
REVISION OF U. N. CHARTER

JULY 16 (legislative day, JULY 6), 1953.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WILEY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 126, as amended]

The Committee on Foreign Relations having had under consideration Senate Resolution 126 authorizing the Committee on Foreign Relations, or a subcommittee thereof, in conjunction with two Senators not members of the committee, to make a full and complete study of proposals to amend or revise the United Nations Charter, reports the resolution favorably, with amendments, and recommends that it be approved.

GENERAL PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION

Article 109 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that if a conference is not held to review the charter prior to "the 10th annual session of the General Assembly, a proposal to call" a conference for that purpose "shall be placed on the agenda of" the 10th "session of the General Assembly * * *." The 10th annual session of the General Assembly will be held in 1955. This resolution would authorize the Foreign Relations Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, with equal representation from the two major political parties, to study—proposals to amend, revise, or otherwise modify or change existing international peace and security organizations, for the purpose of guiding the Senate in the fulfillment of its responsibility * * * to advise the President with respect to the foreign policy of the United States, and particularly with reference to the policy of the United States at the General Conference of the United Nations for review of the charter * * *.

Provision is made for two Members of the Senate who are not on the Foreign Relations Committee to participate in the study, thus broadening the base of Senate representation in the study.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The pending resolution was introduced by Senator Gillette on June 30, 1953. The Foreign Relations Committee asked the Department of State to give it the benefit of its comments on the resolution. On July 16, 1953, Assistant Secretary of State Morton informed the committee that "the proposed study by the Committee on Foreign Relations would materially facilitate the task confronting the Department." The Department also expressed the belief "that such a study could result in a wholly constructive airing of the many problems connected with charter review, and could be of value in informing not only the Senate, but the executive branch as well, of the views of the American people."

The full letter follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 16, 1953.

HON. ALEXANDER WILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR WILEY: The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of July 1, 1953, requesting the Department's comments on Senate Resolution 126 introduced by Senator Gillette on June 30 providing for a study of proposals for modification of existing international peace and security organizations.

The Department of State welcomes the initiative of Senator Gillette in focusing attention on the vital question of review of the United Nations Charter. We believe that such a study could result in a wholly constructive airing of the many problems connected with charter review, and could be of value in informing not only the Senate, but the executive branch as well, of the views of the American people.

As stated in the preamble of Senate Resolution 126, "the development of an official United States position toward the question of charter review and toward the many individual issues involved, will require careful and detailed preparation within the Government, including official studies, advice from Members of Congress, and private discussions with other governments, as well as full opportunity for the public to inform itself regarding the problems involved, and to express its views."

The Department is actively examining this question to determine the organization of its own preparations and of assisting the process of public debate. Whatever time schedule and consultative arrangements emerge from our examination, it is still of first importance, in our judgment, for the issues to be given serious and thoughtful consideration before official positions are formulated. The proposed study by the Committee on Foreign Relations would materially facilitate the task confronting the Department.

Sincerely yours,

THRUSTON B. MORTON,
Assistant Secretary.

On July 16, 1953, the Foreign Relations Committee considered the pending resolution and after proposing certain amendments thereto ordered it reported favorably to the Senate.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendment to section 1 specifies that if a subcommittee is chosen to make the study it shall consist of six members to be chosen from the Committee on Foreign Relations and provides that the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations is to serve as the chairman of such subcommittee. The language also specifies that membership of the subcommittee is to be equal as between the two major political parties.

The amendment to section 2 is designed to make it clear that the subcommittee is to submit its report to the Senate through the Committee on Foreign Relations which is to "transmit" the report to that body. This section, as amended, would authorize the Foreign Relations Committee to add such recommendations as it may wish to make to the report of the subcommittee.

The amendment of section 3 increases the amount authorized for expenditure by the subcommittee from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and makes it possible for the chairman of the full Foreign Relations Committee or the subcommittee, or a duly designated chairman acting in his place, to sign vouchers to be honored from the contingent fund of the Senate.

NEED FOR THIS STUDY

It will be recalled that during World War II a subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate was in frequent and close consultation with the Department of State in drafting proposals for a postwar international organization. The work of that subcommittee has been referred to favorably upon numerous occasions and the advice it was able to give the executive branch of the Government during the negotiations leading up to the drafting of the United Nations Charter was undoubtedly instrumental in making it possible to develop an instrument which received such widespread support from the American people.

It seems essential to the Committee on Foreign Relations that since revision of the United Nations Charter is to be studied by the United Nations in the near future steps should be taken now to encourage Americans to give careful thought and study to what changes, if any, it would be suitable for the United States Government to suggest. It is the thought of the committee that most of the study authorized by the pending resolution would be conducted by the subcommittee which would hold extensive hearings so that all Americans with suggestions to make regarding American participation in international organizations would have an opportunity to be heard. In this connection consideration might well be given to the possibility of holding some hearings outside of Washington so that a cross section of the American people would have a chance to present their views.

THE COST OF THE STUDY

The committee considered that this resolution was so important to the future of this country that the amount authorized for expenditure by the subcommittee should be increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Moreover, the sum authorized is to cover a period of 1½ years.

The committee contemplates that the subcommittee should make full use of existing Government agencies in collecting information that would be helpful to it and it hopes that the subcommittee would be able to make use of the facilities of the Library of Congress in this connection. The committee also expresses the hope that private research organizations will cooperate with the subcommittee as it carries on its work.

Since it seems desirable to begin the study of this matter as soon as possible, the committee urges that the Senate approve this resolution prior to adjournment.

