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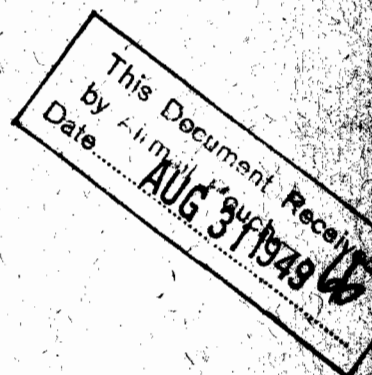
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

(TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS)

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. Transport in Latin America



The Economic Commission for Latin America at its First Session adopted the following Resolution:

"THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

TAKING NOTE that the problems of transport affecting Latin America are of exceptional importance for the economic development of the region and that these problems have already been considered in part by the Transport and Communications Commission and that a report prepared by that body (document E/CN.2/35) will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its Seventh Session in July 1948;

CONSIDERING that more study of these problems, including among others the question of fair freight rates for the foreign trade of the countries of Latin America, is needed;

RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council that the Transport and Communications Commission be requested to make a further study, including freight rates affecting Latin America, in order to facilitate
/consideration

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consideration of these matters as soon as possible
by the Economic Commission for Latin America."

The Economic and Social Council at its Seventh Session considered ECLA resolution together with the Report of the Second Session of the Transport and Communications Commission and adopted the following resolution (147 (VII)) which in part pertaining to Transport in Latin America, reads:

"D

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered resolution 5 of the Transport and Communications Commission and the resolution of the Economic Commission for Latin America on transport and communications,

Recognized that the question of inland transport should be studied by the Economic Commission for Latin America with appropriate assistance from the Transport and Communications Commission;

Notes that the Economic Commission for Latin America at its first session instructed the Executive Secretary to prepare an economic survey on Latin America, and recommended that the Transport and Communications Commission be requested to make a further study of transport problems including freight rates affecting Latin America, in order to facilitate consideration of these matters as soon as possible by the Economic Commission for Latin America;

Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the survey, to give particular attention to problems of transport, and in so doing to take into account

/the previous

the previous experience of other regional commissions; and

Requests the Transport and Communications Commission to make further study of problems of maritime shipping, including freight rates, affecting Latin America, in order to facilitate consideration of these matters as soon as possible by the Economic Commission for Latin America.

The Transport and Communications Commission at its Third Session held from 21 to 30 March 1949 adopted a report which will be considered at the Ninth Session of the Economic and Social Council. This Report in part pertaining to transport in Latin America, reads as following:

V TRANSPORT IN LATIN AMERICA

The Commission noted on the basis of a report by the Secretariat (E/CN.2/50) that the Economic and Social Council, after considering a recommendation by the Commission at its second session and a recommendation by the Economic Commission for Latin America adopted at the first session of the latter, on 28 August 1948 adopted a resolution concerning Transport in Latin America. With respect to inland transport, the Transport and Communications Commission had recommended that the Council refer to ECLA the consideration of the means best suited to promote the solution of problems in the field of inland transport in Latin America. The Council in its resolution recognized that this question should be studied by ECLA with appropriate assistance from the Transport and Communications Commission. The Commission would therefore await a request

/from ECLA

from ECLA for assistance.

The Council, in accordance with the recommendation by ECLA, requested the Transport and Communications Commission to make a further study of the problems of maritime shipping, including freight rates, affecting Latin America, in order to facilitate consideration of these matters as soon as possible in ECLA.

The Commission on the basis of the extracts from the discussions of the latter question during the first session of ECLA and during the seventh session of the Economic and Social Council contained in the report of the Secretariat, came to the conclusion that the nature and details of the problem had not been sufficiently brought out and that therefore the Commission was unable to consider in what manner the problem should be dealt with. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

Resolution 3

PROBLEMS OF MARITIME SHIPPING AFFECTING
LATIN AMERICA

The Transport and Communications Commission.

