


INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
CONFERENCE  
IN MOSCOW

APRIL 3-12,  
1952



COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION  
OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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MOSCOW 1952

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# CONTENTS

Page

Introduction . . . . .	9
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## THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

April 3

Opening Address by Mr. R. Chambeiron . . . . .	14
Speech of Welcome by M. Y. Yasnov, Chairman of the Moscow Soviet . . . . .	22
Speech by Mr. O. Lange . . . . .	23
Rules of Procedure of the Conference . . . . .	27

## PLENARY SESSION

April 4

Mr. Bernard de Plas ( <i>France</i> ) . . . . .	29
Mr. J. Chalasinski ( <i>Poland</i> ) . . . . .	33
Mr. O. Vickery ( <i>U.S.A.</i> ) . . . . .	37
Mr. Nan Han-cheng ( <i>China</i> ) . . . . .	42
Mr. J. Schachner ( <i>Austria</i> ) . . . . .	47
Mr. O. Pohl ( <i>Czechoslovakia</i> ) . . . . .	51

## PLENARY SESSION

April 5

Mr. K. Waris ( <i>Finland</i> ) . . . . .	55
M. V. Nesterov ( <i>U.S.S.R.</i> ) . . . . .	59
Mr. S. Steve ( <i>Italy</i> ) . . . . .	73
Mr. H. Daryush ( <i>Iran</i> ) . . . . .	77
Lord John Boyd-Orr ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	80
Mr. Mohammad Itikhar-ud-Din ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	86
Mr. Louis Saillant ( <i>Secretary General, World Federation of Trade Unions</i> ) . . . . .	89
Mr. Rubens do Amaral ( <i>Brazil</i> ) . . . . .	97
Mr. Gyan Chand ( <i>India</i> ) . . . . .	101
Mr. F. Freyre ( <i>Argentina</i> ) . . . . .	105

# SESSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS (SECTIONS)

April 7-8

## Development of International Trade Group

### Morning Sitting, April 7

Mr. E. Cavenaile ( <i>Belgium</i> ) . . . . .	109
Mr. Lei Jen-min ( <i>China</i> ) . . . . .	111
Mr. C. Bettelheim ( <i>France</i> ) . . . . .	115
Mr. I. Degen ( <i>Hungary</i> ) . . . . .	119
Mr. Hatim Alibhay Alavi ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	121
Mr. B. Buckman ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	123
Mr. G. Savin ( <i>Rumania</i> ) . . . . .	124
Mr. A. Viberti ( <i>Italy</i> ) . . . . .	127
Mr. V. Sandmann ( <i>German Democratic Republic</i> ) . . . . .	128
Mr. J. Perry ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	130
Mr. Lal Chand Hira Chand ( <i>India</i> ) . . . . .	132
Mr. Yu-Dun Sin ( <i>Korean People's Democratic Republic</i> ) . . . . .	133
Mr. Zakir Mashhadi ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	134

### Evening Sitting, April 7

Mr. A. Wolynski ( <i>Poland</i> ) . . . . .	136
Mr. J. Dobretsberger ( <i>Austria</i> ) . . . . .	139
Mr. T. Vladigherov ( <i>Bulgaria</i> ) . . . . .	141
Mr. S. Rozen ( <i>Israel</i> ) . . . . .	144
Mr. Mahmoud Haroon ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	146
Mr. M. Silverman ( <i>U.S.A.</i> ) . . . . .	147
Mr. Hiten Narayan Chaudhury ( <i>India</i> ) . . . . .	148

### Morning Sitting, April 8

Mr. M. Spahiu ( <i>Albania</i> ) . . . . .	149
Mr. Mahmoud Haroon ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	151
Mr. F. Adamek ( <i>Czechoslovakia</i> ) . . . . .	152
N. Orlov ( <i>U.S.S.R.</i> ) . . . . .	153
Mr. Qazi Mohammad Fareed ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	160
Mr. Suchjar Tedjasukmana ( <i>Indonesia</i> ) . . . . .	161

