March 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. L. D. Wilgress (Canada)

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON BUDGET AND SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS (ICITO/EC.1/5)

In reply to the representative of Belgium, the CHAIRMAN said that the Executive Secretary would select the staff of the Interim Commission as widely as was possible.

Structure of the Secretariat

The suggestions concerning the structure of the Secretariat were approved by the Committee.

Work of the Secretariat

In connection with the appointment of the Economic Development Adviser, Mr. COOMBS (Australia) suggested that he need not be a representative of an under-developed country for certain other more developed countries had devoted special attention to the problems of economic development. He suggested that names of suitable candidates should be submitted to the Executive Secretary from which he could choose the most appropriate person.

Mr. LOPES (Brazil) agreed that the nationality of the Economic Development Adviser was not an important point. He emphasized the need, however, for him to have, as well as technical competence, a real knowledge of conditions in Latin America.

After an exchange of views, it was agreed that the Executive Secretary would appoint the most qualified candidate, taking into consideration the provisions of Article 85 (2) of the Charter. Should the Adviser be representative of one group of countries, his assistant should represent the other group. Members of the Committee were invited to submit the names of any suitable candidates they wished to recommend, but in accordance with the terms of reference of the Interim Commission, the final choice would be left to the decision of the Executive Secretary.
Functions of the Commission

In connection with paragraph 2 (b), it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare the necessary documentation so that the Committee would be able to deal with those questions at its second session.

The suggestions concerning paragraphs 2 (c), (d), (e) and (f) were approved by the Committee.

After a short discussion the Committee agreed to appoint representatives of Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, Philippines, United Kingdom and the United States as a consultative panel with respect to the report on economic development, it being understood that they would only be consulted when the Executive Secretary considered it necessary.

The suggestions concerning consultation with the International Court of Justice, the Swiss problem and the preparation of the Spanish, Russian and Chinese texts of the Charter, were approved by the Committee.

After an exchange of views, the Committee instructed the Executive Secretary to make known to the Secretary-General of the United Nations its view that the expenses of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference should be borne by the United Nations.

With respect to paragraph 5 of its terms of reference, the Committee decided to request Mr. Helmore of the United Kingdom to continue as Chairman of the ICCICA until it was able to consider the question at its second session.

Proposed budget for the Interim Commission for one year

The Executive Secretary explained that he had felt it necessary to err slightly on the side of generosity with respect to the budget for he would be seriously handicapped by inadequate funds and it was difficult at this time to estimate with any great accuracy what the Commission's requirements would be. He would make every effort, however, to economize and to spend less than had been provided.

With respect to salaries he had taken the average between the lowest and highest United Nations' salary rate for the various grades. He would be offering temporary and insecure appointments and therefore would need to be allowed a certain amount of discretion so as to attract qualified people.

It would be possible to effect a saving as regards the item on the transfer from Lake Success to Geneva as not all of the staff would be established at Lake Success. The same was true with respect to dependents. He had not provided for full-time experts and consultants but they would be needed from time to time, as for example in connection with the Swiss proposal.
A further saving would be made through the recruitment of temporary assistance during peak periods.

Owing to the complexity of the Charter there would undoubtedly be a great demand for information and explanatory material which could make an important contribution to general understanding and knowledge of the Charter. He had, therefore, included the sum of $10,000.00 for Information Services.

After a short discussion, the Committee accepted the view of the Australian representative to the effect that the question of Information Services would have to be left to the discretion of the Executive Secretary. At the suggestion of the Executive Secretary the item on unforeseen expenses was reduced to $10,000.00 and a provision for Information Services inserted on page 4.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

In order to avoid conflicting with other meetings to be held in Geneva during the summer, the Committee agreed to reconvene on 25 August 1948. The date for the next meeting of GATT was set for 15 August.