



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Fourth session
28 May 1951
Item 15 of the agenda

TRAFFIC REGULATION ON THE INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

Item proposed by the Government of the United States of America for the agenda of the fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America

The Executive Secretary herewith brings the following to the attention of the Governments Members of the Economic Commission for Latin America:

1. Note dated 10 May 1951, addressed to the Executive Secretary from the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Government of Chile, informing the Executive-Secretary of the proposal of the United States Government that there be added to the agenda for the fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America an item entitled "Traffic Regulation on the Inter-American Highway".
2. Draft resolution proposed by the Government of the United States of America entitled "Traffic Regulation on the Inter-American Highway".

1. NOTE DATED 10 MAY 1951, ADDRESSED TO THE EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY
FROM THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
GOVERNMENT OF CHILE

"The Ambassador of the United States of America presents his compliments to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and has the honor to inform him that the Government of the United States now proposes that there be added to the Agenda for the Fourth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America an item to be entitled "Traffic Regulation on the Inter-American Highway".

In support of this proposal that this additional item be placed on the Agenda for the Fourth Session, the Government of the United States desires to bring the following to the attention of the Executive Secretary:

It is important to start consideration of various aspects of international traffic on the Inter-American Highway prior to the opening of the first 2500 mile section from the US-Mexican border through Nicaragua, now forecast for some time in 1952, as well as other sections of the Pan American Highway system. In order to facilitate such traffic, certain basic inter-governmental agreements on traffic will be necessary.

The Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic of 1943 has been ratified by numerous nations of the western hemisphere but has been recognized as needing revision in the light

/of post-war

of post-war conditions and practices in the field of highway traffic. Such revision has been accomplished in the world Convention on Road Traffic negotiated under UN auspices in 1949 which covers basic aspects of international traffic, including reciprocal recognition of vehicle and driver documents, rules of the road, equipment requirements, regulations on dimensions and weights of motor vehicles, and other pertinent matters. Printed copies of the Convention have been sent by the UN Secretariat to all member nations, and contain complete texts in English, French and Spanish.

The UN Economic and Social Council, at its Eleventh Session in July 1950, adopted a resolution drawing the attention of governments to the desirability of ratifying the Convention on Road Traffic at an early date. The Inter-American Federation of Automobile Clubs, at its Tenth Assembly in Santiago, Chile in 1950, recommended that "member clubs obtain and negotiate before their respective governments the signature and ratification of the Geneva Convention" of 1949. The United States ratified the Convention in August 1950.

It is recognized that the Organization of American States is also concerned with this problem.

In the hope that it may be possible to add this new item to the Agenda, the Government of the United States desires to submit to the Executive Secretary a draft resolution on the subject, copy of which is attached.

Enclosure:

Copy of Draft Resolution
Santiago, 10 May 1951

/2. DRAFT

2. DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

"TRAFFIC REGULATION ON THE INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

CONSIDERING that a considerable portion of the Inter-American Highway comprising a stretch of 2500 miles from the United States through Nicaragua, may be open to through traffic by the end of 1952; and

CONSIDERING that a substantial volume of motor vehicle traffic may be expected to develop promptly on this Highway, as well as on other sections of the Pan American Highway system, to the benefit of all the countries traversed; and

CONSIDERING that for the sound and efficient development of this traffic, international agreement is necessary governing its regulation; and

CONSIDERING that such matters as reciprocal recognition of vehicle and driver documents, maximum permissible dimensions and weights of motor vehicles, safety equipment requirements, and rules of the road are already covered by the Road Traffic Convention of 1949 negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations;

DRAWS THE ATTENTION of Member Governments to the importance of this question and to the desirability of ratifying the Convention on Road Traffic of 1949 at an early date."