EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Second session

PREPARATION OF THE AUTHENTIC SPANISH TEXT OF THE CHARTER

Note by the Executive Secretary of ICITTO

Members of the Interim Commission may recall the importance which
da number of the Spanish-speaking delegations attached to the early
preparation of an authentic Spanish text of the Havana Charter. Several
of these delegations indicated that the date at which their legislatures
could consider the Charter would depend upon when an authentic text in
Spanish could be presented to them. Through circumstances beyond the
control of the Secretariat, the circulation of the first draft of the
Charter in Spanish has been considerably delayed and the application of
the procedure agreed upon in Havana would therefore postpone the authentic
Spanish text from appearing until approximately 28 December 1948 at the
earliest. It might considerably later. In these circumstances, it
is suggested that consideration be given to establishing a final Spanish
text at the second session of the Executive Committee. If this suggestion
commends itself to the Member Governments, the following steps would be
required to give effect to it:

(a) All Member Governments should communicate their comments on the
text which has been circulated to the Executive Secretary in Geneva,
if possible not later than one week before the opening of the second
session of the Executive Committee, that is, not later than
19 August 1948, and in any case not later than the opening of that
session.

(b) The Executive Committee would need to establish a drafting
committee. To make possible the establishment of a competent
drafting committee, it would be necessary for the Spanish-speaking
members of the Executive Committee, that is, Colombia, El Salvador
and Mexico, to provide between them not less than two experts
familiar with the Charter and experienced in the drafting of
international instruments. Similarly, the French and English-speaking
deginitions would have to be prepared to supply experts to serve on
the Drafting Committee.

/It would
It would be appreciated if Governments willing to co-operate in this arrangement would act on (a) above and if the members of the Executive Committee concerned could be prepared to staff a drafting committee in the event that the Executive Committee feels that effect should be given to this suggestion. In so far as this arrangement would require certain Governments to send experts ad hoc for this purpose, it is suggested that they might arrange for these experts to be in readiness to go to Geneva in the event of an affirmative decision of the Executive Committee.