

noise of Havana, it is a testimony of their keen interest that the members of the Canadian Delegation were able to keep up this pace for four months without interruption. No Chairman of a Delegation could have received more loyal support and co-operation from the other members of his team.

11. The Canadian Delegation contributed its fair share to the officers of the Conference. I was elected Chairman of Committee III - the Commercial Policy Committee. Mr. Couillard was elected Chairman of the important Sub-Committee dealing with Chapter VIII of the Charter - Settlement of Differences. This young Canadian, without any legal training, presided over with ability and distinction a Sub-Committee composed mostly of lawyers, including a member of the French Parliament. Finally, Mr. Perry was elected Chairman of the Working Party set up to deal with the intricate questions of exceptions to the rule of non-discrimination in the case of balance of payments difficulties. This became one of the most important subsidiary organs of the Conference. The questions with which they had to deal were so technical that they used an esoteric language unintelligible to the average man or, for that matter, to the majority of delegates attending the Conference. Since the main controversy in the Working Party developed between the United Kingdom and the United States, the position became very delicate for a Canadian Chairman. Mr. Perry acquitted himself with credit and won praise for his handling of the most difficult of all the working parties set up at the Conference.

12. Trouble arose at the very outset of the Conference over the question of the election of a President. Most of the countries who had participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee wished to nominate Mr. Max Suetens, the Chief Delegate of Belgium, who had presided so ably and so tactfully over both the London and Geneva sessions of the Preparatory Committee. This proposal evoked pronounced resistance from the Latin-American delegations, who maintained that according to the custom of inter-American conferences the President should be the Chief Delegate of the host country. The difficulty in this case was that Mr. Sergio Clark, the Chief of the Cuban Delegation, although very popular with all those who had known him at Geneva, had no particular qualifications to serve as President of the Conference. The compromise was reached of electing Mr. Clark as President and Mr. Suetens as First Vice-President with the understanding that the President would preside over the plenary sessions of the Conference and the First Vice-President over the meetings of the General Committee.

13. The General Committee was the steering committee of the Conference. It consisted of eighteen members, viz., the President, the First Vice-President, six other Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the six main committees, and four members at large. The last four were filled by representatives of the so-called great powers - China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. As Chairman of Committee III, I was automatically a member of the General Committee. This Committee performed a useful function in planning the work of the Conference. There was resistance, however, whenever it was suggested that the General Committee should attempt to resolve difficulties of substance confronting the Conference. In such cases resort usually had to be had to a full meeting of Heads of Delegations, an organ of the Conference which had not been envisaged at the outset. The majority of delegations looked upon the General Committee as a packed body with over-representation of the developed countries. That is the reason why at a decisive stage of the Conference it was necessary to set up a Coordination Committee with membership different to that of the General Committee.