With reference to the request from the Economic and Social Council to make a further study of problems of maritime shipping, including freight rates, affecting Latin America (resolution 147 (VII) D.),

Considering that the information at present available to the Commission does not constitute a sufficient basis for the examination of the matter,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council

/to instruct

to instruct the Secretary-General

1. To request either directly from the Governments of the Latin American countries, or through the intermediary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the precise views of these Governments on the matter, which would enable the Commission to determine the elements of the problem;
2. To communicate the extracts of the summary records of the Commission's discussion concerning this problem to the above-mentioned Governments;
3. On the basis of the replies of the Governments to collect any further relevant information;
4. To forward the views of the Governments and such information as the Secretary-General may have collected to the Commission in order to enable the Commission at its next session to consider in what manner the problem can best be dealt with."

The Executive Secretary of ECLA was not able within the limits of its present resources to undertake a special study on transportation in Latin America. However the data which the Executive Secretary collected from the member Governments have been presented in the chapter six of the Economic Survey (E/CN.12/82) with a brief discussion pointing out some of the major problems involved.

The Commission at its Second Session may wish:

- (1) To take note of the chapter six of the Economic Survey of Latin America and express the hope that, within
/the limits of

the limits of resources available, the Executive Secretary in due course will be in a position to obtain the services of economic and technical experts in the field of transportation, in order to undertake an extensive study of these serious problems.

(2) To note action taken by the Transport and Communications Commission at its Third Session on transport in Latin America and welcome in particular its resolution on Problems of Maritime Shipping affecting Latin America (document E/CN.2/65/Rev.1, pp. 11-13).

(3) To express the hope that the Economic and Social Council at its Ninth Session will take appropriate action on the above recommendation of the Transport and Communications Commission requesting the Secretary General of the United Nations to undertake the suggested studies.

II - INTERNATIONAL ROAD AND MOTOR CONFERENCE

The Economic and Social Council at its Seventh Session adopted resolution 147 (VII) B on International Road and Motor Conference. This resolution reads as follows:

"B

The Economic and Social Council

Instructs the Secretary-General:

1) To convene a Conference of Governments, not later than August 1949, with the object of concluding a new world-wide Convention on Road and Motor Transport, the two world-wide Conventions of 1926, namely:

- (a) International Convention relating to Road Traffic;
- (b) International Convention relating to Motor Traffic;

/and the subsequent

and the subsequent Convention of 1931 on the Unification of Road Signals, being obsolete. The draft text of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, resulting from a study by this Committee, and the text of the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic, inter alia, will serve as working-papers for the Conference;

2) To request the Economic Commission for Europe to have the draft text referred to above completed and forwarded to the Secretary-General as soon as practicable;

3) To invite the other regional commissions to submit any reports which they may desire on this subject;

4) To circulate the above-mentioned texts to all the Governments invited to the Conference;

5) To draw up a provisional agenda for the Conference;

6) (a) To invite to participate in the Conference all States Members of the United Nations at the time of the convening of the Conference, and also the States not members of the United Nations which were invited to participate in the United Nations Maritime Conference; and

(b) To request the Governments of the States invited to give their delegates full powers to sign, subject to ratification, such Convention as may be concluded at the Conference;

7) To invite the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in this field, as may be appropriate, to send observers to the Conference;

Decides that the right to vote at the Conference may be exercised by all States Members of the United Nations and those States not Members which are invited under paragraph 6 (a) above, and which are parties to any of the Conventions cited in paragraph I above."

/This resolution

This resolution authorises the Secretary-General to convene a world-wide conference of governments on road and motor transport not later than August 1949. The conference will convene in Geneva on 23 August 1949.

The purpose of this conference is to conclude a new world-wide convention to replace certain pre-war conventions which are now obsolete. The Council, in adopting the resolution, accepted the recommendation of the Transport and Communications Commission that in revising the conventions in question on a world-wide basis, the work being done regionally should be used and brought into harmony. It consequently decided that a draft text which is being prepared by the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, and the text of the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic will, inter alia, serve as working papers for the conference.

At the same time it should be observed that in paragraph (iii) of the resolution the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the regional commissions to submit any reports which they might desire on this subject.

