

Minutes of the 81st meeting of the International Commission held on Friday, the 11th May 1956, at 1500 hrs. at the "Philharmonique".

PRESENT:

Major General Chand N. Das, Chairman, India.

Mr. Arnold Smith, Commissioner, Canada.

Mr. M. Sieradzki, Commissioner, Poland.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the 80th meeting:

The minutes were read.

(ii) With reference to the statement of the Canadian Commissioner in para 3 (viii) of the minutes that an informal agreement was reached between himself, General Kirpal and Ambassador Wolniak that the question of winding up the Commission would be taken up in April this year, the Polish Commissioner wished to state that he had since looked into the three letters which were exchanged between them and had found that what the Canadian Commissioner stated was not in accordance with the facts as the Canadian Commissioner himself had not agreed with point (c) of General Kirpal's letter which was concerned with the liquidation of the Commission in July. The Polish Commissioner then stated that the three letters differed and that finally there was no agreement on this point. The interpretation of Ambassador Wolniak regarding the winding up of the Commission was that the matter should be considered in July whereas the Canadian Commissioner's interpretation was that it should be considered in April. In view of the difference in interpretation, he wished to make it quite clear that there was no such "gentlemen's agreement".

(iii) The Canadian Commissioner stated that as the only present member of the Commission who had taken part in the meeting of the three Commissioners on January 6, he wished to assure his two present colleagues that there had unquestionably been a gentlemen's agreement reached between General Kirpal, who represented India, Ambassador Wolniak, who represented Poland, and himself. When this agreement was put into writing by each of the three parties, there were certain differences in the degree of firmness with which the various Delegations would commit themselves on paper regarding some of the aspects of the question. But the Indian, Polish and Canadian letters all made it clear that agreement had been reached regarding the successive elimination of teams and regarding consideration of the windup of the Commission as a whole this summer. In that connection the Canadian Commissioner wished to table a letter which General Kirpal had sent to him the day after the meeting, that is January 7, with an identical letter to Ambassador Wolniak, in order to put into writing the Indian Delegation's understanding, at the time, of what had been agreed orally between the representatives of the three supervisory Governments. The Canadian Commissioner, in his letter of reply, acknowledged the main substance of General Kirpal's letter to be an accurate account of the agreement. Among other things he had indicated Canadian concurrence with point (b) of General Kirpal's letter, which specifically provided not only for team elimination but also for a review in April 1956 of winding up the Commission.