

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON CARTOGRAPHY
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday, 21 March 1949
at 10.30 a. m.

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Acting-Chairman: Mr. LAUGIER (Assistant Secretary-General in Charge
of the Department of Social Affairs).

Chairmen: Mr. RANDALL

Consulting Experts:

Mr. R. L. BROWN
Mr. C. LEITE DE CASTRO
Mr. R. H. RANDALL
Mr. W. SCIDEMERHORN
Mr. R. VERLAINE

Expert from government of Brazil:

Mr. A. H. de MATTOS

Representatives from Specialized Agencies:

Mr. S. V. ARNALDO (UNESCO)
Mr. E. R. L. PEAKE (ICAO)

Representatives from Intergovernmental organizations

Mr. C. L. NICHOLS (International Hydrographic
Bureau)
Mr. S. W. BOGGS } (Pan-American Institute of
Mr. A. SIMONPLETRI } Geography and History)

Representatives from International Non-governmental organizations

Mr. H. W. HEMPLE (International Union of Geodesy
and Geophysics, International Council
of Scientific Unions)

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Representatives from International Non-governmental organizations
(continued)

Mr. O. S. READING, International Society of
Photogrammetry

Mr. M. S. WRIGHT, American Congress on Surveying
and Mapping (Inter-American)

Secretariat:

Mr. H. LAUGIER (A. S. G. in Charge of the Department
of Social Affairs)

Mr. G. DURAN

Mr. T. L. TCHANG, Secretary of Committee

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The ACTING CHAIRMAN welcomed the members of the Committee of Experts on behalf of the Secretary-General, and expressed the hope that the work of the Committee would be effective and would meet with public response. He regretted that he would be unable to attend the meetings of the Committee; as a scientist, he would have been very interested in them.

The Committee had both long-range and short-range objectives. As a committee of scientists, it was its right and duty to take the widest view and to outline what was desirable, if not immediately possible. As a body of practical experts, it was also its duty to make concrete recommendations for immediate action in the international sphere.

Finally, he invited the Committee to elect a Chairman.

Mr. SCHERMERHORN proposed that Mr. Randall should be elected Chairman. All those who had attended the meeting of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History at Buenos Aires in 1948, and seen Mr. Randall's work there, would approve of his proposal.

Mr. BROWN seconded the proposal.

Mr. RANDALL was unanimously elected Chairman.

Mr. RANDALL took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN said that he was greatly honored by his election. He suggested that the Committee should settle down to work at once.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the provisional agenda had been drawn up by the Secretariat on the basis of the Economic and Social Council resolution of February 1948 and of suggestions made by Member Governments and organizations which had been asked to supply information. He suggested that the meeting should be suspended for a few minutes to enable members to study the provisional agenda and consult together, if necessary.

The meeting was suspended for ten minutes.

The meeting having been resumed, Mr. SIMONPIETRI (Pan American Institute of Geography and History) proposed that the provisional agenda should be adopted, subject to review at a later stage.

Mr. WRIGHT (American Congress on Surveying and Mapping) seconded the proposal.

Subject to a later review, the agenda was unanimously adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. WRIGHT (American Congress on Surveying and Mapping) wondered whether the Committee planned to work as a composite body on all the items on the agenda or whether the members proposed to appoint small working groups to deal with each item.

Mr. SCHERMERHORN pointed out that the Committee's task had not yet been clearly defined. The scope of its work would be discussed when the final agenda was adopted. He thought, therefore, that the question raised by Mr. Wright could be deferred for decision until that time.

Mr. BROWN supported that point of view. After item three of the agenda had been reviewed, the Committee could study the resolution of the Council and thus clearly define the task before it. A decision could then be taken on the rest of the agenda, as well as on the procedure the Committee wished to follow in its work.

Mr. SIMONPIETRI (Pan American Institute of Geography and History) agreed that at that stage of its work, the Committee's procedure should be kept as fluid as possible.

The CHAIRMAN stated that while there was no direct connexion between the Committee and scientific societies or organizations of the United States Government, he nevertheless wished to point out that in the United States since 1945 discussions on cartography had given rise to the question of what the United Nations and other world-wide organizations could and should do in order to reap the best advantages from available cartographic services as well as to speed up the surveying and mapping of the world. During the course of those discussions the wisdom of calling a meeting of experts in the field of cartography had become apparent.

The Chairman stressed the fact that the Committee of Experts which had been convened was approaching its task without any preconceived ideas on what the outcome of its deliberations would be. As the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Social Affairs had pointed out, its recommendations could embrace the far-flung horizons of the future as well as the narrower problems of the present.

In reply to a question from Mr. Boggs, the Chairman added that it seemed preferable for the Committee to acquaint itself with the documents at its disposal before hearing the remarks of the representatives of the specialized agencies or other organizations.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.