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BARRIERS TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS

Addendum to Note by the Secretary-General

Comments from the Czechoslovak Government on the recommendations of the International Chamber of Commerce* listed in document E/C.2/59 have been received after the fourth session of the Transport and Communications Commission. They are set out below.

Czechoslovakia

1. Reduction of the number of documents required in the international transport of goods.*

The Czechoslovak authorities concerned look favourably upon the proposals to limit the number of documents necessary for international transportation of goods, and suggest that only the following documents be required:

- (a) transportation document including manifest for maritime, air and road transportation.
- (b) uniform commercial invoice.
- (c) packing document.

Note: Model of Commercial Invoice is considered sufficient.

2. Abolition of consular invoices, sometimes called customs invoices, and certificates of origin as separate documents.*
3. Abolition of consular visas for commercial invoices as well as for manifests; abolition of commercial association certificates for invoices.*

* The sub-headings below that are marked with an asterisk have been added by the Secretariat from document E/C.2/59.

Czechoslovak customs authorities require neither consular invoices nor consular visas on invoices.

4. Abolition of the transit manifest by those countries requiring it.*
Maritime transportation - does not apply to Czechoslovakia.

6. Abolition of governmental regulations which require the shipper to attempt to classify his goods under specific sections of customs tariff laws of the importing country.*

Czechoslovak customs authorities do not require that foreign shipper lists in an accompanying document the goods shipped according to the nomenclature or the number of the Czechoslovak schedule of import duties. However, according to Czechoslovak customs regulations, the shipper is required to attach to a shipment an international customs declaration and enumerate the goods in accordance with the nomenclature currently used in trade.

7. The shipper to be exempt from furnishing indications of value other than those appearing in his contract.*

Czechoslovak Customs authorities do not require that the shipper submits any other descriptions in addition to those normally used in invoices.

8. Simplification of regulations regarding weights and measures in documents.*

Czechoslovak authorities approve of simplification of weights and measures which should be given in metric system.

9. Abolition of the obligation to place marks of origin on packaging used solely for carriage.*

Czechoslovak customs regulations do not require that marks of origin be placed on packaging used solely for carriage.

12. Simplification of all customs formalities. Granting of facilities for clearing of goods at inland offices or warehouses. Customs houses to be opened during traffic hours even at night; synchronization of office hours of customs houses on each side of the frontier.*

From the point of view of Czechoslovak customs regulations it is not only permitted but a point to be stressed that the importer turns the goods over to home customs authority for declaration. In some instances this can be even enforced.

Office hours of customs authorities are set with regard to the requirements of public transportation and are, in most instances, similar to those of shipping firms. Apart from this, frontier railroad customs authorities have to clear, regardless of office hours, livestock and goods liable to damage.

/When setting

When setting office hours of frontier road customs authorities, due attention is paid to those of neighbouring foreign customs authority.

According to Czechoslovak regulations, the shipper is entitled to request that his goods be cleared elsewhere than at the customs house, or after office hours. Such requests are in most instances complied with provided that the above facilitates the clearance, or provided that this is more convenient with respect to the kind of goods.

Czechoslovak customs regulations apply, therefore, to the requirements contained in the proposals of the International Chamber of Commerce.
