SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

Chairman's Committee
(Heads of Delegations.)

Summary Record of the Seventeenth Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 October 1947, at 3 p.m.

1. Arrangements for Final Meeting of Preparatory Committee.

The meeting accepted recommendations by the Tariff Negotiations Working Party regarding arrangements for the Final Meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

2. Brazil and the Protocol.

Mr. FERREIRA BRAGA (Brazil) said that his government was extremely anxious to sign the Protocol of Provisional Application, but was faced with the constitutional problem that the consent of parliament was needed and this could not be obtained before November 15, 1947. He asked the advice of the meeting as to whether, in the circumstances, Brazil might sign the Protocol at Geneva.

In the course of discussion it became clear that those countries signing the Protocol at Geneva were constitutionally able to do so without the prior approval of their parliaments. In the circumstances, it was generally felt that Brazil, rather than join the original signatories, should sign the Protocol as soon as possible afterwards and thus lead the way for other countries, signatories to the Final Act, which might now be in a similar position to Brazil.

3. The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.