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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

23 August 1949

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

WORKING PAPER I: DRAFT PROVISIONS FOR INSERTION IN A CONVENTION
ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT PREPARED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON ROAD TRANSPORT OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

(Document E/CONF.8/3)

Proposals Submitted by the Czechoslovak Government

The Secretary-General, in his note of 25 March 1949, requested governments invited to the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport to submit to him comments on the agenda or working papers, or any proposals which they might make, for circulation to the Governments concerned.

The following communication has been received containing the comments of the Czechoslovak Government on Working Paper I.

"Ministry of Foreign Affairs

No. 326.373/49-C-I-2

Prague, 22 July 1949.

Dear Sir,

After closely studying the Draft Convention on Road and Motor Transport, the Czechoslovak authorities have the honour to make the following comments:

1. Annex 4, Article 46, paragraph 1, line 2:

The words "on the post bearing the sign in the form of a St. Andrew's cross" (see Article 13, Section 5) should be inserted after the word "place" in view of the fact that the St. Andrew's cross and the automatic light signal ordering trains to stop and located in the immediate vicinity of the level crossing should be placed on the same post.

2. Wherever the text speaks of "light colour" (see, for example, Annex 4, Chapter II, Article 9, paragraph 2; Article 13, paragraphs 4 and 5; and Article 43), it is recommended that the colour "light yellow" be adopted, in conformity with the original Convention of 24 April 1926, which seems to discountenance certain "light" colours.

3. Chapter III, Article 15, paragraph 5 (page 16):

Insert, after the words "approved signs", the following words:
"applying to road traffic, or, at the approaches to level crossings,
to railway traffic. . ."

4. Finally, the Czechoslovak authorities trust that the Convention, in promoting the safety and development of international motor traffic, will not overlook the following points:

- (a) the need for periodical medical examinations and a mental reaction test for drivers of heavy road vehicles;
- (b) the necessity to educate the public by suitable periodical instruction, from the school level upwards, with the object of making users of level crossings conscious of the need for increasing their vigilance and heeding instructions while negotiating level crossings;
- (c) a statutory ban, notice of which should be placed on road and railway track approaches, particularly in the immediate neighbourhood of level crossings, on the posting of advertisement signs using red or green colours or lights whenever such signs might be confused with signs ensuring traffic safety on railway lines or roads."