

1st Meeting
REPORT ON COMMISSION I
ORGANIZATION MEETING

Held at 2:00 P.M. July 3, 1944.

Dr. Kelchner: Commission I of United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference is hereby convened. At the Plenary Session this morning it was decided to establish a Commission I to consider International Monetary Funds. At the same session the following officials were elected: Chairman, the representative of the United States; Vice Chairman, the representative of Venezuela; for recording delegate, the representative of Canada. I have been informed the representative of the United States to act as Chairman of this Committee is Mr. Harry D. White. For Vice President, the Chairman of the Venezuela delegation, Mr. Rodolfo Rojas will serve for Venezuela. I have been informed that the representative of Canada to serve as the reporting delegate will be Mr. L. Rasminsky. I now turn over the chair to the chairman of Commission I, Mr. White.

Dr. White: I am informed that according to the Rules and Regulations adopted at the conference this morning that the Commission meetings are held in executive session. If there are any persons present who are not entitled to be present at an executive meeting will they please leave. During the next meetings the members will have to show a pass upon entrance. I would like to take the opportunity to introduce your secretary, Mr. Leroy Stinebower who is Advisor of the Office of Economic Affairs of the Department of State, and his assistant, ^{Mrs.} ~~Miss~~ Eleanor ^{Bulles} ~~Dallas~~ of the Office of Financial and Monetary Affairs of the Department of State. They are here to help you in every possible way. If you have any questions at all in connection with the meetings or if there is any material that you would want in preparation for subsequent meetings or that relate to any of the meetings that

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have already been held, if you contact them they will be ready to serve you in every way possible. Each of the United and Associated Nations (Speech read by Dr. White)

Clearly it is going to be a difficult task to get over all the ground that we would hope to accomplish before the end of the conference. It can only be obtained if we concentrate on the job and cooperate to the fullest possible extent. In order to facilitate consideration of the various problems it has been the proposal to divide the work of the committee up and the Commission up into four committees.

You have before you a mimeograph sheet containing the titles of the four ^{the} commissions and a brief word about the subject matter that each one of the committees is to consider. Committee A deals with purposes and ~~politics~~ policies and quotas of the Fund; Committee B with the operation of the Fund; Committee C with organization and management; Committee D with the foreign status of the Fund.

You will find in your discussions in the Committee meetings that some of the material that you will have to deal with relate to subject matter contained in the titles of the other committees. Obviously there is an interdependency between many of the points discussed in Committee A and to some extent under Committee C and Committee B. Where it is possible we would expect that the committees confine themselves to the particular subject matter of their committees. Where it is necessary to include in your discussions matter which is also being considered in other committees you will, of course, do so. There will be placed before you when you leave,* these are already distributed, documents which will constitute the working basis for the work of this Commission and the work of the committees. The secretary informs me that they have not had an opportunity to complete the document. You now have

been given some 20 pages. The remainder, I understand, will be ready for you tomorrow. There is explanatory material on the first part of the document which we need not review at this time. It is expected that each committee will select those portions of the draft document which is before you which relates to their particular subject matter. In most cases you will find that the material that is to be considered by Committee A is the first part of the document. Committee B will be found in the sections that follow the work of Committee A and C and D, etc. That does not hold true throughout but in general that is the situation. The document, as you know, includes the amendments of the various proposals and suggested alterations that have been handed in by the delegates of the various countries. There will, of course, appear new suggestions, new amendments, new provisions which will be submitted to the secretary and will be incorporated in revised drafts of the document that is before you. By having the statement of ~~principles~~ principles taken from the joint statement of principles agreed upon by the technicians followed by the various alternate provisions which have been suggested and others that will be suggested. You will be able to concentrate on a particular part in your committee discussions before going to subsequent material. The thought was that we would have the committees work concurrently with the commissions. In other words the committees will meet tomorrow - the four committees. We have tried to stagger committee meetings and we have been able to do that partly - so that two committees will meet at one time. The committees will discuss the material. They will then present to this Commission when it next meets the tentative conclusion which they have arrived at in their discussions. In many cases they will find that there is unanimity of opinion with respect to the desirability of