## International Economic Cooperation for the Solution of Social Problems Group

### Morning Sitting, April 7

Mr. P. Lebrun ( <i>France</i> ) . . . . .	162
Mr. Z. Valouch ( <i>Czechoslovakia</i> ) . . . . .	165

Mr. G. Roveda ( <i>Italy</i> ) . . . . .	167
Mr. V. Porkkala ( <i>Finland</i> ) . . . . .	168
Mr. H. Jourdain ( <i>World Federation of Trade Unions</i> ) . . . . .	170
Mr. C. Rojas Juanco ( <i>Mexico</i> ) . . . . .	173
Mr. Liu Tse-chiu ( <i>China</i> ) . . . . .	175
Mr. Kim Chan ( <i>Korean People's Democratic Republic</i> ) . . . . .	177
Mr. W. Klosiewicz ( <i>Poland</i> ) . . . . .	179

#### Evening Sitting, April 7

Mr. H. Wynn ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	181
Mr. B. Brandsen ( <i>Holland</i> ) . . . . .	183
Mr. J. Schachner ( <i>Austria</i> ) . . . . .	186
Mr. F. Ben-Dori ( <i>Israel</i> ) . . . . .	186
Mr. Murtaza Raza Chaudhury ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	188
Mr. D. Dimitrov ( <i>Bulgaria</i> ) . . . . .	189
Mr. Prem Sagar Gupta ( <i>India</i> ) . . . . .	191
Mr. F. Runturambi ( <i>Indonesia</i> ) . . . . .	192
Mr. O. Proksch ( <i>Western Germany</i> ) . . . . .	193
Mr. J. Kuczynski ( <i>German Democratic Republic</i> ) . . . . .	194

#### Morning Sitting, April 8

Mr. J. Acosta ( <i>Paraguay</i> ) . . . . .	197
V. V. Kuznetsov ( <i>U.S.S.R.</i> ) . . . . .	199
Mr. R. Amaduzzi ( <i>Italy</i> ) . . . . .	204
Mr. A. Deutsch ( <i>U.S.A.</i> ) . . . . .	205
Mr. S. Moraru ( <i>Rumania</i> ) . . . . .	208
Mr. F. Bozsoki ( <i>Hungary</i> ) . . . . .	210
Mr. J. Stanley ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	211
Mr. G. Shuli ( <i>Albania</i> ) . . . . .	212
Mr. Gamal Musa ( <i>Israel</i> ) . . . . .	213
Mr. C. Blest Rifo ( <i>Chile</i> ) . . . . .	216
Mr. Amir Husain Shah Sayed ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	217
Mr. A. Cuneo ( <i>Argentina</i> ) . . . . .	217
Mr. Thakin Lu Aye ( <i>Burma</i> ) . . . . .	218
Mr. Mobarak Sagher ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	219
Mr. R. M. Acosta ( <i>Uruguay</i> ) . . . . .	220
Mr. H. Schlimme ( <i>German Democratic Republic</i> ) . . . . .	221
Mr. C. Mubrey ( <i>U.S.A.</i> ) . . . . .	222

Problems of Underdeveloped Countries Group  
Morning Sitting, April 7

Mr. M. Kadlec ( <i>Czechoslovakia</i> ) . . . . .	223
Dr. O. Millas Correo ( <i>Chile</i> ) . . . . .	224
Mr. Chen Han-seng ( <i>China</i> ) . . . . .	226
Mr. Altaf Husain ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	227
Mr. W. Winkler ( <i>German Democratic Republic</i> ) . . . . .	230
Mr. S. Cohen ( <i>Israel</i> ) . . . . .	232
Mr. H. Osborne ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	234
Mr. T. Cueva Dominguez ( <i>Mexico</i> ) . . . . .	236
Mr. J. Kumarappa ( <i>India</i> ) . . . . .	237
Mr. J. M. Rivera ( <i>Argentina</i> ) . . . . .	239
Mr. S. Arsene ( <i>Rumania</i> ) . . . . .	241
Mr. H. Davies ( <i>Great Britain</i> ) . . . . .	242

