

## Report by Hervé Alphand (Paris, 13 July 1947)

**Caption:** On 13 July 1947, during the Paris Conference on European Economic Cooperation, the French diplomat Hervé Alphand submits the initial report of the Committee for European Economic Cooperation (CEEC) and expresses his satisfaction with the spirit of solidarity which motivates the representatives of the 16 participating states.

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## Report presented to the Conference by Mr. Hervé Alphand, Chairman of the Working Committee (Paris, 13 July 1947)

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

As Chairman of the Working Committee, I am called upon to submit to you a first report on the work of that body.

The Working Committee met yesterday at 12.30 p.m. and in the afternoon from 4 to 9 p.m. This morning it had a further meeting from 12 to 1.15 p.m.

It submits to the Conference the following proposals:

1. The appointment of Mr. Bouchinet-Serreules as Secretary-General.
2. A draft organization with draft rules attached.

Pursuant to the discussions in our Committee, various changes, some of them important, have been made in the text of the Franco-British draft accompanying the invitations of July 4th. I would like to mention here the principal amendments, the object of all which is to constitute our organization on democratic and really efficient lines.

(1) At the suggestion of certain Delegations, that of Turkey in particular, and on the proposal of the French Delegation, the Co-operation Committee, which is instructed to establish the report on the availabilities and requirements of Europe, will not be composed of a limited number of Governments, but of Delegations of all Member States.

Moreover, other European States, which are not taking part in this Conference and which may express a desire to collaborate with us, may at any moment be admitted to sit on the Co-operation Committee. Thus, our door remains open to all the countries of Europe.

As pointed out by the Swiss Delegate, the Co-operation Committee, by becoming in this way universal, would take the place of the Conference.

(2) For the accomplishment of its daily task, the Co-operation Committee will avail itself of the services of an Executive Committee composed of some States. It seemed in fact necessary that, according to the directions and under the authority of the Co-operation Committee, a smaller body should be instructed to conduct the daily business of the organization.

(3) The Belgian Delegation, seconded by the Delegation of the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, have emphasized the necessity of making our Organization as flexible as possible and of not confining ourselves in a too rigid framework. It is true that we cannot as yet visualize in detail what tasks our Organization will have to accomplish. Certain necessities may arise in the course of our work and this why it seemed indicated to insert in the Draft Organization a Paragraph 9 as follows:

“If indicated in the course of its work, the Co-operation Committee shall be empowered to make necessary changes in the said Organization”.

(4) In the same spirit, some of our colleagues have argued that the competence of the Four Technical Committees working under the Committee of Co-operation should not be unduly restricted. The Greek Delegate, supported by the French Delegation, has illustrated the major importance of studying rehabilitation problems. The Italian Delegate has called for special attention to the problem of labour. It has

been recognized that the Committee of Co-operation and the Four Technical Committees with their Sub-Committees may Include Rehabilitation and Labour problems in their programme without it being necessary to modify the draft submitted for your approval.

(5) As proposed by the Swedish Delegate, the relations between the Organization, on the one hand, and the United Nations Organization, the latter's specialized agencies, and existing intergovernmental organizations, on the other hand, have been defined in Paragraph 8 of the Draft Organization, which reads as follows:

“This organization in the accomplishment of its task shall maintain close relations with the United Nations Organizations and its specialized agencies and with the existing intergovernmental economic organizations, in order to avoid any overlapping and to make the best possible use of the studies undertaken by the organizations in question”.

(6) On the proposal of the Netherlands Delegation, Paragraph 1 of the Proposal should read as follows:

“A Co-operation Committee shall be established, whose functions shall consist of preparing a report concerning European availabilities and requirements on the basis of a period of four years”.

The object of this alteration to the original text is to show clearly that, in certain cases, estimates covering such a protracted period as four years will not be possible.

(7) It was made clear, in the course of the discussions, that the information provided by the Technical Committees and by the Committee of Co-operation should be drafted in consultation with each of the Governments concerned and, furthermore, that the Organization should not attempt to instigate the modification of commercial treaties without the consent of the Governments concerned.

In concluding this first report, may I emphasize the spirit in which our deliberations have been conducted. In a very few hours, we have been able to obtain the unanimous agreement on every point of all the Governments represented. This, I think, bids well for the future. It will now be for the Working Committee to provide you in its future reports, with proposals on the composition of the Executive Committee and of the Technical Committees provided for in the Draft Organization.

Paris  
Quay d'Orsay  
13th July 1947.