

INTERIM COMMISSION
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
TRADE ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION INTERIMAIRE DE
L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE
DU COMMERCE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Second session

PREPARATION OF THE AUTHENTIC SPANISH TEXT OF THE CHARTER

Note by the Executive Secretary of ICITO

Members of the Interim Commission may recall the importance which a 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 24 December 1948 at the earliest. It might be 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 delegations would have to be prepared to supply experts to serve on the Drafting Committee.

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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.
