

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

23 August 1949

Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda

THIRD INTER-AMERICAN TRAVEL CONGRESS

Resolutions Relative to Road and Motor Transport

Note by Secretary-General

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress, held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, from 15 to 24 February 1949, adopted inter alia several resolutions pertaining to road and motor transport which are of a general interest with regard to items 4 and 5 of the Provisional Agenda.

The text of these resolutions is herewith submitted as published in the Final Act of the Third Inter-American Travel Congress (Congress and Conference Series No. 57, Travel Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Pan-American Union, Washington, D.C.).

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CHAPTER I

GOVERNMENTAL ACTION

III

Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American
Automotive Traffic

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

1. To reiterate the desirability of having the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic (Washington, 1943) put into force throughout the American Continent as soon as possible, and of issuing the documents prescribed therein, for which purpose it recommends:
 - (a) That the Governments which have not yet signed or ratified the said Convention proceed to do so as soon as possible.
 - (b) That the American Governments which have not yet done so recognize the documents referred to in said Convention and the Libro de Pasos por Aduana (international customs pass) protected by the Contract of Guarantees of the F.I.A.C. (Federación Interamericana de Automóvil Clubs).
 - (c) That the said Governments grant their respective local automobile and touring organizations the authorization necessary to issue and accept the documents mentioned in the preceding item.
2. To recommend to the Governments of the American countries that when considering the new World Convention on Road Traffic to be signed in 1949 at the suggestion of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, they instruct their representatives to advocate the inclusion of a clause whereby ratification by a country of the new World Convention on Road Traffic (1949) would not entail denunciation of existing conventions between said country and the State or States that did not ratify the new 1949 Convention.
3. To likewise recommend to the said Governments that they advocate the inclusion in the proposed Convention (1949) of provisions similar to those contained in Article IX, fifth paragraph; Article XII, second paragraph; Article XIII, second paragraph; and Article XVIII of the Convention on the Regulations of Inter-American Automotive Traffic (Washington, 1943), whereby the distinctive international registration markers, as well as the international automobile certificate and the international driving license, issued under the aforesaid Convention will be considered as wholly in conformity with the requirements of the new Convention of 1949 and will be valid for international travel.

/4. To recommend

4. To recommend to the Inter-American Federation of Automobile Clubs (F.I.A.C.) that it try to reach an agreement with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (F.I.A.) and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (A.I.T.) for the purpose of combining into a single document the Carnet de Passage en Douane and the Libreta de Pasos por Aduanas (international customs pass) on the express condition that this **single** document may be printed and issued by the first of the above-named **organizations (F.I.A.C.)**.

XVII

International Recognition of Automobile Drivers' Licenses or Permits

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

To recommend to the 21 American republics and Canada that they take measures to the end that automobile driver's licenses or permits for tourists purposes issued by any American State enable the holders thereof to drive said vehicles in all the other States represented at this Congress, without prejudice to the provisions of the Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic signed at Washington in 1943.

CHAPTER VI

THE AUTOMOBILE AND THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY

I

Recognition of the Carnet de Passage en Douane and/or the Libreta de Pasos por Aduanas

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

1. That it would be gratifying if those countries that already recognize the Carnet de Passage en Douane and/or the Libreta de Pasos por Aduanas, would accept these documents even when the vehicle covered thereby enters the country by other means of transport than the one used by the holder of said document.
2. That it would be gratifying if the governments would give the public officials at frontier stations, tax receiver's offices, custom-houses, etc. appropriate instructions to permit the entry, without other requirements, of every vehicle covered by a Carnet de Passages en Douane or Libreta de Pasos por Aduanas valid for the respective country.
3. That it would be gratifying if the various countries would refrain from issuing regulations which, purporting to give greater effectiveness to measures intended to restrict or prohibit the permanent importation of automobiles, actually impose limitations on the use of the privileges accorded by the documents issued under international conventions signed by those countries.

IV

Uniform System of Highway Signs and Symbols in the American Continent

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

1. To recognize the expediency of adopting a single American system as regards forms, colours and symbols for highway signs throughout the continent.
2. To recommend that measures be taken immediately for the early adoption of a system that satisfactorily solves the problem of indicating "dangers" and "right of way".
3. To recommend that the standards set forth in the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices", (edition of January, 1947) which refers to this matter, be adopted as a basis for the decision on road signs.

/4. As regards

4. As regards other signs of "direction", "prohibition", and "information", it is deemed that, since their uniformity in all countries is not fundamental, the various types now in use might continue to be used as desired; nevertheless, it is recommended that the standards and explanations contained in the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (January 1947 edition) be followed.

5. To recommend to the 21 American republics and Canada that the foregoing points be borne in mind at the time of the revision of the Paris Convention of 1926 and the Geneva Convention of 1931 relating to standards and types of road signs.

6. To request that a copy of this Resolution be sent through the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Travel Congresses to the Organising Committee of the next Pan American Highway Congress and to the General Secretariat of the United Nations.

V

Unification of basic traffic Standards in the American Countries

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

To request the Organisation of American States to call a meeting of traffic directors of the 21 American republics and Canada for the purpose of framing a draft convention intended to standardize the following throughout the continent:

- (a) The basic traffic regulations
- (b) The signs or instructions used by those responsible for directing traffic.

IX

Recommendation on a Free Export and Introduction of Automobiles in Tourist Travel and their Circulation in the American Countries

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

To recommend to the 21 American republics and Canada that, on their own initiative or through bilateral agreements, with a view to reaching a multilateral agreement as soon as possible, they permit tourists the free exportation and importation of their automobiles and the circulation of same for a period of 180 days, after which, if the period is not extended, tourists shall be obliged either to withdraw their automobiles or submit to respective provisions of the laws of the country in question.

X

Insurance Policies for Autos in
International Travel

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress

RESOLVES

To recommend to the automobile and touring associations of the continent that they take up with the insurance companies of their respective countries the matter of issuing policies covering tourists' automobiles to be valid for trips also taken outside the local area of jurisdiction of the insurance companies; and that they endeavour to have the latter sign agreements permitting the extension of this benefit on a reciprocal basis and at the most reasonable cost possible.
