

This statement of objectives is in fact a summary of the detailed provisions of the Charter; it therefore is intended to reflect in a "balanced" manner the scope of the activities of the Organization.

There were no serious controversies at Havana on Article 1 and consequently it emerged substantially the same as in the Geneva text. The greater part of the discussions centred around proposals to add to the text. Such proposals, which in fact constituted additional objectives, were successfully opposed on various grounds by the majority of delegations, including the Canadian Delegation. It was properly argued that such additions, although in some cases fundamentally sound, would lead to redundancy and confusion and would result in a distortion of the "balance" attained in the statement of objectives of the Charter in relation to its various fields of activity. It was generally recognized, therefore, that Members could not "pledge themselves" to such additional objectives.

The three main proposals of the type referred to above were:

1. A proposal by the delegation of France which in its original form would have been tantamount to a pledge on the part of the Members of the Organization to promote the maintenance, establishment and development of customs unions. This obviously could not be considered as one of the objectives of the Charter; the American Delegation was particularly strong in its opposition. The proposal was strenuously opposed by the delegation of Mexico but for another reason; the Mexican delegate reminded the Conference of the Nazi methods towards "economic integration".

Although the proposal was rejected as not being an objective of the Organization, it found its way, in modified form, into Paragraph 1 of Article 44 (see page of Report) dealing with Customs Unions and Free-Trade Areas, in the following terms:

"Members recognize the desirability of increasing freedom of trade by the development, through voluntary agreements, of closer integration between the economies of the countries parties to such agreements".

2. The delegation of Argentina proposed a new objective of the Organization which would have spelled out workers' rights under some ten sub-headings, including the right to receive training, to family protection, to defend professional interests, etc.

Although the principle of this proposal was unanimously agreed to, the Conference could not agree to make this an objective of a trade organization. Obviously, such detailed provisions more properly fell within the competence of the International Labour Organization.

3. A third proposal which was the subject of lengthy discussion was made by the delegation of Ecuador, as follows:

"To support a general policy which takes into account the necessity of compensating the wide disparity which frequently exists between the prices of raw materials and the prices of manufactures so as to establish the necessary equity between those prices".