

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

VERBATIM RECORD
OF THE PLENARY MEETINGS

NINTH MEETING

Held on Saturday, May 21st, 1927, at 3 p.m.

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President : M. Georges THEUNIS

16. — SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The President :

Translation : I invite M. Colijn (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, and Mr. Norman Davis (United States of America) and M. Gerard (Belgium), Rapporteurs, to take their places on the platform.

I call upon M. Colijn (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee, to address the Conference.

M. Colijn (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee on Commerce :

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — I have much pleasure in submitting to you for approval the report of the Committee on Commerce (document S.C.E. 24). I am happy to say that this report was unanimously adopted by our Committee. That does not mean, of course, that every word contained in it reflects perfectly the personal opinion of all the members of the Committee. Some of us, if we had had our way, would have liked to use more forceful terms ;

others, on the contrary, would perhaps have preferred rather more moderate expressions. These differences of opinion have sometimes made it necessary to scrutinise words at some length, until we could find an expression upon which we could all agree. As a result, we are now able to submit to you a report which contains the expression of a carefully balanced opinion.

Speaking on behalf of my colleagues of the Committee on Commerce, I think I am entitled to recommend you to adopt our report in the same spirit in which it was adopted at our Committee meeting yesterday afternoon.

17. — SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY.

The President :

Translation : I invite M. Hodáč (Czechoslovakia), Chairman of the Committee on Industry, and M. de Peyerimhoff (France) and M. Pirelli (Italy), Rapporteurs, to take their places on the platform.

I call upon M. Hodáč (Czechoslovakia), Chairman of the Committee, to address the Conference.

M. Hodáč (Czechoslovakia), Chairman of the Committee of the Industry :

Translation : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — I have the honour to submit the report of the Committee on Industry (Document S.C.E. 25).

I desire first to point out that — contrary perhaps to what was originally decided — the Committee dealt primarily, not with industrial agreements, but with general questions relating to rationalisation, that is, the scientific organisation of work and production ; or, in other words, the actual problems now before this Conference.

The fact that there is great unemployment and that tools and plant are lying idle might

lead some people to imagine that the economic malady of Europe is over-production.

As a matter of fact, over-production is a relative phenomenon. We speak of over-production in some specific economic branch when the output in the other branches is not such as to admit of properly-balanced exchanges and when there are serious obstacles to the operation of such exchanges. The report of the Committee on Commerce deals with the difficulties existing in the sphere of commercial policy.

As regards the Committee on Industry, we may take it that the development of exchanges may become possible when costs of production, sale prices and general expenditure are reduced, not only in industry but in every other economic branch. The Committee has accordingly submitted a resolution in which methods generally known by the comprehensive title of rationalisation are recommended for every branch of production, because partial rationalisation might have unfortunate results.

If we can manage to reduce costs in every branch of production and distribution, more particularly in transport, and if we can save time by reorganising the work, we shall be able to increase our exchanges and raise the profits of those engaged in production.

This idea has formed the basis of all the Committee's studies more particularly in the matter of industrial agreements.

Subject to certain reservations which will be mentioned later, we may say that the report now before you is the result of collaboration between all the representatives of the big interests concerned, and that it has received the unanimous approval of the Committee.

May I add one word in conclusion? Our report contains only a few definite and specific proposals and consists, for the most part, of general recommendations. These recommendations are not intended primarily for legislators or Governments but for individuals.

During the course of its work the Committee on Industry strongly felt the necessity of bringing home to the individual consciousness certain essential principles. Any successful results in this particular sphere must depend essentially on the efforts of those who have to organise and co-operate in production, and on the efforts of the workers. This is an individual responsibility for each one of the elements concerned in production. It was with this idea in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that I accepted the invitation to submit the report of the Committee on Industry.

18. — SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The President :

Translation : I call upon Dr. Frangesch (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes), Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, and M. Hermes (Germany), Rapporteur, to take their places on the platform. I call upon Dr. Frangesch (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes), Chairman of the Committee, to address the Conference.

Dr. Frangesch (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes), Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Translation: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen— I have the honour to submit to you for approval the resolutions of the Committee on Agriculture, which were unanimously adopted by that

Committee (document S.C.E. 26). They do not in any way affect the resolutions of the other Committees.

Our proposals refer to agricultural credit and co-operative societies, and embrace generally all questions of interests to agriculturalists.

We are glad to find ourselves in complete agreement with the other Committees, and you will perhaps allow me to express my gratification at these results, which are due to the collaboration of all those interested in production.

19. — EXAMINATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES.

The President :

Translation : M. Jouhaux (France), Secretary-General of the Confédération générale du travail, will address the Conference.

M. Jouhaux (France) :

Translation : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — I regret that I am obliged to mar the harmony that has so far been apparent between the Chairman and Rapporteurs of the different Committees, but I feel it my duty to submit certain reservations as regards the motion relating to industrial agreements.

It is far from my intention to question either the fact of these agreements or the value of that fact. It exists, and I note it. But having done so I cannot solemnly recommend, in an assembly such as ours, a suggestion of this nature which is unaccompanied by the essential corollary — supervision.

I do not propose to go into details, having already explained my views at great length when I first addressed the Conference. I simply wish to point out that, although international supervision is as yet unknown, various systems of national supervision are already in operation which have invariably proved their value and utility. My contention is based not on theory but on fact, so that it must be apparent to every logically minded person that national and at the same time international supervision are essential at the time when we decide in favour of industrial agreements.

I have no fault to find with the motion submitted to you, nor do I deny the value of the work now placed before you; but I feel personally that vague literary formulas should have no place in an assembly such as this.

Reference has been made to technicalities and technicians. I should have liked some mention, in technical language and in terms comprehensible to technicians, of the possibilities of national and international supervision.

One last word. It would, in my opinion, be regrettable if the lack of effective, but at the same time elastic, international supervision meant that to-morrow consuming and producing countries might find themselves plunged in an economic conflict which, because the Conference had failed to provide for some such system of supervision, might become really dangerous and lead to consequences far more violent and far more prejudicial to dignity and liberty than supervision itself could ever be. The natural outcome of such a conflict would inevitably be dilatory measures, which invariably leave behind them bitterness and regrets, or forcible measures, which are not a solution. For these reasons, I propose to abstain from supporting the motion concerning industrial agreements, as I consider that supervision is possible and not impossible.

