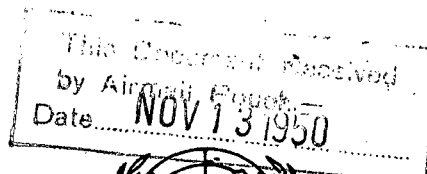


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GENERAL
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Transport and Communications: Decisions of the Transport
and Communications Commission of Interest to ECLA

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Transport and Communications Commission of the Economic and Social Council at its Fourth Session, held from 27 March to 4 April 1950, adopted a report to the Council containing discussions and recommendations concerning the following matters which are of particular interest to ECLA and in some instances to all regional economic commissions:

I. Problems of Maritime Shipping Affecting Latin America

At the Second Session of ECLA it was recalled (document E/CN.12/119) that the Commission at its First Session had recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the Transport and Communications Commission be asked to study problems of maritime shipping affecting Latin America with particular reference to freight rates (document E/840). The Council at its Seventh Session, July-August 1948, in Resolution 145 (VII) referred the matter to the Transport and Communications Commission. The latter at its Third Session, March 1949, found that it did not have sufficient information at its

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disposal to enable it to consider the question and recommended to the Council that an enquiry be sent to the Latin American Governments requesting from them their precise views on the problem of maritime shipping, including freight rates affecting Latin America, so as to enable the Commission to determine the elements of the problem (document E/1311). The Council at its Ninth Session, July-August 1949, adopted the following resolution (227D IX):

"The Economic and Social Council

Instructs the Secretary-General:

1. To request from the Governments of the Latin American countries their precise views on the problems of maritime shipping, including freight rates, affecting Latin America, and to obtain whatever information may have been already collected by the Economic Commission for Latin America, which would enable the Transport and Communications Commission to determine the elements of the question;
2. To communicate the extracts of the summary records of the Transport and Communications Commission's discussions concerning this question to the above-mentioned Governments;
3. On the basis of the replies from Governments, to collect any further relevant information; and
4. To forward the views of the Government and such information as the Secretary-General may have collected to the Transport and Communications Commission, in order to enable the Commission at its next session to consider in what manner the question can best be dealt with."

/The Secretary-

The Secretary-General, in accordance with his instructions, forwarded an enquiry to the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and Ecuador respectively. However, only two replies had been received from the Republic of Cuba and Ecuador respectively. The Communications Commission held its 1983 session and had before it a report (document E/CN.2/83/Add.1) which contains the replies of these Governments and in addition a report on inter-governmental cooperation in the field of communications.

The following resolution was accordingly adopted:

Resolution 4

PROBLEMS OF MARITIME SHIPPING AFFECTING LATIN AMERICA.

The Transport and Communications Commission,

Taking into consideration the fact that at its third session it was of the view that the information available to the Commission did not constitute a sufficient basis for the examination of the problems of maritime shipping, including freight rates affecting Latin America,

Having examined the report by the Secretary-General on this matter (E/CN.2/83 and Corr.1, 2 and 3, E/CN.2/83/Add.1), prepared in pursuance of the Economic and Social Council's resolution 227 D(IX),

Noting that the Commission has not been supplied with the precise views of the Governments of the Latin-American countries on the problem, as requested in the Council's resolution,

Concludes that it has no basis for the fruitful examination of the matter; and

Resolves to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to its view that the subject "Problems of Maritime Shipping affecting Latin America" should be withdrawn from the agenda of the Commission, and its examination, where appropriate, left to other competent bodies, such, for instance, as the Economic Commission for Latin America or some other

/appropriate American

appropriate American inter-governmental organization."

The Commission also recommended the following draft Resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its Eleventh Session in July-August 1950:

" PROBLEMS OF MARITIME SHIPPING AFFECTING
LATIN AMERICA

The Economic and Social Council.

Taking account of the view of the Transport and Communications Commission expressed in resolution 6 that "the subject 'Problems of Maritime Shipping affecting Latin America' should be withdrawn from the agenda of the Transport and Communications Commission, and its examination, where appropriate, left to other competent bodies",

Endorses this view."

II. Co-ordination of Inland Transport

ECLA was informed at its Second Session (document E/CN.12/119) that the Economic and Social Council at its Seventh Session, July-August 1948, on the recommendation of the Transport and Communications Commission, had adopted Resolution 147 I(VII) on the subject of the co-ordination of inland transport in which it stated that (1) the short-term aspects resulting from the war and post-war difficulties of the problem of the co-ordination of inland transport

/should be

should be dealt with on a regional basis, (2) that the Secretary-General should prepare documentation for the Transport and Communications Commission, in accordance with the recommendation in Resolution 12 adopted by the Commission at its Second Session, April 1948; (3) that the long-term aspect of the problem should be further reviewed at its next session on the basis of the documentation referred to under paragraph (2). The documentation recommended in the Transport and Communications Commission's Resolution 12 was to take into account "results of the study by the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) and interalia such other pertinent information as the Secretariat may obtain from interested specialised agencies, United Nations regional commissions, or any other competent international body" (document E/789). The Commission at its Third Session, March 1949, had before it a report which contained the available information from international bodies and some information concerning activities in various countries. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a further report containing some additional information for the Fourth Session (document E/1311).

