



FIRST MEETING - WASHINGTON, D. C. - APRIL 2, 1951

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MINUTES OF THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION

TIME: Monday, April 2, 1951, 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Louis Seize Room, Shoreham Hotel
TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Wilbert M. Chapman (U.S.A.)

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Ladies and gentlemen: The first meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries is hereby convened.

It is generally the practice for the host government to designate a temporary chairman of an international meeting, who shall preside until the permanent chairman is elected. It has been my privilege to have been so designated.

It gives me very great pleasure to welcome you all to our shores and to our capital city, but even more so because I see so many friendly faces among those present. On behalf of my colleagues, I have the honor at this time to present the Honorable James E. Webb, Under Secretary of State, who will address a few words of welcome to you.

MR. WEBB: Mr. Chairman, Members of the International Commission on Northwest Atlantic Fisheries: It is a real privilege to welcome you on behalf of the Government of the United States to this, your first meeting. My Government is honored at the opportunity to convene this inaugural meeting and to participate in the launching of a program of high-seas fisheries conservation which, in our opinion, is destined to yield great benefits not only to the nations represented here, but to the world in general.

It is with particular pride that I address you here today, because we are on the threshold of this door leading to these benefits. I need not review the scientific and practical considerations underlying the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Conference held in this city in 1949, or the resulting convention which is responsible for the establishment of this Commission. I believe that many, if not all, of you gentlemen present here today participated in the deliberations at that conference and in the drafting of the convention, and, as I say, would gain no further enlightenment on the objectives from anything I could say.

However, I would like to say that our respective governments are now united in a new field of common endeavor for the common good. Although full participation by all the signatory governments has not as yet been achieved, let us assume that it is owing to the technicalities of ratification; that, presently, full participation will not longer be merely in prospect but in fact.

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Upon reflection, this meeting today may be considered an historic occasion. Certainly it qualifies as a milestone in one respect. I am told that this is the first instance wherein a group of nations have formally committed themselves to a program of scientific investigation and regulation, to the end that fish resources of a vast area of the high seas shall be conserved and utilized prudently. That fact alone honors you, considering the vital role which fish and fish products play in the food supply problem of the world today.

But because this problem is perennial, it seems to me you may derive even greater personal satisfaction from the knowledge that you are showing the way to a perpetuation of one source of food. Your contribution is, in that light, of a permanent kind. There are bilateral undertakings in this field, of course, but none of the magnitude of that on which you are now embarking. It would seem that we are now at an intermediate stage in the development of the principle of fisheries conservation, and that the experience and knowledge acquired thus far with respect to conservation programs of lesser scope have aided in such development. Perhaps, then, we can confidently predict that, in the years ahead, the success of this organization will manifest itself not only in the immediate benefits to be gained, but also in the form of a further refinement of the principle.

In closing these brief remarks, I would like to say that I regard the existence of this Commission as a recognition that the fish resources of the sea are not inexhaustible, and as a testimonial to an international determination to do something about it. Therefore, gentlemen, you are the doctor. May your patient live an enduring life; may your diagnoses always be accurate; and may your method of restoring health prove contagious.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Mr. Dobson of the United Kingdom is recognized.

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Mr. Chairman, Mr. Under Secretary of State: It is to me a great privilege to be present again on the soil of this unique city of Washington. When I took part in the setting up of the Convention from which this Commission has arisen, I was here by the accidental illness of the proper delegate, and when I left Washington, two years ago, I thought that I should not take any further part in what you have so rightly described as an historic meeting. But here I am again, and I am very privileged to be here.

I am also, sir, very privileged to be asked to say a few words in answer to your very inspiring address.

It is a matter, of course, as you have said, of some regret that we have not yet got all the countries present who we hoped would have ratified, but that is one of the fortunes of war. But it will, I think, mean that we shall have to proceed with caution, if with conviction. I have no doubts whatever about the magnitude of our task, but it is to me, as a layman, and I am sure it is to all the scientific laborers in the field of marine research, a matter of great satisfac-

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tion that owing to the great energy shown, especially by the United States, in floating this organization, we may now realize that perhaps, if we had done the same thing 40 years ago with the North Sea, we might have saved ourselves a great deal of trouble. Nevertheless, I don't think--as a layman I speak with caution in the presence of many scientists, but I would emphasize--I don't think there is any short-cut salvation, and I think it would behoove us to go with great caution into the very great problems we have to face.

So once again, may I, on behalf of my British colleagues and of all those present, express to you our great appreciation for the fact that you have given time to come here, and the very charming way in which you have set us on the road to salvation.

Thank you very much.