The President :

Translation : Dr. Sečerov (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes), will address the Conference.

Dr. Sečerov (Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes) :

Translation : I have the honour to make the following statement on behalf of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Delegation to the International Economic Conference.

We accept the general trend of the economic tendencies embodied in the resolutions of the Conference, and we trust that the principles formulated as the result of co-operation between the representatives of forty-eight nations will promote the economic welfare of the world. But the great dislocation of world economic conditions resulting from the world war must be readjusted, in view of the new situation, and this result can only be obtained if complete liberty is ensured for all the productive forces, not only in the greater, but also in the smaller, units.

Our nation fought for and won its liberty in the World War. What we want now is peace, in order to complete the process of reconstruction by developing the productive powers of our country. This has been our object ever since our new State was founded. During the period immediately following the Great War we lacked the bare necessities of life. This shortage applied to all classes of products, whether agricultural or industrial.

The small supply and the great demand stimulated production during the post-war period. We not only imported goods, but we tried to produce them, and we did produce goods during this first period, and that without resorting to high tariffs. It was only in 1925 that we introduced the new Customs tariff, and then simply as a basis for commercial negotiations. We quite realised that Customs barriers form an obstacle to international co-operation, and are now accordingly reducing these barriers in every new commercial treaty. Thus our tariffs are not designed in a purely protectionist spirit, and will not form an obstacle to commercial relations with other States.

Our hope is that, as the Conference recommends, the nations will take measures to remove or lower these Customs barriers which so greatly hamper trade, and this result, we trust, we may achieve by means of commercial treaties with all neighbouring States. We desire to promote liberty of trading by every means, to remove import and export prohibitions and restrictions, and to reorganise the State enterprises and put them on the same footing as private enterprises. The simplification of Customs tariffs, the unification of tariff nomenclature, and the stability of Customs tariffs are such obvious *desiderata* that no one would wish to deny the usefulness of the recommendations relating to these questions. The same applies to the application of tariffs, Customs formalities, and trade statistics.

Our industry is for the most part fairly new, having been founded within a comparatively recent period. It is placed at a disadvantage :

- (1) Because our industrial enterprises have to include in their balance-sheets heavy expenditure on amortisation ;
- (2) Because they are suffering from lack of capital ; and
- (3) Because they have not enough skilled labour.

But the development of our industry was not due to currency inflation, as many have thought. It

was an economic necessity, for our industrial enterprises absorb our surplus population. It bears an intimate relation to our emigration problem. About 600,000 of our nationals have emigrated to the United States, and close upon 400,000 are scattered all over the world. That is a comparatively high percentage of our population, which does not number more than 12,000,000. It is therefore an economic necessity to supply work for the people who are compelled to remain at home by reason of the restrictive immigration measures adopted by certain countries. True, the development of our industry is the outcome of rationalisation and standardisation, and of the conclusion of industrial agreements, but it must be regarded at the same time as a means of employing our surplus population. We are glad, therefore, that the Conference has considered the questions of the nature of subsidies and of dumping, as this latter practice has greatly aggravated the situation in certain branches of our industry.

In my opinion, the measures recommended in the resolutions concerning dumping do not, I regret to say, appear likely to prove very effective. As regards discrimination in transport conditions, I desire to submit reservations concerning the details of certain of the recommendations to be found in the memorandum of the International Chamber of Commerce on trade barriers. Some of these recommendations are not consistent with the treaties of peace or with international conventions.

As I have pointed out, our surplus population is employed in industry, since agriculture cannot supply it with work. Yugoslavia, in its economic structure, is essentially an agricultural country. Its agricultural production is considerably in excess of its requirements, and the surplus has to be exported to the different markets of the world, more particularly to the Central European States. In the world markets our agricultural products have to face fierce competition from other countries. Our agricultural costs of production are higher than those of certain other countries ; for various reasons it is essential for us to intensify our agricultural production and thus reduce the cost per unit. This can only be done with the help of capital, and our agriculture must be able to obtain cheap credits.

We are very glad to see that our recommendations concerning the importance of raising the purchasing power of the agricultural population were accepted at a plenary meeting of the Committee and are now included in the resolutions of the Conference. It is our hope that if the standard of living among the agricultural population is thus raised, this will also benefit the lending countries, as the development of production and the raising of the purchasing power of borrowing countries will increase the demand for industrial products. We trust that, in conformity with the recommendations contained in the resolutions of this Conference, we may be able to increase our production, develop our trade, and thus contribute towards the general prosperity of the whole world.

I venture to hope that the work of this Conference will not merely remain a collection of extremely useful scientific recommendations, assembled by the efforts of the League, but that the responsible Governments will take them as a basis for their future economic policy.

The President.

Translation : M. Khinchuk (U.S.S.R.) will address the Conference.

M. Khinchuk (U.S.S.R.):

Translation: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — The Soviet delegation is obliged to vote against the following resolutions put forward by the Committee on Commerce:

I. Liberty of Trading.

1. Import and export prohibitions and restrictions:

The Soviet delegation has stated on more than one occasion that this resolution fails to take into account the Socialist system in the U.S.S.R. and the foreign trade monopoly which forms an integral part of that system. Hence the resolution is obviously inapplicable so far as the U.S.S.R. is concerned.

2. Commercial equality of State enterprises and private enterprises:

The same considerations apply with equal force to this resolution. The Soviet Union cannot abandon the principle of the sovereignty of the State over commercial enterprises abroad, although this does not apply to other organisations of the U.S.S.R. engaged in commerce abroad.

4. Economic and fiscal treatment of nationals and companies of one country admitted to settle in the territory of another:

The U.S.S.R. cannot accept the principle underlying this recommendation.

II. Customs Tariffs.

3. Stability of Customs tariffs:

The Soviet delegation is obliged to vote against this resolution, as the amendments which it submitted have been rejected.

This also applies to the resolution concerning tariff levels (*Paragraph 1 of Chapter III. Commercial Policy and Treaties*).

The delegation of the U.S.S.R. will abstain from voting on the following resolutions:

I. Liberty of Trading.

3. Legal provisions or regulations relating to international trade.

III. Commercial Policy and Treaties.

3. Export duties — the amendments proposed by the U.S.S.R. having been rejected.

IV. Indirect Means of Protecting National Trade and National Navigation.

3. Discrimination arising from the conditions of transport.

The delegation of the U.S.S.R. will vote in favour of the following resolutions:

II. Customs Tariffs.

1. Simplification of Customs Tariffs.

2. Unification of tariff nomenclature — subject to the reservation that the Soviet Union cannot subscribe to the invitation addressed to the League of Nations.

