Date and Place of World Conference

Note by Executive Secretary

At the fourth meeting of the Chairman's Committee (Heads of Delegations) the Secretariat were instructed to prepare papers on items on the agenda of the Preparatory Committee which it is desirable should be submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming session.

The Secretariat has prepared and will shortly submit for consideration a draft of a report from the Preparatory Committee to the Council. Before, however, this report can be completed, it is necessary for the Preparatory Committee to formulate recommendations as to:

(a) invitations to non-members of the United Nations to the World Conference, and

(b) the date and place of the Conference.

On the first of these points proposals have already been submitted to the Chairman's Committee (Heads of Delegations) in paper E/PC/T/Del.39. The present paper deals with the second point.

In arriving at a recommendation on this point, the Secretariat have given consideration to the following factors:

(a) the desirability of convening the Conference as soon as possible after the determination of the work of the Preparatory Committee. Any long delay would have the effect of postponing for a considerable period the establishment of the International Trade Organization. It should be borne in mind that the adoption of the Charter at the Conference will have to be followed by legislative action for its ratification. A substantial delay in proceeding to the World Conference stage would present serious problems to certain governments in their legislative programmes.

It is recognised that there may well be some criticism of this point of view from governments who have not participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee and who may therefore feel that they should be given a longer period of preparation. The Mexican government, for example, has already indicated to the Secretary General that it feels that there should be a minimum interval of four months between the publication of the Report of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee and the opening of the World Conference. Against this it may be argued that every facility has been afforded to United Nations governments not participating in the Preparatory Committee to follow its work in
detail. A full Report of the First Session was published as well as a fully annotated Report of the Drafting Committee and all the working papers of the Second Session are being made currently available to the member-governments of the United Nations. Moreover, it should be possible to publish a Report on the Geneva Charter discussions almost immediately on their conclusion.

(b) The provision of adequate Conference Services

It has been assumed that the United Nations would be asked to provide a Secretariat and Conference services. Having regard to other commitments, however, consideration has had to be given to the date on which United Nations could provide these services. If the Conference takes place at Lake Success, such services could be provided approximately one month after the conclusion of the General Assembly. If, however, the Conference were to take place elsewhere, a considerably longer interval would be required.

(c) Expense

If the Conference were held elsewhere than at the headquarters of United Nations, the expenses of the Conference would be substantially increased.

The Secretariat therefore suggest that the Preparatory Committee should recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the World Conference should be convened for November 21st, 1947, at the headquarters of the United Nations at Lake Success, New York. It is also suggested that in forwarding this recommendation to the Economic and Social Council, reference should be made to the considerations in (a) above.

A draft resolution embodying these proposals is set out below:

WHEREAS in the resolution whereby the Economic and Social Council constituted the Preparatory Committee, the Council requested the Committee, inter alia, to report recommendations regarding the date and place of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, and

WHEREAS the Preparatory Committee considers that it is desirable to proceed as rapidly as possible with the establishment of an International Trade Organization and the formulation of its Charter,

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary General to convene the Conference at the headquarters of the United Nations, Lake Success, New York, on November 21st, 1947.