



SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

Second Plenary Session - July 4, 1952

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:30 a. m. and explained it was convened for the purpose of considering the question of the future office headquarters of the Commission. Responsibility had been placed at the First Meeting of the Commission on the Chairman and Vice Chairman and had since devolved upon the Acting Chairman and Vice Chairman and their report is contained in Document XIV. In addition to this report the Chairman read a communication he received from the Premier of Newfoundland setting out what the Provincial Government of that Province was prepared to do, if the headquarters were established at St. John's. The Chairman, in accepting agreement that Document XIV need not be read, called attention to paragraph 6. In the third line after the word "accessible" should be added the words "from Europe". The reference to a withdrawal of applications for the secretaryship in paragraph 9 is admittedly hearsay. Regarding the statement in paragraph 10 that St. John's is subject to serious fogs, he had now been informed that from the point of view of measurement St. John's wins over Halifax. A call for discussion resulted in the following views:

United States - Dr. Kask said there seemed to be a definite diversity of opinion. However, in his view the location should be one which would form a happy background for the Secretary and his staff. It was extremely important in his view that the Commission have a highly qualified individual to act as Secretary. Success or failure of the Commission depended to a large extent on the quality and stability of the Executive Secretary and his staff. He added that the port where fishing vessels of many nations visited or where the Commission might be expected to meet annually should not be serious considerations in a decision. If a decision became too controversial at this time he would be glad to see it postponed, and if so, he would ask that Harvard's invitation be reconsidered.

Canada - (Mr. Bates) On the understanding that the discussion is restricted to sites in Canada we have no comment.

Denmark - (Mr. Dinesen) Not interested in postponement and feels that a decision should now be made. On the basis of the information available his delegation would vote for St. John's.

Iceland - (Mr. Eggerz) If postponement would give more satisfactory results he would support the United States view.

Norway - (Dr. Rollefson) Had no strong views but were prepared to support those of the United States and to have a postponement to the next meeting.

At this point Mr. Dobson brought up the question of possible implications that postponement might have on appointment of a Secretary.

Spain - (Mr. Baraibar) As there was only one official proposal he felt the decision should be for St. John's.

United Kingdom (Dr. Lucas) No comment.

The Chairman said there were two alternatives; one, to decide between St. John's and Halifax and the other, postponement.

Following further discussion during which Mr. Bates indicated that temporary facilities could continue to be made available at St. Andrews, the general view was that postponement was the better course. It was then moved by the United States (Dr. Kask) and seconded by Iceland (Mr. Eggerz):

RESOLVED that the question of the selection of the future headquarters of the Commission be postponed until the next meeting, it being understood

- 1) That Canada would be willing to allow the accommodation at St. Andrews to remain for the time being at the disposal of the Commission, and
- 2) In the meantime the possibility of sites other than St. John's and Halifax be explored.

A poll by the Secretary showed unanimous agreement.

As a result of discussion for definition of the words "be explored" in the foregoing resolution the following motion was moved by Dr. Kask and seconded by Mr. Wimpenny:

RESOLVED that the exploration be undertaken by a Committee of three consisting of the Chairman of the Commission and representatives from Spain and Iceland with the Secretary as Adviser, who will meet as required and report to the Third Annual Meeting.

Mr. Eggerz proposed that someone from Canada should be on the Committee, but Mr. Bates dissented. A poll on this motion resulted in yeas by six contracting gov'ts and one abstention. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

It was agreed that consideration of the matter of a headquarters site by the Finance and Administration Committee should be deferred.

Before adjournment Dr. Kask proposed a vote of thanks to those who had gone to so much trouble to comply with the dictates of the Commission to find a suitable site.

The meeting thereupon adjourned.