some provisions. In that event they will so report. In some cases doubtless there will be differences of opinion. Such differences will be expressed in alternative provisions. These alternative provisions will likewise be submitted to this Commission for discussion. Because of the short time we have here and because of the amount of material we have to cover we thought it would be unwise to wait until each committee had considered all material before and report to this Commission before this Commission consider it. We therefore deem it advisable that the committees make as much progress as they can in the next two meetings that they will have and then report to this Commission on such work as they have already covered. Some committees will make more rapid progress than others but in any event the Commission will have an opportunity for longer discussion for many of the points than would be the case were the committees to consider all of the material they have and then present a report to this Commission. After all there are four committees. Each one is covering a great deal of subject matter so that the amount of work that each committee will be able to do in the two or three sessions which will take place between meetings of the Commission will, we believe, motivate ample material to keep this Commission occupied during the rest of its meetings. If we find that the committees are proceeding more rapidly than we had expected then we can make the meetings of this Commission less frequent. If we find that the ~~XXXXX~~ committee meetings are raising points about which there is very considerable difference then we may have to meet more frequently in order to permit this Commission to discuss adequately the various drafts which are placed before you so our preliminary program is flexible - we may change it later. The proposal is to have Committees A, B, C and D

meet tomorrow and each committee will meet twice a day. I think the plan is to have two committees meet at ~~9:00~~ 9:00 o'clock - from 9 to 11 and two committees from 11 to one. Then the thought is to have no formal committees meeting between one and four. Then at four there will be two committees meeting until 5:30 and from 5:30 to 7 two other committees. Of course the committees will appoint ad hoc subcommittees to consider specific matters. Such subcommittees will meet at such times as they may. There will be no schedule made for subcommittees. That program will continue until Wednesday. On Wednesday morning this Commission will meet at - we don't know yet - it will be posted and we will then determine whether any modification in our procedure is warranted.

I said the committees will meet at 9:00 o'clock each morning. Tomorrow we would like to make an exception because there have been a number of group meetings which have already been scheduled so the first two committees will meet tomorrow at 10:00 instead of 9:00, but this is only true of tomorrow. The second two committees will meet at 11:00. In other words the first two committees will have only one hour instead of the usual two. We may modify that by 1/2 hour. In any case the exact hour and rooms of meeting will be included in a mimeograph sheet that will be available to you and distributed from the usual sources either tonight or tomorrow. We have hesitated to ask the committees to meet twice a day but we felt only in that way could we make sufficient progress. If we find progress is more rapid than we anticipated then we

can modify the schedule. The secretariat requests me to ask that the members give their name and country when rising to speak so they will be able to make proper notes. The secretariat also asked me to note that it is important that each delegate submit their names indicating their membership on this commission and on the four committees. They would like to obtain that today. This should be presented at the secretary-general's office which is room 136 or to the secretary of the delegation which is room 156.

The draft document which you will have before you I need not remind you is strictly confidential and is not to be given to anybody for official release or for any other use. After saying that I am going to inform you that the document is going to be distributed to the press this afternoon but the press will not be able to publish the material until it is to be officially released. They are on their honor. This has been done, I gather, in part before. If there are any infractions it cannot be helped but in view of the fact that all of the delegates would have the document and all advisors would have the document and many of the technicians would have the document, it was thought that this was a more appropriate way to handle it. The press will be given the document and at the same time there will be an attempt made to explain briefly the material which is being currently discussed at the committees and at the Commission. We are going to attempt to keep them informed of what is going on. Each day or every second day, depending upon the amount of progress that is made, the press will be informed on what meeting, what articles or sections 1 to 3 or 5 or pages 1 to 6 may be released so that they will release portions from time to time. The press conference will also provide an opportunity for the press

to raise questions about the ~~matter~~ which is being discussed at the committee meetings. Explanation will be given as far as it is appropriate and as far as it is possible to help them understand what the provisions mean and also to give them some idea of the differing views as expressed by the ultimate provisions. Nothing will be said to them as to what country has presented what alternative - That they will have to accumulate in their usual fashion. The expectation is that the press by being informed will be able to handle the material much more intelligently and will bother the delegates much less. Just how that will work out we don't know. I understand from our press relations man that this is a novel attempt. We are hoping that it will facilitate our work and inform the public of what is being done here. Now are there any questions or any comments?

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Delegate Varvaressos of Greece: May I suggest, Mr. President, that Committees Nos. 1 and 2 will probably require considerable time. Is it possible that some arrangements may be made so that these two committees will not meet at the same time. Could Committee one and three or four meet at nine and Committee two and three or four at eleven o'clock?

Mr. White: That sounds like an excellent proposal in view of our subject matter. Unless there is some objection I will ask the secretary to arrange it that way.

Lord Keynes, Delegate from the United Kingdom: Since Committees A and B are so closely related some delegates might wish to attend both meetings, so I suggest that A and C meet from ten to eleven and B and D from eleven to one. That would seem to me a suitable distribution.

Mr. White: That was the suggestion of Mr. Varvaressos and unless there is some objection we will make that arrangement. Are there any other questions? If not, the meeting is adjourned.

(2:45 P.M.)