UNITED NATIONS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

FIRST SESSION OF COMMISSION III

July 3, 1944, 5:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Mount Washington Hotel,
Bretton Woods, N. H.
Stenographic report by Mary E. Pitchett

DR. KELCHNER: Commission III of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference is hereby convened. As you know, the plenary session of the Conference approved the regulations this morning and those regulations provided for the establishment of Commission III to consider other means of international financial cooperation. The plenary session also elected the officers of this Commission, namely, the representative of Mexico as Chairman, the representative of Egypt as Vice Chairman, and the representative of New Zealand as Reporting Delegate. I have been informed that the representative of Mexico, who will serve as Chairman of this Commission is Mr. Eduardo Suarez; the representative of Egypt, who will serve as Vice Chairman, Mr. Sany Lackany Bey; and the representative of New Zealand, who will serve as the Reporting Delegate, Mr. Allin Fisher. I am now turning the chair over to the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Suarez.

Mr. SUAREZ: (Speech submitted in typewritten form.) I recognize the delegate from Poland.

The Delegate from Poland: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman appoint a committee for the purpose of receiving the suggestions and making the recommendations as to the specific problems which should be dealt with by this Commission.

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MR. SUAREZ: I recognize the delegate from Uruguay.

The Delegate from Uruguay: Mr. Chairman, I second the motion.

MR. SUAREZ: All in favor say "Aye".

(Ayes" heard.)

MR. SUAREZ: Opposed no.

The motion is carried in accordance with the will of the Commission. I hereby appoint the following committee:

Poland, Chairman

Netherlands, Reporter

Chile

Uruguay

Ethiopia.

Suggestions as to specific problems to be considered in this Commission may be madeto the Commission within the next few days, and should be delivered to the Technical Secretary in Room 151.

May I hear some comments before adjourning?

Then the meeting is adjourned until further notice.

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ORDER OF THE DAY

FIRST SESSION OF COMMISSION III

1. Dr. Kelchner will introduce the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Reporting Delegate.

2. Chairman: This meeting will now come to order.

3. Chairman: Before proceeding with the formal business of the day, I would like to introduce Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt, who will serve as Technical Secretary. Mr. Schmidt is a member of the United States Treasury Department where he serves on the capacity of Acting Director of the Bureau of Foreign Funds Control.

4. Fellow Delegates and Members of Commission III.

As I call this meeting to order, I feel that I should take this opportunity to say a few words about the importance and scope of our work.

As we know, we have come together at this conference to consider two definite proposals for dealing with some of our most fundamental problems. The first is the proposal for the establishment of an International Monetary Fund which has as one of its primary objectives the assurance of a pattern of stable and orderly exchange rates that will make possible the expansion of International Trade and the maintenance of a high level of employment and business activity. The second is the proposal for the Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the purpose of encouraging sound international investment, thus contributing to economic reconstruction and development. Commissions I and II, respectively, have been established for dealing with these two specific proposals. This Commission will consider and make recommendations relative to "Other means of international monetary and financial cooperation".

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I assume that it is not necessary for me to stress to the members of this group the importance of the cooperative and united approach to the important international financial problems with which we are confronted. As members of the United Nations, we accept as a basic premise the desirability of working together to solve our common problems.

Unlike the other Commissions, Commission III is not dealing with specific proposals which have been the subject of extended joint consultations and study by the technical representatives of various nations. Although at this early stage we cannot foresee the character and disposition of our recommendations, it is not impossible that some of them may influence the recommendations approved by the other Commissions.

Without seeming to place undue limitations upon the range of subjects to be considered, I feel that our time will be most profitably employed if we restrict ourselves to problems predominatly financial and monetary, and international in scope. For instance, it has been suggested that there become 4 2 1 2 international agreement with respect to the status of earmarked gold. Some delegations have privately expressed their concern over the fluctuations in international price levels to the extent that they are important to international exchange stability. Some concern has also been expressed about the international monetary functions of silver, for it is felt that the habits and needs of the peoples who continue to use it have not been thoroughly considered and appraised.

I am not sure that there has been ample opportunity for members to bring before this group their suggestions as to problems which might profitably be considered. It may hence be desirable before appointing committees to consider any specific problems to make arrangements for the purpose of receiving suggestions which may be appropriately considered in the Commission.

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5. Chairman: I recognise the Delegate from Poland.

6. Polish Delegate: Mr. Chairman, I move than the Chairman appoint a committee for the purpose of receiving the suggestions and making recommendations as to the specific problems which should be dealt with in this Commission.

7. Chairman: I recognize the Delegate from Uruguay.

Uruguayan delegate:

8. / Mr. Chairman, I second the motion.

9. Chairman: All in favor say "I". Those opposed "No".

10. The motion is carried in accordance with the will of this Commission. I hereby appoint the following committee:

AGENDA COMMITTEE FOR

COMMISSION III

Poland, Chairman

Uruguay, Reporter

Chile

Netherlands, Reporter

Suggestions as to specific problems to be considered in this Commission may be made to the Committee during the next three days and should be delivered to the Technical Secretary in Room 151.

11. The meeting is adjourned until further notice when we will reconvene to receive the report of the Agenda Committee.

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