

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Held at the Villa Le Bocage, Geneva,
on 29 March 1968, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. S. Chr. SOMMERFELT (Norway)

Representatives present:

Mr. Hill	(Australia)	Mr. Papoulias	(Greece)
Mr. Longerstaey and		Mr. Makil	(India)
Mr. Bogaardt	(Benelux)	Mr. Vitale	(Italy)
Mr. Barbosa	(Brazil)	Mr. Gurza	(Mexico)
Mr. Petrie	(Canada)	Mr. Sommerfelt	(Norway)
Mr. Yang-hai Liu	(Republic of China)	Mr. Urquiole	(Philippines)
Mr. Guevara	(Colombia)	Mr. Khallaf	(United Arab Republic)
Mr. Jaks	(Czechoslovakia)	Mr. O'Connell	(United Kingdom)
Mr. Phan van Phi	(France)	Mr. Brodie	(United States)

Subject discussed: Resignation of the Executive Secretary and appointment of his successor.

Mr. Sommerfelt was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN noted that this was the first meeting of the Executive Committee since November 1950 and that all members of the Committee, except El Salvador, were represented.

He explained that, as set out in the Note Verbale of 4 March 1968, this meeting had been convened to take note of the resignation of the Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization, Mr. Wyndham White, and to elect his successor.

ICITO had been created in 1948 by a Resolution adopted at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment to carry out specific functions pending the establishment of the International Trade Organization. The terms of the Resolution gave ICITO an organizational structure and entitled it to the benefits of privileges and immunities and to legal personality. On 20 March 1948, the Commission had elected Mr. Wyndham White as its Executive Secretary. On the same day the Commission had elected this Executive Committee of eighteen members, and had delegated all its powers to it, including the power to replace the Executive Secretary if that should become necessary.

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The Executive Committee had adopted rules of procedure whereby its decisions were taken by a majority of the members present and voting - one vote per member - and a simple majority constituted a quorum.

The Executive Committee of ICITO had met in September 1948 (during the second session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and had approved financial arrangements which conferred authority on the Executive Secretary of ICITO to provide secretariat and conference services for the CONTRACTING PARTIES. At the same time it had been agreed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would reimburse ICITO for the services so rendered. This arrangement between ICITO and the CONTRACTING PARTIES had continued until this day.

The link between ICITO and the CONTRACTING PARTIES remained a practical necessity, in particular so that the secretariat should continue to be enabled to engage in contractual transactions, to benefit from the arrangement on privileges and immunities concluded between the Swiss Federal Council and the Secretary General of the United Nations, and to participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The incumbent of the post of Executive Secretary of ICITO had a dual position as he was at the same time Director-General to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Therefore, it would be appropriate to elect in his place the Director-General designate to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The Executive Committee took note of Mr. E. Wyndham White's resignation as Executive Secretary of ICITO and elected in his place, as from 6 May 1968, Mr. Olivier Long, the Director-General designate to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 p.m.