The Commission at its Fourth Session noted the report which had been prepared by the Secretary-General (document E/CN.2/69 and Corr.1) in which attention was drawn to two aspects of the study of the problem of co-ordination of inland transport which might require consideration; firstly, the different forms which the problem might take in economically developed and under-developed countries, that is, while the principle involved is the same in both cases the

/circumstances of

circumstances of its application are different; secondly that in approaching the problem of co-ordination internationally a distinction should be made between two questions, namely (a) the effect on international transport of national measures for the co-ordination of inland transport and (b) the co-ordination of inland transport on the international level.

The Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council, after noting the contents of the Secretary-General's report contained the following statement;

"Several members of the Commission analyzed the elements of the problem of co-ordination. Some members stated their opinion that the principle and goal were the same in all countries, namely, the most economic use of the various forms of transport. The conditions of application of the principle may vary from country to country and region to region. The relationship between the national and international treatment of the problem of co-ordination was discussed and the opinion was expressed that the problem on an international basis was in part that of harmonization of national co-ordination policies. The Director of the Transport Division of the ECE explained to the Commission the study which had been undertaken by the Inland Transport Committee of the ECE, and drew attention to two somewhat conflicting problems with which the Committee had been faced, the need for governments to arrive at national co-ordination policies and the need to avoid the adoption of any national policy which might make international co-ordination impossible.

/A number of

A number of the members of the Commission expressed the view that harmonization of national co-ordination policies should be undertaken on a regional level and that there should also be harmonization between regions. The member for the United Kingdom however felt that the international aspects of the problem were not wholly regional and that divergent regional solutions might hamper world trade by according different treatment to the transport of the same commodities. He would have preferred to have the Secretary-General now issue a questionnaire to governments on a world-wide basis, the replies to which should be analyzed by the Secretariat with the assistance of outside experts. He submitted a questionnaire which might be used as a guide in this connection (document E/CN.2/91). The Commission, however, did not feel that the Secretary-General should query governments at this time.

The Commission meanwhile heard the representative of the ILO state that the fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee of the ILO which will meet probably in the first half of 1951 has on its agenda an item concerning labour problems affecting the co-ordination of inland transport.

The Commission concluded its discussion and, with the exception of the Member for the United Kingdom, adopted the following resolution.

Resolution 8

CO-ORDINATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT

The Transport and Communications Commission

Takes Note of the Secretariat's report on the co-ordination of inland transport (document E/CN.2/69).

Requests the Secretariat

with respect to its treatment on the international and
national levels on the basis inter alia of

- (a) information from specialized international transport
bodies in the various fields of inland transport,
 - (b) information from regional economic commissions and other
regional bodies,
 - (c) information from other sources including national
regulations, laws, and decrees;
- (2) to report to the fifth session of the Transport and
Communications Commission concerning development, and to
recommend to the Commission whether, and in what form,
consultation with Governments should take place concerning
this problem; and

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it

- (1) request the regional economic commissions of the Council
which have not already done so to study the question of
the co-ordination of inland transport in their regions,
- (2) request the Secretary-General to arrange an exchange among
the various regional economic commissions of their studies
of the problem of co-ordination of inland transport."

The Commission also recommended the following draft Resolution
for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its Eleventh
Session in July-August 1950:

/CO-ORDINATION OF

" CO-ORDINATION OF INLAND TRANSPORT "

The Economic and Social Council

Requests the regional economic commissions which have not already done so to study the question of the co-ordination of inland transport in their regions, and

Instructs the Secretary-General to arrange an exchange among the various regional economic commissions of their studies of the problem of co-ordination of inland transport."

III. Other matters of interest to Regional Economic Commissions

The following statements from the Report of the Transport and Communications Commission on its fourth session also concern matters of interest to regional economic commissions.

Economic Development of Under-developed Countries

" The Commission heard a statement by the Chairman concerning resolution 268 (X) of the Economic and Social Council at its tenth session on the subject of the economic development of under-developed countries which expressed the hope that the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council would put forward specific recommendations concerning further international and national action to promote economic development of under-developed countries. The Chairman recalled that the Transport and Communications Commission had given serious consideration to the transport problems of economically less

/developed regions

developed regions and had met with a measure of success in promoting activities assigned to aid such regions. He referred to recommendations made at the first session for studies of regional organization in the field of inland transport in Asia and the Far East and in the Americas. This had been followed at the second session by a resolution recommending a meeting of inland transport experts of Asia and the Far East which had resulted in the ECAFE meeting of inland transport experts which met in October 1949 and which originated an extensive programme looking toward the development of inland transport in the region. Also at the second session a resolution had been adopted recommending that the question of inland transport problems in the Americas be studied by ECLA. At the same session the Commission had recommended the holding of a meeting of inland transport experts within the framework of the proposed Middle East Commission. The Economic and Social Council had postponed consideration of this recommendation along with that for the establishment of a Middle East Commission until 1951. Another recommendation of the Commission at its second session, that a study of inland transport organization in Africa should be undertaken, was not acted on by the Council."

b. Regional Organization in the Field of Inland Transport

" The Chairman drew the attention of the Transport and Communications Commission to the fact that a review of the position of the regional economic commissions is due to take place in 1951,

/with a view

with a view to the possible consequences of such a review for the inland transport committees as subsidiary bodies of these commissions.

Taking into consideration the great value the Commission has always attached to inland transport bodies with a regional sphere of activity—even before regional economic commissions were established—the Chairman, on behalf of the Commission, expressed confidence that the Commission would be consulted by the Economic and Social Council before any decision involving the future of inland transport bodies were taken."