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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND  
MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

23 August 1949

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**MEMORANDUM COMPARING TEXTS OF THREE**  
**CONVENTIONS TO BE REVISED**  
**AND WORKING PAPERS**  
**I AND II**

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PART I - INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Council in resolution 147 (VII) adopted on 28 August 1948 instructed the Secretary-General:

"1. To convene a Conference of Governments, not later than August 1949, with the object of concluding a new world-wide Convention on Road and Motor Transport, the two world-wide Conventions of 1926, namely:

- (a) International Convention relating to Road Traffic;
- (b) International Convention relating to Motor Traffic, and the subsequent Convention of 1931 on the Unification of Road Signals, being obsolete. The draft text of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, resulting from a study by this Committee, and the text of the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic, inter alia, will serve as working-papers for the Conference;"

The purpose of the present paper is to compare the texts of the three conventions to be revised by the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport with the two Working Papers specifically mentioned by the Council. The five texts compared in the present paper are thus:

1. International Convention Relative to Motor Traffic, signed at Paris, 24 April 1926.<sup>1/</sup> This will in the present paper be referred to as "Motor Traffic Convention of 1926". For the list of ratifications of this Convention see Annex B.
2. International Convention Relating to Road Traffic, signed at Paris, 24 April 1926.<sup>2/</sup> This will in the present paper be referred to as "Road Traffic Convention of 1926". For the list of ratifications of this Convention see Annex B.
3. Convention Concerning the Unification of Road Signals, signed at Geneva, 30 March 1931.<sup>3/</sup> This will in the present paper be referred to as "Signals Convention of 1931". For the list of ratifications of this Convention see Annex B.
4. United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport, Working Paper I: Draft Provisions for Insertion in a Convention on Road and Motor Transport Prepared by the Inland Transport

<sup>1/</sup> League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CVIII, No. 2505.

<sup>2/</sup> League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. XCVII, No. 2220.

<sup>3/</sup> League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CL, No. 3459, League of Nations Document C.231.M.99 1931. VIII.

Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe. (document E/CONF.8/3 and Corr.1). This will in the present paper be referred to as "ECE Draft Provisions of 1949".

5. United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport, Working Paper II: Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive traffic, signed at Washington, 15 December 1943 (document E/CONF.8/4). This will in the present paper be referred to as "Inter-American Convention of 1943". For the list of ratifications of this Convention see Annex B.

The texts of these Conventions and Draft Provisions are contained in Parts II to VI. Since the subject matter and structure of these five documents vary widely, it seemed most practicable to arrange the comparative material according to subjects rather than to attempt to follow the arrangement used in any one of the documents under consideration. Inevitably such a scheme is arbitrary to a certain degree and has to be more detailed than the sub-divisions of some of the articles of the Conventions and Draft Provisions. For the latter reason a number of the articles had to be split in order to fit into the scheme. However, the inclusion of cross-references should make it possible to follow the original texts without difficulty.

Part II, "General Provisions", contains the formal provisions and articles of a general character from the three Conventions to be revised, the Inter-American Convention of 1943, and the ECE Draft Provisions.

Part III "Rules of the Road", Part IV, "Requirements for Drivers", and Part V, "Requirements for Vehicles", include all the relevant provisions of the Motor Traffic and Road Traffic Conventions of 1926, the Inter-American Convention of 1943 and the ECE Draft Provisions of 1949. The Signals Convention of 1931 contains no rules falling within these three categories.

Part VI "Signs and Signals" compares the provisions of the Motor Traffic Convention of 1926, the Signals Convention of 1931 and those of the ECE Draft Provisions of 1949 which are relevant. The two other documents do not deal with this question.

## ANNEX

LIST OF RATIFICATIONS OF FOUR CONVENTIONS  
INCLUDED IN PARTS II - VI

The Conventions dealt with in this paper have been ratified by the following countries:

1. MOTOR TRAFFIC CONVENTION of 1926  
Albania, Austria, Belgium (and Belgian Congo), Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, (and Iceland), Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France (for colonies, protectorates, etc., see lists in L.O.N. Treat. Ser. CVIII, page 124; CLVI, pages 221-222; CLXIV, page 387; CLXXVII, page 406; CLXXXI, pages 390-391), Germany, Great Britain (for colonies, protectorates, etc., see lists in L.O.N. Treat. Ser. CVIII, page 124, CLVI, pages 221-222; CLXIV, page 387; CLXXVII, page 406; CLXXXI, pages 390-391), Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy (and colonies), Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands (and the Netherlands Indies), Norway, Poland, Portugal (and Angola), Roumania, San Marino, Siam, Spain (and Spanish Morocco), Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tangier, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa (and the mandated territory of South West Africa), Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Vatican, Yugoslavia.
2. ROAD TRAFFIC CONVENTION of 1926  
Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, France (for colonies, protectorates, etc., see lists in L.O.N. Treat. Ser. XCVII, page 84; CLVI, page 211; CLXXXI, page 389), Hungary, India, Iraq, Luxembourg, Monaco, Poland, Portugal (and Angola), Roumania, Saar, San Marino, Spain, Syria, and Lebanon, Tangier, Uruguay, Vatican, Yugoslavia.
3. SIGNALS CONVENTION OF 1931  
Austria, Egypt, France (and Algeria), Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands (and the Netherlands Indies, Surinam, Curacao), Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4. INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION OF 1943  
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.