4. Application of tariffs.

5. Customs formalities.

6. Trade statistics.

III. Commercial Policy and Treaties.

2. Fiscal charges imposed on imported goods.

4. Commercial treaties — subject to the above-mentioned reservation concerning the invitation addressed to the League of Nations.

IV Indirect Means of Protecting National Trade and National Navigation.

1. Subsidies, direct or indirect.

2. Dumping and anti-dumping legislation.

The President:

Translation: M. de Narváez (Colombia) will address the Conference.

M. de Narváez (Colombia):

Translation: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — Since the beginning of the Conference, and during the deliberations of the Committee on Industry which I attended, frequent reference has been made, in a number of very interesting speeches, to the United States of America and the lessons which might be learned from the industrial methods of that country with a view to improving European industry and thus helping to solve the economic problems of Europe. But not a word has been said of South America and of the immense resources which that continent offers for a general solution of these problems. Although, as regards the organisation of European industry, it is natural that all eyes should be turned to the United States yet, as regards the solution of problems such as surplus population, unemployment, increase in the consumption of European industrial products and the unequal distribution of natural resources, South America, and my own country in particular, offers extensive possibilities of co-operation and a vast field of action.

Colombia's exports, which consist exclusively of raw materials, amount in value to about 85 million dollars per annum; they include oil, rubber, gold, platinum (of which we have been the greatest producers in the world since the drop in Russian exports) and many others.

We consume foreign manufactured products amounting in value to about the same figure. Whereas you suffer from over-population and unemployment, we are short of labour, and we do not limit or restrict immigration. The immense task of supplying the country with industrial plant — which, however, is making rapid progress — the construction of railways, roads and ports, and the regulation of navigable waterways, in vast areas which can offer labour to a population many times larger than the unemployed of Europe, — these are of undoubted interest to European industry, to European emigration, and possibly, too, to European capital. For although the New York market is fully open to us, and in the course of the last few years close on 100 million dollars have been invested in Colombian securities on that market, about one-third being in the securities of private enterprises, certain acts of intervention on the part of the Department of State in the internal affairs of some countries of Latin America have inspired us with apprehension and have led us to desire to spread our securities over a number of markets.

In view of these general considerations, I submit that the League of Nations would be rendering a very great service if, continuing the work of the Conference, it investigated the best methods of approaching the study of population and emigration questions and the vital problems which have not been placed on the present Conference's agenda, with a view to finding appropriate solutions for them. Unless these problems are solved, the

League can hardly hope to attain universality or to come within measurable distance of its initial aim, that of placing the foundations of world economy on a permanent and sound basis by removing the causes which lie at the root of innumerable conflicts.

The President.

Translation : M. Gautier (France) will address the Conference.

M. Gautier (France) :

Translation : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — Now that this first International Economic Conference is drawing to a close, the French agricultural representatives, convinced that, both in principle and in policy, they are in full accord with the other agricultural delegations here, are anxious to make clear the general principle emerging from the discussions of the present Conference.

I do not intend, of course, to comment on the resolution proposed by the Committee on Agriculture, a resolution which embodies all that is essential in our programme. It speaks for itself. Its purport is quite clear : it states simply and emphatically that there must be full and complete equality as between industry, commerce and agriculture ; that agriculture is an essential element in the world economic system which has been wrongly classed as unimportant, but is now conscious of its power and refuses to be ignored : that by co-operation, by mutual credit, by the promotion of trade and the stabilisation of prices, by technical improvements, and above all by the bodily vigour of those who live in the open air, by the common sense, tenacity of purpose and sterling qualities of the tillers of the soil, agriculture intends to take, and keep, the prominent place which is its due under the social conditions of the modern world. Lastly, the resolution declares that all laws ensuring the welfare of workers in industry and commerce should — in a form suitably modified but untouched as regard fundamentals — be extended to agricultural workers.

International and national congresses have from time to time put forward recommendations to this effect. What was wanted was to collect them and incorporate them as it were in the form of a single doctrine. That is the duty we are solemnly fulfilling here, not as mere theorists, but as practical men conscious at every turn of reality in its starkest and most unescapable form — conscious, I mean, of our daily dependence on the forces of nature, whose moods we can neither predict nor control.

But the new and important fact on which we must focus public attention is that we agriculturists are now here side by side with the representatives of industry and commerce, to whom the road to Geneva has long been familiar ; that the League of Nations realises that the vast forces of labour and production which we represent can no longer be shut out from discussions on world economy, in a word, that we have at last been recognised as an organised force.

Agriculture is no longer what it was before the Great War — a drudge, ceaselessly toiling, a Cinderella forgotten as soon as all our wants are supplied. It realises even more clearly than before what its duties are. It knows that it is the great producer which has to feed mankind, and it is anxious to produce abundantly so that all may have their fill. But nowadays it demands to sit down at the common table ; it makes its voice heard ; it discusses its rights. Everywhere throughout the world, in every clime, in every

country, in old and new States alike, a new and varied harvest has sprung up. Syndicates, co-operative societies, mutual benefit societies, groups and associations of all kinds have been formed which represent, guide and protect the millions of human beings who, in one capacity or another, are cultivating the soil. In these associations, freely formed and freely governed, and jealous of their freedom, all are equal ; and they are united throughout the world by the moral link which they themselves have freely and voluntarily forged.

The League of Nations has opened its doors to them, and they have come to offer it their free, frank and generous collaboration.

Now that all human activities are being concerted under the auspices of the League, the centre of all good-will, now that the circle is complete, nothing can ever break this unity.

Moreover, agriculturists have, perhaps more than anyone else, good reason to employ their strength and courage in promoting the realisation of the League's ideals. These walls still resound with the echo of the great voice that in September last adjured the peoples to renounce hatred and fratricidal strife, to cease to cast human endeavour, with its demand for life and growth, into a welter of destruction and death. Our own voices, modest yet firm, echo M. Briand's words. Listen ! From every country of the earth it rises : from the plains where the golden corn is ripening ; from the fields where countless herds are grazing ; from mountains and valleys ; from the humble fields tilled by the poorest husbandmen in every country it rises, it swells, it mounts to high heaven in ardent, earnest entreaty — the prayer of those who till the soil calling for peace on earth.

