

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, Havana, Cuba, November 21, 1947-March 24, 1948

This early conference of the United Nations had the key objective of expanding international production, trade and consumption of goods. The expected result from the Conference was to establish an International Trade Organization. The Conference was attended by representatives of 56 governments.

### Exhibit Focus

This exhibit documents the postal history of the Havana Conference, including a look at events preceding and following it.

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### History

1. The UN Economic and Social Council established a Preparatory Committee on Feb. 18, 1946. The First Session of the Preparatory Committee was held in London Oct. 15-Nov. 26, 1946. No postal history is known for this session.
2. The Second Session of the Preparatory Committee was held in Geneva Apr. 19 to Aug. 22, 1947. Postal history for this session is shown on Pages 1 and 2 of this exhibit.
3. The Conference was held in Havana, Cuba Nov. 21, 1947 to March 24, 1948. The Havana Charter was signed by representatives of 53 governments. Postal history of the Conference is shown on Pages 3-11 of the exhibit.
4. An Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO) was established and held its First session in Havana on March 23, 1948. It held its Second Session in Geneva in Aug.-Sept. 1948. See Page 12.
5. The International Trade Organization never came into existence since there were insufficient ratifications of the Charter.
6. Prior to and during the Conference, numerous bilateral and multilateral trade agreements were reached. The aggregate of these became the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Contracting Parties (CP) to GATT held its First Session in Havana Feb. 28-Mar. 24, 1948.



**From Chinese Delegation to Preparatory Commission, to USA.  
Postmarked Geneve Office des Ambulants (Travelling Post Office), Oct. 24, 1947  
Franking: 70 centimes-Air Mail to USA**

### Special Features of the Exhibit (highlighted in Dark Blue)

1. Corner Card cover from Chinese Delegation to Preparatory Committee. *Only one recorded.*
2. Registered cover sent from Salonika, Greece on Mar. 2, 1947. Sent from Chinese representative to the UN Commission on Greek Frontier Incidents to the *Chinese Delegate to the Preparatory Committee.* *Only one recorded.*
3. Post card to Dutch Guyana with a *two-line Conference cachet* different from box cachet used on covers. *Only two recorded.*
4. *Penalty Conference corner card* cover to Switzerland
5. *Special Corner Card Cover for the Netherlands Delegation*, located in the Poliomyelitis Hospital.
6. *Two line cachet for Australian Delegation* on cover to the European Office of the UN.
7. *Western Union Meters with Conference slogans from both post offices.* One to Brazil, where meter was "cancelled" by the Conference postmark and a *Conference Registry Imprint* and Cachet were applied.
8. Registered UN-Lake Success CC cover postmarked with *Conference cancel with initials "S.P.C."*. *Only four examples known from Post Office No. 1.*
9. Cover to France postmarked with *Conference cancel with the initials "S.E.E."* Mailed to France. *Only three examples known.*
10. Cover to Brazzaville, French Congo using special *Conference envelope with embossed UN Emblem on back flap.*
11. ICITO Covers with ICITO Corner Card and Origin Cachets CONF.5 and ICITO.