

Deposit of the Spanish Text of the Havana Charter

The Spanish text of the Havana Charter was deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations as one of the authentic texts on 27 October 1949.

The Interim Commission, at a special session held in July 1949, appointed a Drafting Committee and authorized it to decide upon an authentic text to be immediately deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations without further reference to Governments. All Spanish speaking Members of the Interim Commission and France, the United Kingdom and the United States were invited to participate in the Drafting Committee; the following countries attended the meetings of the Committee: Cuba, Philippines, United Kingdom and United States. Panama was represented at one meeting and Bolivia nominated a representative who was unable to attend. The Committee met from 15 September to 14 October, and approved a text which was deposited and will be printed and distributed.

This completes the mandate on the Spanish text given to the Interim Commission by the Havana Conference. The following is a brief recapitulation of the steps in the preparation of the Spanish text prior to the establishment of this Drafting Committee**.

1) Following the Havana Conference a translation of the Charter based upon a draft prepared by the Cuban Government was distributed to governments in June 1948 with a statement that it would be deposited with the Secretary General in August unless comments were received.

2) In view of several comments on the text, a Drafting Committee consisting of Colombia, France, Mexico, United Kingdom and United States met in Geneva to consider them in September 1948. The text agreed to by this Committee was circulated as document ICITO/1/10 in October with a statement similar to the one previously issued, giving December as the time for deposit.

3) Further comments were received on this text and a whole new text was issued as document E/Conf.2/W.16 in March 1949, which underlined the proposed additions and put the proposed deletions in square brackets. It was again stated that the text, incorporating the proposed changes, would be deposited in April, unless objections were made.

4) Still further comments were received and it was finally decided to set up the Drafting Committee referred to above. These comments were distributed as document E/Conf.2/W.16/Corr.1 and served as the basic document of the Drafting Committee.

* Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Philippines, Nicaragua, Uruguay.

** See also document E/Conf.2/W.16/Corr.1