

# ACTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING CONFERENCE HELD IN LONDON FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 26, 1945

## I

### FINAL ACT

An International Whaling Conference was opened in London on the 20th November, 1945, and continued on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd November, 1945.

The Governments of the countries mentioned below were represented as follows:—

*(Here follow the names of the representatives of the Union of South Africa, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.)*

Mr. A. T. A. Dobson (United Kingdom) was invited to preside over the conference, and Mr. A. M. Lowe and Miss U. Borenus (United Kingdom), assisted by a member of the United States of America Delegation, acted as Secretaries.

The object of the Conference was to consider what special measures should be put in force by agreement in respect of the whaling season 1946/47. All the Governments represented at the Conference were parties or signatories to the International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling signed at London on the 8th June, 1937.

The Conference having heard a statement on behalf of the Minister of Food of the United Kingdom on the present position of world stocks of oils and fats, and the prospects in the near future, came to the conclusion that, so far as whaling is concerned, some special relaxation of the Agreement of 1937 and the Protocol of 1938 was desirable for the season 1946/47.

On the other hand the Conference was impressed with two main considerations. In the first place it was of vital importance to further the conservation of existing whale stocks, which prior to the war were already showing signs of depletion. Secondly, it was of equal importance that any temporary relaxation of the existing regulations should not serve to encourage countries that had not taken part in whaling operations before to enter the industry only to find that ultimately their expeditions might not prove financially profitable.

The Conference had the advantage of perusing a number of papers submitted by the various delegates, and in particular was grateful to the Norwegian Delegation for the very full statistical material relating to the whaling industry as a whole which was of inestimable value.

The Conference adopted at its final meeting the following resolutions:—

- (i) "That it is desirable that a Protocol, in the terms of the Annex to this resolution,\* should be signed and brought into force as soon as possible; that the Government of the United Kingdom is requested to make early arrangements for the signature of this Protocol by duly accredited representatives; that as this Protocol makes certain temporary amend-

\* The Annex is omitted from this document in view of the fact that the Draft Protocol embodied therein is word for word as the Protocol signed on November 26, 1945 and reproduced on page 5 below.