MR. WEBB: Thank you.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Thank you, Mr. Dobson, for your very kind and understanding words.

The United States, as the depository government for the instruments of ratification of the Convention will now report to the Commission on the ratifications which have been received to date.

Miss Sylvia Nilsen of the Treaty Branch of the Department of State will present the report.

Miss Nilsen.

MISS NILSEN: The following ratifications have been received from the signatory Governments of: Canada, Denmark, Iceland, United Kingdom, and the United States; five ratifications in all.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Thank you, Miss Nilsen.

At this time, I would like to call the names of the countries present, and have one of the delegates introduce the members of each delegation.

The following members of the delegations and observers were introduced:

CANADA: Messrs. Stewart Bates, Raymond Gushue, J. Howard MacKichan, G. E. Cox; Dr. A. W. H. Needler

DENMARK: Mr. B. Dinesen; Drs. Paul M. Hansen, A. Vedel Taning; Mr. Kristian Djurhuus

FRANCE: Capt. Louis J. Audigou

ICELAND: Dr. Arni Fridriksson

ITALY: Mr. Clemente Boniver

NORWAY: Messrs. Magne Oppedal, Klaus Sunnanaa

PORTUGAL: Cmdr. Antonio M. Belo

SPAIN: (Absent)

UNITED KINGDOM: Mr. A. T. A. Dobson; Dr. H. Wood; Mr. C. Michael Graham

UNITED STATES: Dr. Hilary J. Deason; Messrs. Bernhard Knollenberg, Francis W. Sargent, Edwin H. Dahlgren, Fred E. Taylor; Mrs. Mary B. Trenary; Messrs. Richard T. Whiteleather, Edward Castleman

FAO: Drs. D. D. Finn, B. P. Osorio-TaFall

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EXPLORATION OF THE SEA: Mr. A. T. A. Dobson; Dr. A. Vedel Taning

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): I believe that each of you received, in advance of this meeting, a copy of a proposed agenda, referred to as Document 1, February 7, 1951, for the first meeting of the Commission. This Government has received no suggested amendments in the interim period. However, there very well may be an item, or several items, which one of the Commissioners may wish to discuss.

The original plan was to limit the items to be considered, at the opening plenary session, to the first eight items on the agenda. Further thought, however, led us to believe that more could be accomplished, and so we have distributed Document 8, dated March 30, 1951, which is a proposed order of business for this Monday afternoon meeting. This deviates from the original agenda in only one respect of Item 7. It now is proposed that provisional acceptance of the rules of procedure be restricted, in so far as we are concerned today, to Rule 7, which has to do with the election of the Chairman

and Vice-Chairman. With this change, the number of agenda items to be covered today can be easily expanded over the original plan. Consideration of the Rules of Procedure in toto would then become a matter of business for tomorrow morning's meeting.

With this explanation in mind--and I trust it is agreeable to the Commissioners here assembled--the Chairman would entertain a motion for the provisional adoption of the agenda, Document 1, with the understanding that such action would be without prejudice to the rights of any Commissioner to offer amendments at tomorrow morning's meeting.

Do I hear a motion?

DR. BATES (CANADA): I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Dr. Bates has moved the provisional adoption. Do I hear a second?

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Second.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Mr. Dobson has seconded the motion.

The Chairman, hearing no objections, records the provisional adoption of Document 1, Proposed Order of Business.

It is assumed, then, that the order of business for this opening plenary session, Document 8, is also acceptable; so without further ado we will proceed to our first business.

The Secretary General for this first meeting has notified me that credentials have been received for all of the delegates present. I feel the matter of examining the credentials will take very little time, and I believe a small committee could report orally, to the Commissioners assembled here, on their acceptability. With respect to Item 7, the appointment of a Nominations Committee, the Chair has the same feeling.

Unless there is some objection, I propose to proceed with the appointment of a Credentials Committee and of a Nominations Committee, the acceptance of the Secretariat, and then recess the meeting for approximately twenty-five minutes or a half-hour while these two committees meet. The Chair would then reconvene the meeting upon hearing from the committees.

Is there any objection to such a procedure?

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Yes, sir.

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): I think we all agree with that. As regards the Nominations Committee, is it your intention there be one Commissioner from each of the five countries participating on the Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): That is my intention.

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MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): But the Credentials Committee--

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): That will be a smaller committee.

I think we will go ahead with the appointment of a Credentials Committee, just a small committee to examine the credentials, and I wonder if Canada, Denmark, and the United States would serve on this committee.

MR. BATES (CANADA): Yes.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Yes.

MR. TANING (DENMARK): Yes

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): When you people meet, a representative of the Secretary General will meet with you to make out the documents required.

