

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.2/72/Add.1  
23 March 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Fourth session

Lake Success, New York

27 March 1950

Item 10 (c) of the provisional agenda

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INLAND TRANSPORT  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

ADDENDUM

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)

Decision of Economic and Social Council at its tenth session. Document E/CN.2/72 summarized the results of the ECAFE Meeting of Inland Transport Experts which was held in Singapore in October, 1949 and the action taken by ECAFE at its fifth session on the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts. The Economic and Social Council at its tenth session having noted a report by the Secretary-General concerning action arising out of resolutions of the fifth session of ECAFE (document E/1578) adopted resolution 270 (X) stating inter alia, that the Council "considers it important that the proposed expansion of activities in the field of inland transport and technical assistance be started without delay."

Meeting of railway transport experts. As stated in document E/CN.2/72 one of the short-term problems listed by the ECAFE Meeting of Inland Transport Experts was that of standardization of rolling stock with special regard to the pooling of orders. The first meeting of the Railway Transport Working Party was held 20 to 22 February 1950. Countries with meter gauge type of railway equipment had been invited. The meeting, which was attended by experts from India, Indo-China, Malaya and Thailand, after an extended discussion selected a limited number of items of equipment for technical study as to possibilities of standardization. A second meeting of railway experts is scheduled for April 1950.

/Other transport  
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Other transport meetings. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of Inland Transport Experts which ECAFE at its fifth session decided to convene is now tentatively scheduled for July 1950 or later. A first meeting of Road Transport Experts is also scheduled for April 1950 and a second meeting for the latter part of the year.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE): Ad Hoc Working Party on the Revision of the Berne Conventions.

Since document E/CN.2/72 was issued, the ECE Working Party on the Revision of the Berne Conventions has held its first session from 30 January to 3 February 1950. The Working Party had been established by the Sub-Commission on Rail Transport to study, in connexion with the revision of the Berne Conventions "the problems which call for a common attitude by Governments in the sphere of general policy."<sup>1/</sup> The following problems were discussed: liability of the railway; adaptation of the rail transport contract to new technical requirements; extension of the validity of CIM to other forms of transport; negotiability of way-bills; currency problems; tariff problems.<sup>2/</sup>

The Director of the Central Office for International Transport by Rail (Berne) informed the Working Party that the program of the Office with respect to the revision of the Berne Conventions provides for the convening of two conferences:

- (1) a special preparatory conference which would (a) fix a more flexible procedure for the revision of the provisions of the Berne Conventions, and its Annex, concerning privately owned wagons and similarly the international regulations for the transport of containers; (b) prepare the final draft of any amendments which might have to be made to the Berne Conventions in order to secure the accession of the United Kingdom or for taking a decision on the general principle underlying such accession, i.e., the insertion in the Conventions of special clauses concerning combined rail-sea-rail transport; (c) consider other questions concerning revision procedure, and in particular methods of ensuring that the users' interests might be represented during further revisions of the Berne Conventions; (This Conference has been convened for 8-13 May 1950);
- (2) a General Conference for the revision of the Berne Conventions to be convened about July 1951.

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<sup>1/</sup> Document E/ECE/TRANS/141, Restricted

<sup>2/</sup> Document E/ECE/TRANS/SC.2/45, Restricted