Evening Sitting, April 7

Mr. S. Ignar ( <i>Poland</i> ) . . . . .	243
Mr. J. Bouchaud ( <i>France</i> ) . . . . .	245
Mr. Tufail Ahmed Khan ( <i>Pakistan</i> ) . . . . .	246
Mr. K. Kamenov ( <i>Bulgaria</i> ) . . . . .	247
Mr. U Kyaw Min ( <i>Burma</i> ) . . . . .	249
Mr. C. Economides ( <i>Cyprus</i> ) . . . . .	250
Mr. M. Miller ( <i>Canada</i> ) . . . . .	252
Mr. M. Hancock ( <i>Canada</i> ) . . . . .	253

Morning Sitting, April 8

Mr. Youn Hen Chjoun ( <i>Korean People's Democratic Republic</i> )	254
Mr. H. Daryush ( <i>Iran</i> ) . . . . .	256
D. G. Borisenko ( <i>U.S.S.R.</i> ) . . . . .	257
Mr. B. Manzocchi ( <i>Italy</i> ) . . . . .	262
Mr. B. Szilagyi ( <i>Hungary</i> ) . . . . .	263
Mr. Q. Harito ( <i>Albania</i> ) . . . . .	265

PLENARY SESSION

April 9

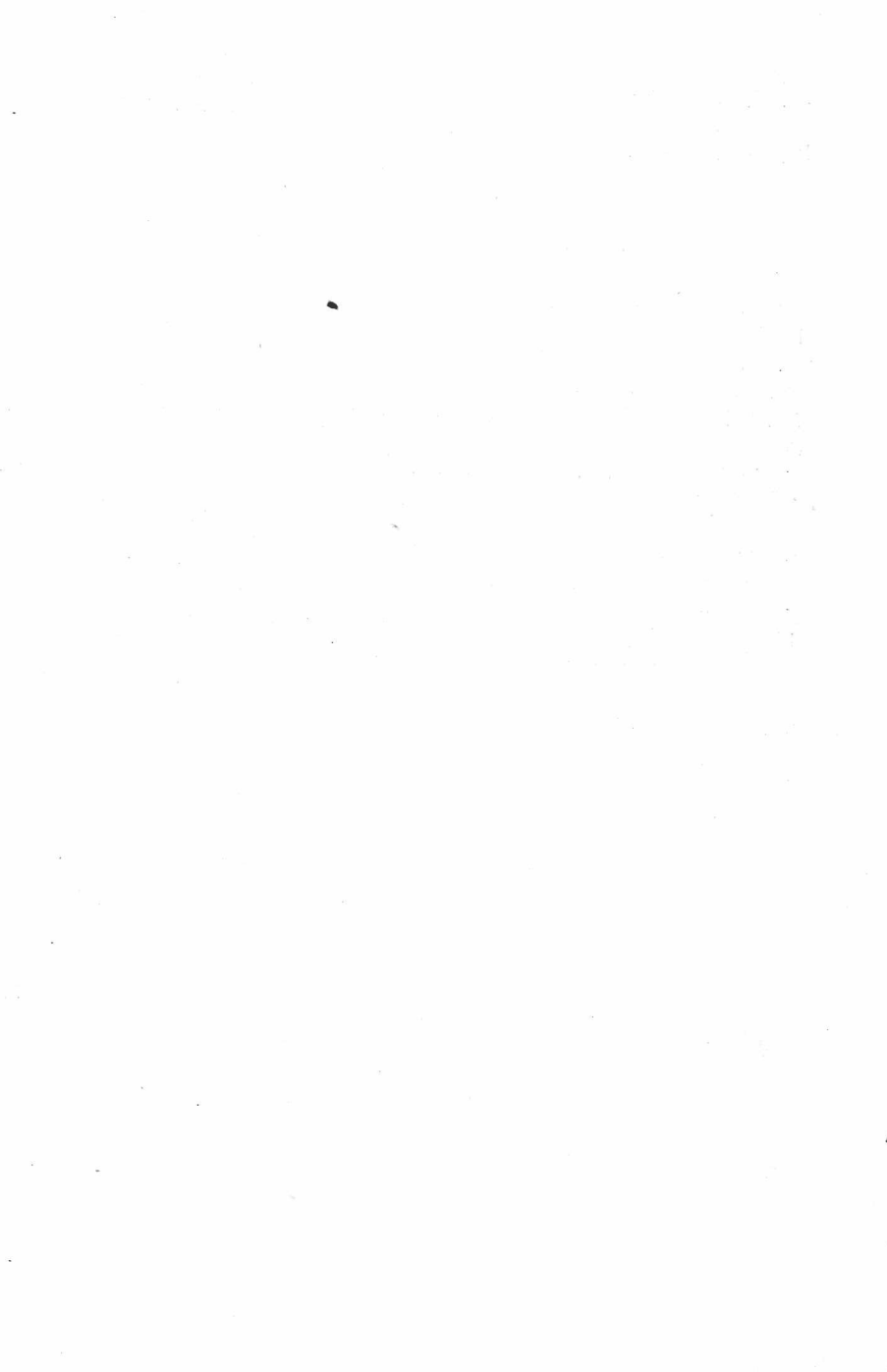
Mme. Tomi Kora ( <i>Japan</i> ) . . . . .	267
Mr. H. Krumme ( <i>Western Germany</i> ) . . . . .	269
Report by Mr. O. Lange ( <i>Chairman, Development of International Trade Group</i> ) . . . . .	271