Peace ! That is the final goal of our endeavour. It is the vital element, the very condition of our existence. It preserves for us the frail flower of hope. How can we go forth in confidence to sow unless we are sure that we shall reap the harvest ? If we are to improve our methods and increase our production we must have, perhaps not certainty — that, alas ! is impossible so long as human passions are given free rein — but at all events every guarantee of probability that war is not lying in wait, like some wild beast ready to pounce upon us, that man, overwhelmed by dire disaster, is not to revert to barbarism and to be forced to toil once more along the painful uphill road to civilisation which it has taken him so many centuries to climb.

The League of Nations has convened this Conference to study the means of preventing such a catastrophe and of eliminating the most dangerous causes of conflict that exist at the present time — economic antagonisms. We have all worked together loyally at this formidable task. And when we return to our homes, let us preserve and cherish the spirit that has inspired us here. Let us inculcate it in those around us ; let us continue to inspire in the masses of mankind, of whom we are as it were the epitome, the collaborative spirit that we have created here during the past few days. Let us try to instil reality into those words that were uttered twenty centuries ago and have been translated into every language, — those words which voice the universal aspiration of toiling and suffering humanity, and which, old man as I am, I have the right to pronounce in conclusion : "Peace be with you".

The President :

Translation : Mr. Robinson (United States of America) will address the Conference.

Mr. Robinson (United States of America) : The members of the delegation from the United States are in accord with the resolutions of the Committee on Agriculture and are also in full accord with the resolutions of the Committee on Commerce. So far as the Committee on Industry is concerned, the United States members are in full accord with that part of the resolutions, which relates to rationalisation. We believe that, on the subject of cartellisation, an adequate picture is given of the changing conditions of so-called cartels and trusts, and that the proposal does not, as it should not, show a static condition, and for that reason the definition of cartels is not particularly clear.

In the United States of America we have legislation of a restrictive nature in respect of the so-called trusts in that country. We believe that that legislation and the decisions taken under it express the attitude and philosophy of the American people.

We believe, too, that the great majority of the American people (and in this respect each and all of the members of the delegation are in agreement) are opposed to Government participation in private business enterprises. Because of these facts and because we believe that this is the attitude of our people, we feel constrained to refrain from voting on that part of the resolutions of the Committee on Industry which relates to cartellisation. But we are in no way in opposition to the resolutions.

I might add this: Various resolutions will be presented to this Conference asking the League of Nations to expand either one department or another. We hesitate to speak about this but feel that, while we want to vote fully with the other members of the Conference we should not vote a request for the expansion of the League of Nations although we believe that the expansion of its functions in this connection will be beneficial.

The President :

Translation : M. da Cunha Leal (Portugal) will, address the Conference.

M. Da Cunha Leal (Portugal) :

Translation : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — Now that our work is almost completed, the Portuguese delegation desires to offer its sincere congratulations to M. Loucheur and M. Theunis, the former as the prime initiator of this Conference, and the latter as its President.

The results we have achieved represent the first stage on the road of international economic agreement. To have got thus far, and, in addition, to have brought business men and statesmen from almost every country in the world into personal relations, to have analysed the suggestions made by each and to have brought exclusively individualistic interests into harmony with the general interest — all that is an immense task which, I am glad to say, has been achieved with remarkable insight and sound judgment.

Those enthusiasts who imagine that this Conference will exercise an immediate influence on Governments may be doomed to disappointment. What must be realised is that the influence of this Conference will only make itself felt slowly; it will not produce results for some long time to come, and then only provided no unforeseen obstacles arise to prevent its beneficial effects.

But, whatever happens, our own consciences will be clear, because what we have accomplished is an act of peace and not of war. In the troublous times in which we live it is pleasant to be able to say as much.

The Portuguese delegation desires to express its general approval of the draft recommendations of the Committees, but wishes to make certain reservations which it thinks indispensable. We maintained in committee that, in any attempt to cure the economic ills from which Europe is suffering, it must always be remembered that there are several European nations whose economic situation is comparatively strong, as compared with the less favourable position of some other countries. Thus, while urging the necessity of a general economic agreement, we advise that such agreement should set the nations not on a footing of absolute equality but on a footing of equity.

Unfortunately, this suggestion, which seems to us absolutely just, has been disregarded by the Committees.

Thus the Committee on Commerce, while recommending the abolition of import and export prohibitions and restrictions, makes the following reservation :

“That, moreover, the application of the principles laid down in this draft should not be indirectly defeated by such means as export duties, the fixing of quotas, health regulations or any other measures not justified by exceptional or imperative circumstances.”

Here, as you see, all nations are set on a footing of equality. But though a restriction of this kind may be permissible for some nations, it is by no means so for others.

Nations in a strong economic position ought not to expect to take up all their branches of production and develop them at whatever cost; while, if certain nations whose resources are slender suffer through the importation of foreign products, that fact does not warrant their having recourse to prohibitions and quotas. On the other hand, a nation which has to contend with almost insurmountable difficulties should be allowed to institute prohibitions and restrictions, not to protect particular branches of production but to ensure that its balance of international payments should not be burdened with a crushing deficit.

We regret that the text approved by the Committee on Commerce should have been drawn up in such elastic terms as to render nugatory the very principle it enunciates. We would also ask: What of the special protection to be given to the weaker nations?

Moreover, international economic warfare, which defeats the development of international commerce on an equitable basis, may take different forms.

As far as our own country is concerned, the Portuguese delegation desires to draw attention to certain practices detrimental to the interests of Portugal.

1. Products similar to those produced by Portugal are accorded more favourable treatment in certain markets.

2. Differential surcharges are applied to prevent the so-called “exchange dumping”. This is an injustice when applied to a country which stabilised its currency years ago;

3. Surcharges are applied to products originating in the Portuguese colonies and imported by indirect routes. This procedure tends to destroy the function of the European ports of the Portuguese Republic as distributing markets.

4. Insufficient protection is afforded for regional trade-marks and appellations of origin, with the result that our wines (a very important element of our export trade) are driven out of the European market.

Some of the recommendations of the International Economic Conference can only be accepted by Portugal on condition that other countries raise no obstacles to her economic expansion. Everything will have to be done to reserve the Portuguese market for those nations which have applied the most-favoured-nation clause to Portugal and have not had recourse to the practices mentioned above.

