

of competition. It was to prepare for the Council's consideration, not later than March 1953, proposals for an international convention on restrictive business practices.

In introducing the resolution on this subject, the United States Delegate pointed out to the Council that increasing attention had been given by many governments, in the post-war years, to the question of restrictive business practices in both domestic and international trade. Appropriate legislation had been adopted or was under consideration in a number of countries. The Canadian Delegate, supporting the resolution, referred to the extended consideration which had been given to the subject during the preparation of the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization¹. He also recalled that a committee had been appointed in Canada in 1944 to study international cartel practices; the results of the committee's work were contained in a report entitled "Canada and International Cartels", which recommended international action to curb the harmful effects of restrictive practices.

The resolution was opposed only by the members of the Soviet bloc, who contended that it would provide a smokescreen behind which American cartels and monopolies would operate unhindered all over the world.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restrictive Business Practices, which was set up as a result of this resolution, was composed of representatives of Belgium, Canada, France, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay. It held its first meeting in New York from January 29 to February 6, 1952. The Council's resolution had reaffirmed the principles of Chapter V of the Havana Charter, which deals with restrictive business practices, and had recommended to member states that they take appropriate measures to prevent practices which had harmful effects on the expansion of production or trade, on the economic development of under-developed areas, or on standards of living. The Committee therefore undertook a detailed examination of this Chapter. It also prepared a letter to governments and to interested Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organizations, requesting information on restrictive practices in international trade, and legislative and other measures designed to deal with them.

The Committee's second session was held at United Nations Headquarters from April 28 to May 9, 1952. At this meeting, the Committee considered various points in Chapter V of the Havana Charter with which it had not dealt at its previous session, and began a consideration of the structure, functions and procedures of an international body which might be set up under an international agreement on restrictive business practices. These matters are also to be the subject of further study and examination by individual members of the Committee before the next session is held, probably in the early fall of 1952. In the meantime, the information requested from governments, Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organizations will be received by the Committee's secretariat, which will have the initial task of organizing this material for the consideration of the Committee.

¹Not yet in force. See p. 108.