Report by Mr. P. Lebrun ( <i>International Economic Cooperation for the Solution of Social Problems Group</i> ) . . .	280
Report by Mr. Gyan Chand ( <i>Chairman, Problems of Underdeveloped Countries Group</i> ) . . . . .	283

## PLENARY SESSION

April 12

Mr. R. Chambeiron . . . . .	292
Lord Boyd-Orr . . . . .	293
M. V. Nesterov . . . . .	295
Mr. O. Lange . . . . .	295
Mr. Lal Chand Hira Chand . . . . .	298
Communique on the International Economic Conference in Moscow . . . . .	300
Appeal of the International Economic Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations . . . . .	305
Establishment of the Committee for the Promotion of International Trade . . . . .	307
<i>Appendix:</i>	
List of Participants of the International Economic Conference . . . . .	311



## INTRODUCTION

The International Economic Conference which met in Moscow from April 3 to 12 drew the attention of business and economic circles throughout the world. It was widely written about and commented on in the press and on the radio of most countries and its echoes will sound for a long time.

For indeed this Conference was an event of world-wide significance. Four hundred seventy-one industrialists, traders, economists, trade unionists and cooperators from 49 countries met in Moscow to analyze the present unsatisfactory situation of international trade and to discuss ways and means to restore and develop normal economic relations between nations, irrespective of their economic and social systems. The participants in the Conference believe that differences in economic and social systems do not constitute an obstacle to the development of trade relations and peaceful economic cooperation between nations to their mutual advantage. This belief was fully borne out by the results of the Conference.

The Conference was convened as a result of the efforts of a number of persons, each acting in his private capacity, who met on October 27-28, 1951, in Copenhagen and formed the International Initiating Committee which sponsored and prepared the Conference.

The results of the Conference exceeded the expectations of the Initiating Committee. The invitations met

with a favourable response which in many countries developed into a veritable movement on behalf of the Conference. National Preparatory Committees sprang up in many countries to prepare delegations and discussion material for the Conference. In other countries the organization of the preparations was less formal, but in these countries too there emerged a strong movement for participation in the Conference.