In this connection the Commission at its Second Session may wish to consider the following draft resolution:

"The attention of the Economic Commission for Latin America, having been drawn to the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 28 August, No. 147 (VII)B instructing the Secretary-General to convene a world Conference on Road and Motor Transport not later than August 1949,

/THE COMMISSION NOTES

THE COMMISSION NOTES

1. That the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic signed at Washington in 1943, and a draft text for a convention prepared by the Inland Transport Committee of the ECE inter alia are to serve as working papers of the Conference;

2. that Regional Commission were invited by the Council to submit to the Secretary-General for circulation to the Governments any reports they might desire on the subject matter of the Conference;

THE COMMISSION DECIDES

1. not to submit any report to the Secretary-General for circulation to the Governments invited to the Conference; but rather

2. to draw the attention of the Members of the Commission to the desirability of taking as active a part as possible in the world Conference and of submitting directly to the Secretary-General their comments on the working papers for the Conference which have been circulated to them by the Secretary-General."

III - OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO
REGIONAL ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

The Economic and Social Council also adopted resolutions 147 (VII) E and 147 (VII) I, which pertain to regional aspects of transportation problems. These resolutions read as follows:

/"E

"E

The Economic and Social Council

Draws the attention of the regional economic commissions to the advantages of permitting the participation, in the work of their meetings of experts in the field of inland transport, of experts from other regions when questions which might affect these latter regions are under consideration."

"I

The Economic and Social Council

Resolves:

1. That the short-term aspect, resulting from the war and postwar difficulties, of the problem of co-ordination of inland transport should be dealt with on a regional level, by regional transport bodies, where they exist, or by any other appropriate means;

2. That the Secretary-General prepare documentation for the Transport and Communications Commission, in accordance with the recommendation contained in resolution 12 adopted by the Commission;

That the long-term aspect of the problem should be further reviewed by the Commission at its next session on the basis of the documentation referred to under paragraph 2 above."

The Transport and Communications Commission at its Third Session also adopted a recommendation which has bearing on the regional approach to transportation problems pertaining to classification of inland transport. The chapter "XI

/Classification

Classification of Inland Transport" reads as follows:

"XI - CLASSIFICATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT

The Commission had before it a paper (document E/CN.2/61) prepared by the Secretariat discussing the use of the term "inland transport", in various international bodies. The question of the means of transport which should be understood by the term "inland transport" had arisen during the second session of the Transport and Communications Commission. The Secretariat had been instructed to bring the matter to the attention of the Commission at its third session.

The Commission was of the opinion that it would be desirable for practical purposes to arrive at an agreement on the fields of transport to be understood within the meaning of the term "inland transport", particularly with reference to avoiding overlapping and conflict of competence. However, although there was general agreement on the inclusion of certain means of transport in term "inland transport", namely rail, road and inland waterway transport, as well as pipelines, difficulty was encountered with respect to the inclusion of certain other means of transport, particularly seaports, coastal shipping, and aviation within continental limits. Some members held that the problem had not yet been sufficiently studied, and therefore were of the opinion that the question of a definition or classification in the field of inland
/transport

transport should be postponed to a later session.

Other members of the Commission felt that regional inland transport bodies should be able, when necessary, to consider in conjunction with inland transport matters problems in other fields than inland transport.

As a result of its discussions, the Commission came to the conclusion that a classification could usefully be made of the means of transport which unquestionably fall within the field of inland transport. It accordingly adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution 9

CLASSIFICATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT

The Transport and Communications Commission,

Noting the advantages of classification for purposes of clarity in discussion and study, and with a view to the avoidance of overlapping and conflict of competence,

Decides to classify as, within the field of inland transport:

rail

road

inland waterways

pipelines.

It being understood that this classification is not designed to preclude regional economic commissions of the United Nations from considering, if necessary, in conjunction with inland transport, problems in
/other fields

other fields of transport, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned within the framework of the agreements between these specialized agencies and the United Nations."

The Commission at its Second Session may wish to take note of the above recommendation and request the Executive Secretary to take them into account in connection with further studies of transportation in Latin America.

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