The CHAIRMAN read a letter from the Indian delegation stating that, owing to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, members of that delegation would not be attending meetings on that day. The Chairman paid tribute to the qualities of Mahatma Gandhi and suggested that the Committee should send a message of sympathy to the Indian delegation. Mr. HOLMES (United Kingdom) and Mr. W. KING (China) associated themselves with the Chairman's remarks and his suggestion was unanimously endorsed by the Committee.

1. Proposal for a meeting of the Heads of Delegations

Mr. TINOCO (Costa Rica), Vice-President, suggested that the meeting be called to review the progress of the Conference and to study the advisability of appointing a co-ordinating group to study any difficult questions outstanding.

Mr. WILGROSS (Canada), Chairman of Committee III, considered that it would be useful to hold such a meeting at this stage in order to review the progress but he hoped that the proposal for a co-ordinating committee would not be pressed as he was confident that, with the present system, the Conference would be entering its final stages by the middle of February.

Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia), Vice-President, suggested that it would be advisable to have a plan of discussion for the meeting and proposed that the chairmen of the various committees first present orally a brief report on the progress made to be followed by a general discussion.

Mr. DEDMAN (Australia), Chairman of Committee I, agreed with Dr. Augenthaler's proposal but thought that the views of the General Committee should be presented by its Chairman in order that the Heads of Delegations would have a more definite proposal before them.

Mr. CEARLESE (Uruguay), Chairman of Committee IV, did not oppose a statement of progress, but he considered that, since the meeting would be called at the request of fifteen Latin American countries, their proposal,
which would be available as a document, should be presented first. A report on progress could be presented by the Executive Secretary in much the same form as the report he originally prepared for the General Committee.

Mr. COLBAN (Norway), Chairman of Committee VI, suggested that the discussion might be freer and there would be greater possibility of reaching a compromise if this proposal were signed by two or three instead of fifteen Latin American countries, all of whom would feel themselves bound to defend whatever they had signed.

Mr. CHARLONE (Uruguay), Chairman of Committee IV, did not think this would be possible or would alter the case. He hoped that the request of the Latin American countries would not be prejudged as it was presented as a basis for discussion and in an endeavour to reach a satisfactory solution.

The CHAIRMAN summarized the proposals for the conduct of the meeting as:

1. presentation of the document signed by the fifteen Latin American countries;
2. Report by the Executive Secretary or the Chairmen of the various committees on the state of progress;
3. statement by a representative of the General Committee expressing the views of the Committee.

Mr. CHARLONE (Uruguay) preferred that the report should be presented objectively by the Executive Secretary and that the Committee Chairmen should speak rather in their capacity as Heads of Delegations. He questioned whether the General Committee would be wise to make a statement which would appear to attempt to influence the general discussion before this began.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the first two points be accepted with the Chairmen rather than the Executive Secretary presenting the reports of the committees, in view of the short time remaining. This would be followed by a summary of the reports by the Chairman of the General Committee with the proposals of the Committee, after which there would be general discussion.

Mr. WILCOX (United States) did not believe that the Chairman of the General Committee could give any opinion other than his own since the General Committee could hardly form an opinion on a document that was not in its possession.

Mr. CHARLONE (Uruguay), Chairman of Committee IV, agreed with Mr. Wilcox and thought that such an opinion would only be appropriate at the close of the general discussion rather than at the beginning.

Mr. PHILIP (France) thought it was the duty of the General Committee to give an opinion on the paper and suggested that, at a stage in the debate
where there appeared to have been a representative expression of opinion, the Heads of Delegations meeting be adjourned in order that the General Committee might meet and form its opinion to be presented to the Heads of Delegations.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the first two points remain and be followed by a general discussion. After this, the President of the Conference should take the opinion of the meeting as to whether the co-ordinating committee should be established and, if it were so decided, the General Committee should be called to study the procedure, terms of reference, composition, etc., and to report back to the Heads of Delegations as quickly as possible.

Mr. STUCKI (Switzerland), Vice-President, and Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia), Vice-President, agreed with the Chairman. Dr. AUGENTHALER suggested that the report be presented from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. and the meeting be adjourned until 5.00 p.m. when the general debate could start.

Mr. DEDMAN (Australia), Chairman of Committee I, was in favour of Mr. Philip's suggestion.

Mr. HOLMES (United Kingdom) and Mr. NASH (New Zealand), Vice-President, were also in favour of holding a meeting of the General Committee, preferably before the meeting of the Heads of Delegations.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Committee meet at 4.30 p.m. after the presentation of the paper and the Heads of Delegations resume at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. STUCKI (Switzerland), Vice-President, considered that if, as he understood it, this document was addressed to the Heads of Delegations, it was that body which should decide on its disposition. The General Committee could only give its opinion if requested to do so by the Heads of Delegations.

The CHAIRMAN agreed but pointed out that the President of the Conference had the right to ask the opinion of the General Committee.

Mr. CHARLONE (Uruguay), Chairman of Committee IV, agreed with Mr. Stucki and with the Chairman's proposal that the General Committee should meet if the suggestion of the Latin American delegations were accepted in order to discuss how it could best be applied.

The CHAIRMAN stated that it was quite clear that the message was addressed to the President of the Conference who had called the Heads of Delegations to discuss it. The General Committee should meet only on the request of the President or if so decided by the meeting, or if the proposal of the Latin American delegations were accepted, in order to decide on the procedure to implement it.

/This was agreed.
This was agreed.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY read a communication from the Turkish Delegation requesting that, because of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, no meetings be held in the afternoon and the flags be flown at half-mast.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Conference should conform in the matter of flags with whatever decision was reached by the Cuban Government regarding its national flag. He wondered whether it would not be more fitting to hold meetings in the afternoon in deference to the principles Mahatma Gandhi had stood for throughout his life.

After some discussion it was agreed to adjourn the public meeting of Committee III after a brief tribute, to continue private sub-committee meetings, and to pay a tribute at the beginning of each of the meetings and at the meeting of the Heads of Delegations on the following day.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30 p.m.