

Meeting of Commission I, 10:30 A. M., July 5, 1944

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Mr. White, was devoted primarily to reports from the four Committees of the Commission. Mr. Varvaressos of Greece, reporting for Committee (1), stated that activity had been confined to consideration of Article I relating to purposes, since it had been thought best to defer the question of quotas until a document under preparation could be distributed at the conference. The important questions under purposes were the suggestions by India that assistance "in the fuller utilisation of the resources of economically under-developed countries" and the settlement of abnormal balances arising out of the present war, should be included as primary purposes. Mr. Varvaressos stated that the consensus had been against the full inclusion of the first proposal, but that sentiment had developed for inclusion as a subordinate purpose. This question and some others of minor importance had been referred to a drafting sub-committee. The committee had determined that the question of abnormal balances should be referred to the Commission itself.

The report for Committee (2), delivered by Prof. Mosse of France, indicated that the Committee had made excellent progress, having agreed upon sections 1 through 3 under Article III of the Joint Statement, with the exception of two subdivisions in section 2. Consideration of one of these subdivisions, relating to scarce currency, had merely been deferred until the general scarce currency provisions were examined, but some serious questions had arisen on the other relating to the rate at which a country might draw upon the Fund. Judge Vinson moved that the latter question be recommitted and his motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Hexner of Czechoslovakia, reporting for Committee (3), said that in general full agreement had been reached on Alternative A (the American proposal) under Joint Statement VII, 1, relating to the Board of Governors. He reported that no agreement had been reached on the alternatives concerning the Executive Directors, since there were broad differences between Alternative A and Alternative B (United Kingdom proposal). He outlined the differences in detail but said that he did so only to indicate the nature of the discussion. It appeared to be his intention to imply that he expected the disagreements to be resolved satisfactorily.

Dr. Keilhau of Norway reported that Committee (4) had adjourned after a brief organization meeting since the material assigned to it was not yet fully available.

Several reporters mentioned a determination in their Committee not to put matters to votes but to seek a consensus of opinion informally and to report to the Commission any serious divergencies which might arise. They also indicated a general intention to make use of sub-committees or informal consultations to resolve difficult points.

Mr. White then inquired whether the meeting wished to discuss the reports or reserve them for the next meeting of the Commission. Lord Keynes suggested that they be reserved, particularly since he wished to propose that the reports be made available in writing before meetings. His suggestion was accepted, and it was decided that the chairman should be empowered to call the next meeting at his discretion, presumably on either Friday or Saturday.

Mr. White raised the question whether it would not be desirable to have Committees meet only once a day. Lord Keynes opposed this view on the ground that the Committees should work more rather than less, but after some uncertainty it was decided that beginning on July 6 the Committees would for the time being meet only once a day, although for longer periods than previously.