

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL BUSINESS

RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

(Reference Executive Secretary's letter of 30 January 1953)

From informal discussions with various delegations it appears to be generally agreed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should offer an opinion on this matter when their advice is requested by the Secretary-General. It appears, however, that it would not be practicable for the Intersessional Committee at its present session to formulate recommendations as to the nature of the opinion to be expressed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. It seems to me that in these circumstances the best course of action would be for the Intersessional Committee to authorize the Executive Secretary to convene a further session upon receiving the official request from the Secretary-General for the views of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. This meeting should take place well in advance of the date upon which the reply has to be made to the Secretary-General in order that the CONTRACTING PARTIES shall have time to consider the recommendations of the Intersessional Committee. The Executive Secretary should therefore request the Secretary-General to give not less than six weeks' notice to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Intersessional Committee could then be convened at two weeks' notice and should aim at completing its recommendations within a further week. The recommendations would then be circulated to the contracting parties for postal ballot to be completed within three weeks.