The Portuguese delegation also feels bound to explain the principal reason for its mistrust of international cartels. Since it is very difficult, if not impossible, for all the industrialists in any one branch of European production to come to private understandings, it is only natural that the producers of the great Powers, only should eventually agree among themselves, this being their most profitable course. In these circumstances, the establishment of international cartels may prove detrimental to the economic life of the small Powers. Further, a form of control which will prevent the abuse of international cartels is very difficult to establish — a fact which strengthens our objections to these organisations.

Further, if the rational organisation of production is standardised rapidly, difficulties will be very apt to arise through the increase of unemployment.

Subject to the reservations which they must make in view of Portugal's economic problems, considered in relation to the economic problems of Europe, the Portuguese delegates approve, as I have said, the recommendations submitted by the Committees to the plenary Conference for discussion and acceptance.

This first step towards a European economic understanding has been taken in the midst of a Europe weakened and ravaged by economic and political dissensions of all kinds. Let us hope that further steps will be taken in the future under more favourable conditions, and that it may so prove possible to attain concrete results.

The President :

Translation : M. Sokolnikoff (U.S.S.R.), will address the Conference.

M. Sokolnikoff (U.S.S.R.) :

Translation : I desire on behalf of the Soviet delegation to make the following statement concerning the report submitted to the Conference by the Committee on Industry :

The Soviet delegation maintains the view set forth in its statements made at the plenary meeting of the Conference on May 7th (see M. Obolenski-Ossinski's speech and my own) and at the plenary meeting of the Committee on Industry on May 10th (see M. Lapse's speech) as regards the estimate of the industrial situation and the general considerations reviewed in the report.

The Soviet delegation is opposed to the resolutions in the report relating to rationalisation and international industrial agreements. The grounds of our objection are set forth in the statements made at the meetings on May 17th and May 20th.

The Soviet delegation, while approving the substance of all the proposals contained in the resolutions proposed by the Committee on Industry concerning documentation, will abstain from voting on the draft resolution relating to documentation, as its proposal to entrust this work to the Hague International Institute of Statistics has been rejected.

The President :

Translation : M. Briebe (Chile) will address the Conference.

M. Briebe (Chile) :

Translation : I had the honour to submit to the plenary Meeting of the Conference a proposal which may be summarised as follows :

"An international credit organisation commanding the greatest confidence should be created. To this organisation small capital sums would be entrusted for investment, without the intervention of speculators or other middlemen, in countries which, with the help of this capital, could contribute towards the increase of production and consequently help to reduce the cost of living."

The suggestion does not apply especially to commerce, industry and agriculture — the only categories adopted by the Conference — but it very definitely affects all three. In nearly every case the application of the agreements which the Conference will reach will, I submit, necessitate the investment of a greater or smaller amount of capital; and, if no provision be made to obtain that capital, most of the agreements will prove to be a dead letter.

With a view to the remedying of social injustices, the above proposal also comprised a still more extensive plan for the economic reconstruction of the world, as outlined in the memorandum on Chile.

I should add that, in my belief, the union of all the Powers in a financial organ such as that proposed would be the most effective means of preventing the disturbance of world peace. Community of interest has always been a more powerful bond of union than mere eloquence or treaty obligations or abstract conventions.

I think it is a pity that a special committee was not appointed at the outset to study this question as well as others of a general character. That is the reason why I have had to submit my proposal to the Committee on Agriculture, although believing that a general need for money would also be felt both in commerce and industry.

The idea was favourably received by the Committee on Agriculture and converted into a proposal framed on the lines laid down in the main suggestion, but confined to the needs of agriculture, and this proposal is submitted to the present plenary meeting. Its discussion in the Sub-Committees led to certain observations on points of detail, to one of which I desire to refer.

It was alleged that, as some countries had no agricultural problem to solve or had already solved it, there was no need to press further the idea of an international bank; and the suggestion was accordingly put forward that each State should endeavour to settle its difficulties by itself.

That is a retrogression towards national individualism much to be regretted at this Conference. How can we urge the solution of problems by individual initiative when the necessary capital is not forthcoming?

I have not submitted an amendment to the conclusions of the Committee on Agriculture, although I might have done so. Yet I earnestly hope that the League of Nations will give my idea its original scope; and I also trust that the various Powers of the world will realise that, by their financial union, they will forge an unbreakable chain that will reduce the demon of war to impotence.

The President :

Translation : M. Perez (Cuba), will address the Conference.

M. Perez (Cuba): Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — Before this Conference began, much scepticism existed in all parts of the world as regards the question whether it could accomplish anything practical. Those doubts will be entirely dispelled when the results of its work are known.

Yet the Conference has put forward no new economic theories, it has offered no novel remedies it has formulated no recommendations or conclusions upon which the economists and statesmen of the world do not generally agree, as sane, practical and constructive policies, to which the special conditions prevailing in each nation can be adjusted. The Conference has simply elaborated and brought into proper correlation and perspective those long-proven and well-known basic principles upon which the economic welfare of the world and its constituent peoples essentially depends. From the application of these principles the nations have, however, been departing — as a consequence of the economic disorganisation produced by the war and its aftermath — to an extent that threatens disaster to them all, collectively and individually.

The signal service which this Conference has rendered has been to offer unmistakable proof that there is a substantial and adequate body of accepted economic facts, knowledge and principles upon which to build the economic life of the world; instead of a confused, contradictory, unstable and selfish mass of opinion. This Conference has shown that the economic problems of the world and of each country individually can and must be worked out by the aid of proven and accepted economic principles. Each country should realise the need of a scientific and technical orientation of its economic life, exactly as it applies scientific study and knowledge to the solution of its problems of education, hygiene, agriculture, national defence, public works, and so on.

Economic measures and policies should be adopted in each country only after careful study by economists, by men trained to weigh and consider more than the special or partial and often narrow interests of one section or activity of the nation, by men with a clear vision also of the international bearings and consequences of any internal measure or policy. The work of this Conference will be an important aid to this end, because it serves to define, synthesise and correlate the economic interests of the world, and to show that beneath the diversity of interests there is a fundamental economic interdependence, weaker in some cases, stronger in others, but which links the welfare of each to that of all.