Thus the representation of business and economic circles at the Conference may be considered as truly world-wide.

The discussion at the Conference had throughout a businesslike character. Questions of the respective merits of different economic and social systems were ruled out of order by the Rules of Procedure of the Conference. The discussion concentrated strictly on problems of international trade and international economic cooperation.

The Conference consisted of two Plenary Sessions followed by discussion and Working Groups and was brought to a close by Plenary Sessions again. Three Working Groups were formed: Development of International Trade, International Economic Cooperation for the Solution of Social Problems, and Problems of Underdeveloped Countries groups. Each of these Working Groups presented a report to the Plenary Session. These reports made recommendations which became embodied in the final resolutions of the Conference.

The Conference revealed vast potentialities for enlarging trade between the countries of Western Europe, the United States of America, Canada, the countries of Latin America, the countries of Asia and of Africa, the Soviet Union, China, the countries of Eastern and Central Europe. These potentialities were shown in the speeches made at the Conference in which participants from various countries presented in great detail the export possibilities

and import requirements of their countries, indicating the perspectives for the next few years. They were also proved by the considerable commercial transactions which took place during the Conference.

The Conference adopted the Appeal to the General Assembly of the United Nations requesting that the United Nations convene an international conference of representatives of governments with the participation of business circles, trade unions and other social organizations of all countries for the purpose of promoting an expansion of international trade on a basis of equality and with due regard to the needs of the industrialization of under-developed countries.

The Conference also established the Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, which is to continue the efforts initiated by the Conference. Thus an organ has been created to implement the unanimous desire of the participants of the Conference that the Conference be followed up by further steps continuing the work it has undertaken.

The Committee for the Promotion of International Trade was constituted on April 12. It decided to establish a Secretariat headed by a Secretary General and a Working Bureau consisting of several members of the Committee which is going to assist and advise the Secretary General during periods between plenary meetings of the Committee. Mr. Robert Chambeiron, who had acted as Secretary General of the Initiating Committee and Secretary General of the International Economic Conference, was elected Secretary General of the Committee for the Promotion of International Trade.

The Committee for the Promotion of International Trade will aid in disseminating information about the International Economic Conference and in expanding trade

between countries. As a first step in this direction it has decided to publish the proceedings of the Conference. It does so in the full confidence that the present volume will meet the request of large business and economic circles in all countries who desire exact information on the proceedings and results of the International Economic Conference in Moscow as well as on the direction which the Committee for the Promotion of International Trade will pursue in its activities.

*Bureau of the Committee for the  
Promotion of International Trade*

## THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

*April 3*

*The International Economic Conference began its work in the Hall of Columns in the House of Trade Unions, Moscow, on April 3, at 5.30 p.m. In addition to the Conference participants, there were present numerous guests and also correspondents of the Soviet and foreign press.*

*The Conference was opened by Mr. Robert Chambeiron, Secretary General, Arrangements Commission of the International Initiating Committee. After a speech of welcome by M. A. Yasnov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies, Mr. Mian M. Iftikhar-ud-Din (Pakistan) proposed the election of a Presiding Committee of the International Economic Conference to consist of 17 members. The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

### PRESIDING COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Argentina—*Jose Maria Rivera*, Director, National Bureau of Statistics

Austria—*Josef Dobretsberger*, Professor of Economics, Law Faculty of the University of Gratz