For the Nominations Committee, the Chair suggests that each voting government designate a representative to this committee. Thus the committee will include representatives from Canada, Denmark, Iceland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Secretary General of the meeting. If the chairmen of those delegations will appoint a member of each delegation to that committee, they can proceed with the nominations for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission as soon as we have our temporary adjournment.

In accordance with established practice, the United States offers the services of an international secretariat. If there is no objection, the Commission will accept the secretariat we have provided. Is there any objection to such a procedure?

I would like, then, to present to you the principal officers of the Secretariat, in order that you may become acquainted with them. On my left is the Secretary General, Mr. Wheeler, the Assistant Chief of the Division of International Conferences, Department of State. His Special Assistant is Miss Frances Leibel, also of that division.

The Technical Secretary is Mr. Donald J. Chaney, Chief Counsel of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. I think we all remember Mr. Chaney from his services in the same capacity during the previous conference. His assistants are Mr. Herbert Graham, likewise from the Department of Interior, Dr. William Royce, Department of the Interior, and Mr. Howard Schuck, Department of the Interior.

The Administrative Secretary is Mr. Malcolm Peake. The Documents Officer is Miss Mary E. Haslacker, and the Registration and Information Officer is Miss F. Louise Welch.

These individuals are supported by a staff of some 15 people from the Department of State and Department of the Interior. Their offices, which I believe you are acquainted with, are located in the West Wing on this floor, next to the Committee Wing, down beyond the registration desk.

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We would like, now, to have the meeting recess for 35 minutes and reconvene again at 4:00 o'clock. We would like to have the report from the Credentials Committee and the Nominations Committee at the end of that period.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): If those on the Credentials Committee will go with Miss Leibel, she will take you to your meeting, and if those on the Nominations Committee will go with me, we will go to the committee meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): The meeting is then recessed until 4:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:25 p.m., the meeting was recessed, to reconvene at 4:10 p.m.)

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): The meeting will now come to order. I will now ask for the report of the Credentials Committee.

Dr. Taning.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): Do you wish me to read it for you?

DR. TANING (DENMARK): Yes.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): "Report of the Credentials Committee.

"The committee appointed by the First Meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries to examine the credentials of the participants in the meeting met on April 2 at 3:30 p.m., at the Conference Headquarters. The committee was comprised of the following commissioners:

"CANADA: Mr. Raymond Gushue

"DENMARK: Dr. A. Vedel Taning

"UNITED STATES: Mr. Francis W. Sargent

"Credentials of delegates of four of the Contracting Governments, as follows, were examined by the committee and found to be in good order:

Canada

Stewart Bates, Commissioner
J. Howard MacKichan, Commissioner
Raymond Gushue, Commissioner
A. W. H. Needler, Scientific Adviser
G. E. Cox, Adviser

Iceland

Arni Fridriksson, Commissioner

United Kingdom

A. T. A. Dobson, Commissioner
C. Michael Graham, Adviser
H. Wood, Adviser

United States

Hilary J. Deason, Commissioner
Bernhard Knollenberg, Commissioner
Francis W. Sargent, Commissioner
Edwin H. Dahlgren, Adviser
Fred E. Taylor, Adviser
Mary B. Trenary, Adviser
Richard E. Whiteleather, Adviser
Edward Castleman, Adviser and Secretary

"The delegation from Denmark has registered and although their credentials have not as yet been received, it is understood that they will be furnished presently. Notification of the Danish Delegation had been received through diplomatic channels earlier, and the Credentials Committee is prepared to accept such notification as provisional accreditation pending receipt of the formal Danish credentials.

Denmark

B. Dinesen, Commissioner
A. Vedel Taning, Commissioner
Paul M. Hansen, Commissioner
Kristian Djurhaus, Adviser

"The committee recommends to the First Meeting of the Commission, therefore, the acceptance of these credentials, and the accordance for the delegates named therein full right of participation in the First Meeting of the Commission in conformity to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Commission.

"The committee took note of the acceptance of the invitation to be represented by observers from the following five signatory governments and the two international organizations: France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

"/s/ A. VEDEL TANING
CHAIRMAN
For the Delegation of Denmark

"/s/ R. GUSHUE
MEMBER
For the Delegation of Canada

"/s/ FRANCIS W. SARGENT
MEMBER
For the Delegation of U.S.A."

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Do I hear a motion for the acceptance of this report?

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Mr. Chairman, I move the acceptance of the report of the Credentials Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Dr. Deason has moved the acceptance of the report. Do I hear a second?