While the problems which have been examined by this Conference are predominantly those of the highly industrialised nations of Europe, and not of the countries of America, in most of which agriculture and raw materials form the principal basis of wealth, yet the conclusions of the Conference are as vital to us as they are to Europe, because whatever tends to increase the prosperity and to advance the welfare of the peoples of the Old World will also substantially and directly benefit America. Likewise, any improvement in the economic conditions of the countries of America will prove of corresponding benefit to Europe and the rest of the world. As Mr. Hoover has well said, in addressing the Third Pan-American Commercial Conference, "A country gains nothing from the poverty of others; it gains everything from their prosperity. We realise, from an economic point of view, that foreign trade expands simply in ratio to the internal prosperity of each nation, to enlarged standards of living, to the growth of industry, to the increase of wealth".

It is a coincidence worth noticing that at the same time that this Economic Conference has been held here the representatives of the nations of America have gathered in Washington to hold the Third Pan-American Commercial Conference and the Second Pan-American Conference on Unification of Specifications. In January of next year the Sixth Pan-American Conference will meet in Havana, Cuba, and its programme includes a great many of the economic questions of vital interest to-day to America and to all the world. Thus, through their own agencies, organisations and conferences the Republics of America are working intensely upon their common economic problems and are developing a continued international action along practically the same lines as those of this Economic Conference and of the League of Nations.

The Republic of Cuba is directly and most harmfully affected by the present world economic situation. Perhaps no country is suffering more than Cuba to-day from the extreme protectionist and fiscal policies of Europe and of other countries, due to the fact that the natural advantages of Cuba for the growing of sugar-cane and tobacco have led her to concentrate her economic activities on those two products, which have generally been chosen for extreme protection and high internal taxation in a large part of the world.

The delegates from Cuba have pointed out, in a statement which has been circulated to this Conference, the position of their country with respect to some of the problems on the agenda. May we ask our colleagues to read that statement if they find time to do so? The Cuban delegates have also had the honour to submit to the Conference certain suggestions of a constructive character regarding the sugar industry from an international point of view, which they hope will be of interest.

The President :

Translation : M. Varga (U.S.S.R.) will address the Conference.

M. Varga (U.S.S.R.) :

Translation : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — I desire to explain the Soviet delegation's views on the report of the Committee on Agriculture.

The Soviet delegation is voting against the introduction and the general resolution submitted by this Committee, as these are contrary to the general principles which we advocate and which we explained in our speeches before that Committee.

The Soviet delegation votes against special resolutions 1 and 2, concerning agricultural co-operation and agricultural credit, because the general organisation of big owners, small owners and agricultural workers always operates to the disadvantage of the poorer classes.

The Soviet delegation votes in favour of the special resolutions 3, Campaign against diseases affecting plants and animals; 5, Forestry and 6, Documentation on agricultural questions — Statistics — Enquiry.

The Soviet delegation votes against resolution 4, Agriculture in colonies, because it is convinced that the well-being of the inhabitants and the increase of the national wealth in so-called colonial countries can only be ensured subject to the fulfilment of the conditions mentioned in the speech by M. Obolenski-Ossinski, Head of the Soviet delegation, at the plenary meeting of the Conference on May 7th last.

The President :

Translation : M. Chuan Chao (China) will address the Conference.

M. Chuan Chao (China) : I wish to say a few words in connection with the report of the Committee on Commerce. The Chinese delegation to this Conference has for its aim the success of the Conference and for this reason, apart from laying before you in the plenary meeting on May 6th the question of the "trade barriers" which exist in China, as well as the adverse effects on international trade, the Chinese delegation has contented itself with hearing the views of the other members and awaiting the results of their deliberations. It has abstained from taking part in any discussion in a way which could make it even remotely possible to interpret its intervention as an attempt to mar the harmony or the unanimity of the members of this Conference.

While the resolutions have been mainly drawn up from the standpoint of Europe and the more industrialised States, I note with great satisfaction the recognition by this Conference of the principles of equality and reciprocity in the treatment of commerce, principles which, in the opinion of the Chinese delegation, should be the basis of international trade. So long as these principles can be fully and indiscriminately carried out, you can rest assured of the co-operation of China and her people.

In connection with the question of high tariffs, I have noticed that this Conference is on record as condemning protective tariffs as well as excessive revenue tariffs, but it is silent on claims for reasonable revenue tariffs. I take this silence to mean that the claims of the Chinese delegation to have reasonable revenue tariffs has the tacit approval of this Conference.

Finally, there is still another point I should like to mention in order to clarify the position of the Chinese delegation, and that is with reference to the question of the "equality of treatment with regard to conditions of residence, establishment, removal and circulation between foreigners admitted to a State and the nationals of that State". That passage is to be found in the report of the Committee on Commerce. I believe you cannot find any country more anxious to open its entire territory to international commerce than China, but I am sorry to say that the realisation of this desire has been unnecessarily retarded by the continued enjoyment by certain foreign nationals in China of extra-territoriality and consular jurisdiction, together with the existence of fiscal restrictions on China. It is for the purpose of better protecting these foreign nationals and also preventing the spread of the dangers and inconveniences to the Chinese people that foreign commerce has, for the time being, unfortunately been limited only to certain ports open to international trade. But with the approaching abolition of these legal and fiscal restrictions, which is the aim of all nations interested in China's welfare, I believe that the obstacle in the way of opening the whole of Chinese territory to international trade will be removed. In voting for these reports, therefore, I hope it will be understood that I shall be voting for them without prejudice to China's claim for the abolition of extra-territoriality and consular jurisdiction, as well as for the removal of the fiscal restrictions.

The President :

Translation : I call upon Mr. Dinan (Irish Free State) to address the Conference.

Mr. Dinan (Irish Free State) : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen—The Irish Free State delegation is in general agreement with the views and sentiments expressed in the resolutions now before us. While we regard the results of the Conference (embodied in these resolutions) as of great value in themselves, we consider of even greater value the spirit of accommodation and the anxiety to understand one another's difficulties that have been so evident in our deliberations, and the realisation by every nation represented here that the prosperity of each of us is bound up with the prosperity of all. We earnestly hope that this new understanding and this more generous spirit will be so greatly strengthened as a result of our deliberations here that the economic policies of the nations we represent will be influenced by the resolutions upon which we have agreed.

