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STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

The statement reproduced below is transmitted
at the request of the International Union of
Official Travel Organisations.

governmental travel organisations and by important private firms of the travel industry.

It should also be pointed out that in the course of the year 1952, the International Institute of Scientific Travel Research was created under the aegis of the IUOTO. This Institute aims at establishing the scientific doctrine on which could be based future governmental and private travel promotion activities. One of the first research works undertaken by the Institute is a thorough and comprehensive study of the travel currents between Latin America and Europe. It should bear, among others, on the number of travellers, the areas and cities of their origin and destination, the income groups to which they belong, etc. This study is already well on its way.

As an example of the work carried out on a regional basis by the IUOTO, apart from the striking results already achieved by its European Travel Commission, mention should be made of its Asian and Far Eastern Travel Commission (AFETC). The IUOTO, which makes full use of its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, had been for some time in close connection with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East of the U.N. (ECAFE). Following these contacts, the wish was expressed by the ECAFE that the IUOTO should launch regional activities in this part of the world. The IUOTO then created its AFETC, and the ECAFE recommended that its members should join it. The AFETC started its

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activities last year, with the help of the ECAFE which sent an observer to its first meeting, and went to the point of handing over to the AFETC the whole of the travel promotion work that it had carried out until then. The AFETC set itself an important programme of action which is already being implemented.

An instance of the activities of the IUOTO in connection with its consultative status is the suggestion made jointly two years ago to the United Nations by the IUOTO and another international institution, the World Tourist and Automobile Organisation, suggestion which tended to the convening by the United Nations of an international conference for the conclusion of a world customs convention for tourism. The Economic and Social Council ordered a consultation of the governments on this point, following which the Transport and Communications Commission decided, in February 1953, to ask the Economic and Social Council to decide that this conference should be held in 1954. The World Touring and Automobile Organisation and the IUOTO had presented a draft customs convention together with their suggestion.

- IV. The IUOTO would be glad to be called upon by the Economic Commission for Latin America for its help in this region. It is ready and willing to bring to Latin America countries all the assistance in its power with a view to helping them to derive still greater benefits from tourist travel. The results that the IUOTO has been

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able to achieve in parts of the world where tourist travel is far less developed than in Latin America, give rise to the feeling that still better results could be achieved in this area, to the benefit of Latin America countries, both in the economic and social fields. In a limited sphere, the IUOTO has already sent some documentation to the ECLA.

The next annual Conference and General Assembly of the IUOTO will be held in Lisbon, in October 1953. An invitation to be represented at it will be sent to the Executive Secretariat of the ECLA, and the IUOTO would be gratified to enjoy at this Conference the presence of such a representative.

The IUOTO would be happy to bring its contribution to the remarkable work already carried out by the ECLA. It would also be happy to help bringing about, there as everywhere else in the world, the Fifth Freedom -- the Freedom of Movement.