MR. MACKICHAN (CANADA): Second.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Mr. Mackichan of Canada seconds the motion. If there are no objections, I think we can consider this report as adopted. No objections are heard and I declare the report adopted.

Before we hear from the Nominations Committee, I wish you would refer to Rule No. 7 of the proposed Rules of Procedure. I will ask Mr. Wheeler, the Secretary General, to read Rule No. 7.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): You will find that in Document 2, Rule 7 is entitled "Chairman and Vice-Chairman" and reads:

"The Commission shall elect from its members a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, each of whom shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election, but not to a succeeding term. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman must be Commissioners from different Contracting Governments".

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): The Chair will entertain a motion for the provisional adoption of Rule 7, respecting the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Do I hear such a motion?

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Mr. Dobson moves it. Do I hear a second?

MR. DINESEN (DENMARK): Second

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Mr. Dinesen of Denmark seconds the motion.

If there are no objections to this, I think we will proceed right along, then, and consider Rule No. 7 as provisionally adopted.

I would now like to call on the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Bates, for his report.

DR. BATES (CANADA): Mr. Chairman, I speak for the Nominations Committee. I make no apologies for having no written document. The Credentials Committee, being concerned with a matter of protocol, naturally had to put it in documentary form. We, concerned with matters of reality, are speaking directly.

If I might be allowed to make another prefacing remark, Mr. Chairman, we have, perhaps, in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission, become accustomed to seeing yourself acting as Chairman. You are not, however, a member of the American delegation. So far as the rest of us are concerned, therefore, it is, "The king is dead; long live the king".

The Nominations Committee met and is making a unanimous recommendation. They recommend as Chairman, Dr. Hilary J. Deason of the United States delegation, and as Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. T. A. Dobson of the United Kingdom.

I move that the Commission accept these nominations.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Thank you, sir, for your report and motion, Do I hear a second?

MR. DINESEN (DENMARK): Mr. Chairman, I am glad to second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (DR. CHAPMAN): Thank you, sir.

It has been moved and seconded that the report of the Nominating Committee be adopted. I will ask for an "aye and no" vote on this.

All in favor signify by saying "aye".

(Chorus of "ayes".)

Contrary, "no".

(No response.)

We will consider the nomination made. Dr. Deason as the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Dobson as Vice-Chairman.

It is my pleasure at this time to turn the meeting over to the new Chairman.

I might say, however, in leaving the deliberations of this group, that I have been most pleasantly occupied with the group for some time, and I hope that all my connections with you will not be broken off, that they will be active.

THE CHAIRMAN (DR. DEASON): Fellow Commissioners and advisers: I am very honored by the job you have thrust upon me. I am inexperienced in this sort of thing, and I undertake the job of Chairman of the Commission in great humility.

I know that it will not be an easy job, but I know also that I have all of you working with me. Together, we will be able to move forward and bring the Commission to the fruition of the job which the Convention sets out for it to undertake.

Thank you all very much.

Is there any other business to come before the Commission at this afternoon's session?

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Mr. Chairman, I am sure I voice the feelings of everybody if we pass a vote of thanks, a sincere vote of thanks, to Dr. Chapman for presiding at the earlier part of this meeting. I should also like to take the opportunity to say how we shall always remember what he did to get this Commission started, and those of us who were present two years ago remember how ably he presided at the

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first meeting, and I wouldn't like him to go from this without such a vote of appreciation.

THE CHAIRMAN (DR. DEASON): Mr. Secretary General, have you any announcements?

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): I did wish to bring to your attention the reception this evening by the United States delegation for the members of all of the delegations. The reception will be in the West Ballroom of the hotel. If, perchance, any of you here do not have your invitations, I would be very happy to see that you receive them immediately.

THE CHAIRMAN (DR. DEASON): At tomorrow morning's session, the principal items to be considered will be: first, the definitive adoption of the agenda, at which time the Commissioners will have an opportunity to make any observations concerning the items on the agenda, or to move the addition of any items to the agenda before its definitive adoption; second, the definitive adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, and the appointment of such standing committees as the Commission finds necessary to carry on with the work of the Commission.

The Chair then moves the adjournment of this meeting until tomorrow morning at 10:00 o'clock, in this room, when the Commission will reconvene in executive session to continue its business. Tomorrow morning's meeting, as an executive session, will not be open to the public.

Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

MR. SARCENT (UNITED STATES): I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN (DR. DEASON): The United States moves adjournment. Is there a second?

MR. DOBSON (UNITED KINGDOM): Second

THE CHAIRMAN (DR. DEASON): The United Kingdom seconds the motion.

Without objection, this meeting stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 4:25 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)