When we bear in mind the limited time at the disposal of the various Committees, Sub-Committees and Drafting Committees into which the Conference resolved itself, and the diversity of opinions and interests that had to be harmonised, we cannot pretend that the resolutions before us represent the last word of wisdom on the many subjects discussed, but, taken in the aggregate, they indicate very clearly the road we must travel to find the stability and progress so sorely needed in Europe to-day.

I propose to refer very briefly to the resolutions received from our three Committees.

The introduction to the resolutions received from the Committee on Agriculture lays emphasis on the agricultural depression of recent years and seems to imply that this depression is due to a falling price level coupled with a relatively greater fall in the price of agricultural as compared with industrial products. It seems to us that the Conference should have addressed itself to the question of ascertaining how far, if at all, the falling price level is the result of conscious policy, and therefore avoidable, and how far also, if at all, the admitted disparity between agricultural and industrial prices is attributable to the falling price level. If the depression in agriculture is, as stated in the introduction, characterised by the disequilibrium which has arisen between the prices of agricultural products and those of manufactured products, it seems to be a little premature to prescribe a remedy for the effects of such disequilibrium without having first sought and, if possible, obtained an accurate diagnosis of its cause. The omission to explore this avenue of approach to the agricultural problem will appear, all the more remarkable in view of the abundance of statistical and other material bearing upon this subject. The Irish delegation feels that the recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture are less valuable than they would have been if they had been preceded by a thorough examination of the price and monetary background to the entire agricultural and industrial situation.

In the Irish Free State, the currency is maintained at parity with gold, but despite this fact neither agricultural prices nor the prices of other products have shown stability. The Irish delegation of the Committee on Agriculture submitted figures showing that the average gold prices in the Irish Free State for the leading items of agricultural produce were far lower in the early months of this year than in the corresponding months of last year. How has this tendency arisen? What are its effects? When will it cease? These are questions of vital interest to agriculturists, and indeed to every producer. In the absence of a satisfactory answer to them there is great danger that the remedies prescribed for the ills of the

agriculturist, like every remedy prescribed in the absence of an accurate diagnosis, may prove to have little beneficial effect.

The resolutions, for example, deal with the subject of agricultural credit and it is universally admitted that the agriculturist at present needs better credit facilities, but the position of the borrower will not be much improved if he remains confronted with a steady fall in the price of the goods he produces.

While the members of the delegation for which I speak are in agreement with the resolutions of the Committee on Agriculture, so far as they go, they would like at the same time to have seen the agricultural problem approached in the light of recent currency policy, and in particular they would like to have seen a fuller comparison and a pooling of recent agricultural experience in those countries like their own where the currency has been at parity with gold. Should the present tendency in gold prices continue for any lengthened period, the agriculturist will not be saved from disaster merely by an extension of credit facilities to him, nor by any of the other remedies prescribed in the resolutions, however excellent those remedies may be in themselves.

Turning to the important resolutions received from the Committee on Commerce, we welcome the sentiments of good-will with which these are animated. My country has throughout adopted a policy of extreme commercial generosity. The most-favoured-nation treatment obtains with us. No export duties are in force and such import prohibitions and restrictions as exist have been imposed upon sanitary and not upon economic grounds. The Customs tariff is largely free trade in character and contains relatively very few items. The fullest free trade in shipping and in railway transport is also maintained and equal treatment is given to all traffic, irrespective of its origin. While this has been the commercial policy of the Irish Free State, the delegation fully subscribe to the views submitted to the Committee on Commerce on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by Sir David Gordon, when he said :

"This Conference should bear in mind that, while seeking the path of economic reconstruction, it should recognise the wisdom and necessity of leaving younger countries to work out their own destinies along lines which seem to them best suited in their present stage of economic development."

Referring to the report submitted by the Committee on Industry, it is clearly to our advantage, as a country which is a large importer of manufactured goods, that those goods should, as a result of rationalised production, be sold in our markets at the lowest possible prices, and therefore the movement initiated by this Conference in the direction of the elimination of wasteful production is welcome. We are also glad to note that this report recognises that international industrial agreements must not have for their object or effect any reduction in the economic equipment which any nation considers indispensable nor the stereotyping of the present distribution of industries among the various countries.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the Irish Free State delegation earnestly hopes that this Conference may lead us towards the peace and stability of which we all stand so much in need. We shall vote in favour of the resolutions submitted.

The President :

Translation : M. de Peyerimhoff (France) will address the Conference.

M. de Peyerimhoff (France) Rapporteur of the Committee on Industry.

Translation : Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen — The criticisms and observations arising out of the report of the Committee on Industry have all been concentrated on the question of agreements. Your Committee, while realising that this problem opens up a vast and fertile field for discussion, is inclined to regret this concentration, which would appear to accentuate, as public opinion has already done, what I might call the lack of equilibrium in the programme referred to your Committee, which has just submitted its findings to you.

What was its idea ? Its idea was that, in view of the impoverishment of the Old World after the War and the more or less temporary disturbance of the balance between production and consumption, it was essential to make a vigorous and systematic effort — an effort more vigorous and more systematic than any yet attempted — to improve the conditions of production.

This effort might be compared to an enormous fan spreading out in the form of the rationalisation of industry, the generalisation of technical progress, the scientific employment of power, the rationalisations of types, or standardisation, and, lastly, the rationalisation of distribution, the logical conclusion the crowning achievement being, it would appear, a further expansion in the form of the rationalisation of undertakings — that is, agreements.

These, as we have already said, are neither a novelty nor a panacea. The fact which is remarkable, the fact which should be noted here, is that, for the first time, agreements have formed the subject of a great public international debate. Hitherto, they have evolved in what I may call the dim light of trade secrecy, occasionally varied by a discussion on doctrine or some parliamentary or judicial incident. This time they have to face the light of public opinion, of a highly qualified body of world economic experts ; and that is no mean test.

And what has happened ? The general public, and the Conference as a whole, have conceived either unwarranted hopes or exaggerated fears, and that with very little real foundation — for we are only attempting to solve a small part of the problem, and the solution does not even apply to every industry.

Your Committee is glad to have succeeded in dispelling these misconceptions and in submitting a moderate, reasoned and balanced report, which, although it may appear somewhat dull — common sense is often dull — reflects not the feeling of each individual member of the Conference, but a fairly accurate view of the average opinion of this highly qualified body of world economic experts on the delicate question now submitted to it for the first time.

