

CANADIAN LEGATION

Berne, July 13, 1948.

No. 165

Sir,

Report of the Canadian Delegation to the
United Nations Conference on Trade and
Employment at Havana.

PART I.

I have the honour to report, as Chief of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, that the Conference assembled at Havana, Cuba, on November 21st, 1947, and concluded its work on March 24th, 1948, with the signature of a Final Act by 53 out of the 56 states which participated in the Conference. Argentina, Poland and Turkey were the three countries which did not sign the Final Act. This Final Act authenticated the text of a Charter for an International Trade Organization. This Charter now awaits ratification by the legislatures of the different countries and will come into force sixty days after the twentieth government shall have deposited its instrument of ratification. It is anticipated that this will take place during 1949 and that the International Trade Organization will be set up towards the end of that year.

2. The Havana Conference took as its basic document a draft Charter that had been prepared by a Preparatory Committee of seventeen countries. These seventeen countries were Australia, Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. This Preparatory Committee met first in London, England, during the months of October and November, 1946. On that occasion they drew up the draft of a Charter based upon a draft submitted by the Government of the United States of America, which in its turn had been the outcome of a set of principles agreed upon between the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and embodied in the form of "Proposals for Expansion of World Trade and Employment", published by the United States Government in December, 1945.

3. The London draft of the Charter was referred to a Drafting Committee, which met at Lake Success, New York, during the months of January and February, 1947, and produced a revised draft of a Charter. This New York draft was used as the basic document for the deliberations of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee, which met in Geneva during the months of May, June, July and August, 1947. It was the draft of a Charter that emerged as a result of this Second Session of the Preparatory Committee that became the basic document of the Havana Conference.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State,
for External Affairs,
O t t a w a.