Brazil—*Americo L. Barbosa de Oliveira*, engineer, economist

China—*Nan Han-cheng*, President of the People's Bank of China

Czechoslovakia—*Otakar Pohl*, President of the Czechoslovak State Bank

France—*Paul Bastid*, Former Minister of Trade, Member of l'Institut de France  
 German Democratic Republic—*Mrs. Greta Kuckhoff*, President of the Deutsche Notenbank  
 Great Britain—*Lord John Boyd-Orr*, F.R.S., world expert on problems of nutrition  
 Holland—*Carl Wilhelm de Vries*, Professor of Law, Rotterdam University  
 India—*Lal Chand Hira Chand*, Director of a Bombay automobile firm  
 Iran—*Dr. Ahmad Matin Daftari*, Senator, Professor at Teheran University, Member of the Academy of Sciences  
 Italy—*Sebastiano Carmelo Franco*, exporter of citrus fruit  
 Pakistan—*Mian M. Iftikhar-ud-Din*, Member of Parliament  
 Poland—*Oskar Lange*, Professor at the Higher School of Planning and Statistics  
 United States of America—*Oliver Vickery*, industrialist, President of an electrical and chemical import and export company  
 U.S.S.R.—*Mikhail Nesterov*, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Soviet Union  
 World Federation of Trade Unions—*Giuseppe di Vittorio*, President of the WFTU

*Mr. Robert Chambeiron* was unanimously elected Secretary General of the International Economic Conference.

On *Mr. Oskar Lange's* motion the Conference adopted a Program and Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

## Opening Address by Mr. R. CHAMBEIRON

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Initiating Committee of the International Economic Conference has conferred on me the honour of welcoming you here.

On its behalf, I thank you for accepting its invitation and for laying aside your important affairs and finding the time to participate in this Conference, in many cases at the expense of a long and fatiguing journey.

I am certain that I am interpreting the wishes of all at this Conference in expressing our deep thanks to the Soviet Preparatory Committee and its Chairman, Mr. Nesterov, President of the U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce, for the irreproachable organization which will permit us to deliberate in the very best conditions, and for the cordial hospitality extended us by our Soviet hosts, that traditional hospitality for which the Soviet Union has long been famed far beyond its borders.

Three hundred and thirty-nine participants of our Conference, accompanied by 79 experts, are already in Moscow. Twenty-nine participants have just arrived and 50 more are yet on their way.

The presence in this hall of so many participants, who will soon be joined by others now en route, lends our Conference extreme importance. This is the first time that so many businessmen, economists, trade unionists and cooperators, coming from countries with different economic systems and performing important functions in these countries, have assembled at one time and in one place to make a joint examination of common problems.

This was one of the objectives which the Initiating Committee set itself, and it can be legitimately proud of having accomplished it.

It is quite understandable that the Moscow Economic Conference is today focussing the attention of the whole world. At a time when so many countries are the prey of grave economic difficulties, the Moscow Conference appears both as a vital necessity and as a hope full of promise.

An initiative which aims at restoring economic relations between all countries and to improve the conditions of life of whole populations can evoke indifference or hostility only among those who found their prosperity upon dangerous rivalries among nations.

The Initiating Committee decided upon 450 as the number of participants in this Conference in order to ensure it the utmost importance and efficacy. If this figure has been slightly surpassed it was only in order to respond to the increasing number of requests the Committee has received, especially in the past few weeks. However that may be, the Initiating Committee has been fully alive to the necessity of maintaining a fair equilibrium between all countries, and the diversity and character of the delegations now in Moscow are proof that there has been no discrimination whatever in the choice of delegates.

This choice has been governed by the sole desire to make the Conference as representative as possible of the economic interests of the different countries concerned.

As there have been many erroneous comments on the character of the Conference, it would therefore not be superfluous to recall the various stages in its preparation.

It was more than a year ago that the idea of such a conference took practical shape. Under what conditions? Businessmen, economists and trade union leaders of a number of West-European countries gathered for the first time in Paris. They were perturbed by the economic difficulties experienced by their respective countries. These difficulties sprang to a large extent from the fact that the geographical area within which their countries were conducting trade was becoming narrower and narrower, and also from the fact that the one-sided character of the trade of their respective countries made it practically impossible for them to adjust their balances of payments. Rightly perturbed by this state of affairs, which was fraught with grave economic difficulties and with the menace of a crisis in important sectors of economic life, they asked themselves whether the time was not ripe for