What does this average opinion amount to ? A number of truths, common sense, I might almost say, truisms. It shows that agreements may have many great merits but at the same time many serious drawbacks. It shows that they are not a theoretical proposition but a concrete fact, the effects of which it is for you to judge and estimate.

What, then, does the public learn from this opinion ? The advice given to the public is the advice of our English friends : "Wait and see. Open your eyes. Look and judge for yourselves."

The advice to those who conclude agreements is this : "Do not conduct your operations in the dim light of which you have been rather too fond. It is only right and fair that the public and the public authorities should be given a certain minimum amount of information. Further, be

careful of your price policy and your labour policy. Lastly, be sure you give the nations the ample guarantees to which they are entitled as regards, not only the maintenance of their vital industries, but also the feeding of those industries and the future prospects which their population or their natural endowments promise them".

That is what your Committee suggests that you should say to cartels and to Governments. You are masters of your fate and are free to decide how you think these agreements should work. In any case, do not take a prejudiced view of them *a priori*, because you would be depriving yourselves of the benefits that you might derive from them.

What then remains ?

There remains a very sensitive spot ; but if it is sensitive to the extent of being what I might even call neuralgic, it is because the idea of supervision, on which this Conference is apparently divided, has not yet been sufficiently elucidated.

Between these diametrically opposed views, what a vast field for common action there remains, for men of common sense, for statesmen who are determined to act in a reasonable spirit.

By international supervision do we mean international jurisdiction, based upon some common law and enforced by Government delegations empowered for the time being to interfere with one another ? Or, on the other hand, are these international organisations to escape all form of supervision and to be allowed to pursue their activities without any limits or any form of restriction ? What sensible men at this Conference, or anywhere else, would agree to such a suggestion ?

What is the real truth ? It lies midway between these two extremes.

First and foremost — and it cannot be repeated too often — these international cartels must come under the jurisdiction of the courts of the State in whose territory they are operating, whether this happens to be in their own country or elsewhere, and even when they have contracts with nationals of other countries. Hence they are subject to drastic supervision, being subordinate to the judicial authorities and the law.

That is the first point.

In this connection the Committee has a suggestion to make. Apart from these powers — whereby a Government can employ measures of a strictly governmental, Customs or fiscal character, when it has reason to be dissatisfied with the attitude of its nationals who may be affiliated to a cartel or with that of an international cartel operating in its territory — other means of procedure are to hand.

The suggestion is that a system of arbitration should be established which would be entrusted to large private or public organisations possessing undoubted competence in economic matters. Such arbitration would be voluntary, but would ultimately produce a kind of "case-law" applicable to members of cartels or to the cartels themselves.

That, gentlemen, was what I wished to say about the settlement of apparently litigious disputes.

What have we besides ?

There is a form of supervision that is even more important, because it is more all-powerful even than courts or Governments, and that is an enlightened, intelligent and fair-minded public opinion.

As agreements take shape and big industries become bigger still, they begin to feel the power of public opinion ; they can no longer ignore it.

I have left to the end a last form of supervision or control, and that is self-control, the development of a sense of responsibility in the heads of the main branches of production. As soon as enterprises

designed to produce in order to sell at a profit for the benefit of producers at the top or at the bottom of the ladder become not a means to an end, but, as it were, a part of the nation at work, a branch of the national production, then, never fear — and all who have observed the trend of these great syndical organisations are as firmly convinced of this fact as we are — then, I say, the sense of the social duty and of the social service which those concerned in the big industries and big syndical organisations are called upon to accomplish, and which they feel to be a responsibility devolving upon themselves, will undoubtedly make itself felt in any decisions they may have to take.

What now remains to be said about supervision ? What we want is common-sense formulas, unpretentious formulas — as unpretentious as common sense, and as efficacious.

What remains to be said about the League ? This : that, in order to educate public opinion and provide a centre for Government information, there should be set up under the League, whose work and systematic methods we have had ample opportunities of appreciating — there should be set up, in such form as the League may think fit, a centre of information and documentation. This would gradually add to its store, and information would be regularly supplied on the one hand and be regularly obtainable on the other. This organisation would be a most valuable source of information and education for all concerned.

These, gentlemen, are the solutions that your Committee on Industry has to submit in regard to this matter. I think that if the question had been viewed in this light by our colleagues — and more particularly M. Jouhaux — who represent the workers, the solutions we propose would have allayed the anxiety reflected in the reservations which have just been formulated.

It now remains for me to reply to the observations of the Soviet delegation.

I have nothing to say as regards their declaration concerning rationalisation and industrial agreements. I realise that our texts are inconsistent with the doctrinaire principles which they have brought with them here, and which, as has already been said, it is not for us to discuss or to attempt to remove.

As regards the third point — the question of statistics — the Soviet delegation informs us that it will abstain from voting, as the Committee proposed that the question of statistics should be entrusted not to the Hague International Institute of Statistics, but to the organisation established by the League at Geneva. Greatly as we respect the Hague Institute — and some of us have this feeling to a very marked degree — no one on the Committee on Industry ever thought, after having been summoned by the League and having worked (as some of us have for a long time) with its services, and realised how the work is handled here — no one, I say, ever thought of going elsewhere. It seemed to us perfectly right and fair to request the League to give effect to our resolutions and *inter alia* to undertake this work of documentation and co-ordination which we regard as so essential.

I repeat : our Committee on Industry, whose report is now before you, has not produced anything new in the way of formulas or startling revelations. It has enunciated a number of common-sense truths, and has given certain indications the wisdom and caution of which you will, I am sure, appreciate. I think that world economy might pursue this path, not entirely without risk, of course, but to its very great advantage. If the resolutions receive the support of your authority, they will

undoubtedly become a most instructive and promising feature of the scheme of world economics.

29. — ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES.

The President :

Translation : The list of speakers is exhausted and the discussion on the reports of the three Committees is therefore closed. We will now vote on the three reports in turn.

I would remind you that only the members of the Conference may vote; experts are not entitled to do so.

I put to the vote the report of the Committee on Commerce.

The report was adopted by the Conference, the U.S.S.R. members voting against.

The President :

Translation : I put to the vote the report of the Committee on Industry.

The report was adopted by the Conference, the U.S.S.R. members voting against.

The President :

Translation : I put to the vote the report of the Committee on Agriculture.

The report was adopted by the Conference, the U.S.S.R. members voting against.

The Conference rose at 6 p.m.