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PASSPORTS AND FRONTIER FORMALITIES: DEVELOPMENTS  
 IN 1951 - 1952

Supplementary Note by the Secretary-General

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DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE  
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Since document E/CN.2/124 was issued some additional information has become available. This information is set out below.

A. Action by Governments

Up to 1 December 1952 the Secretary-General has received some further Official information on the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts on Passports and Frontier Formalities. An agreement for the reciprocal abolition of the entrance visa requirement, concluded between Belgium and Turkey and entering into force on 1 December 1952, was registered with the United Nations Secretariat. Some arrangements for reducing visa fees, accepting collective visas, and issuing visas without reference to the home government, were also officially reported.

B. Action by inter-governmental bodies

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

(a) Council action with regard to amending Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

In document E/CN.2/124, it was reported that a number of amendments to Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, including a provision for standardization of the format of the entrance visa, had been adopted by the Air Transport Committee and had been referred for final action to the Council of ICAO. The ICAO Council, on 7 November 1952, adopted the amendments to Annex 9 mentioned specifically in document E/CN.2/124, as submitted by the Air Transport Committee.<sup>1/</sup> Such amendments as have not been disapproved by a majority of Contracting States by 1 March 1953 will come into force on 1 July 1953.

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<sup>1/</sup> See Amendment 1 to the International Standards and Recommended Practices for Facilitation, Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

(b) Standard entrance visa format

In document E/CN.2/124 it was stated that ICAO's Facilitation Division had expressed the opinion that, when finally approved, ICAO's recommendations concerning a standard form of entrance visa for air travel should be forwarded to the appropriate United Nations bodies so that the application of such a format to other forms of transport might be considered; it was also stated that subsequently, at the request of ICAO's Air Transport Committee, those recommendations had been brought to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. As the recommendation concerning a standard form of entrance visa has now been finally approved by the ICAO Council, the Commission may wish to consider the question of the general application of the visa format recommended by ICAO. In that event the Secretary-General might be requested to circulate the ICAO recommendation to all governments of Member States, asking for their comments. The Secretary-General would subsequently report on this matter to the seventh session of the Transport and Communications Commission.

(c) Publication of visa requirement

Document E/CN.2/124 refers also to a recommendation approved by the Council of ICAO on 28 March 1952, that the appropriate organ of the United Nations should be approached with a view to its publication of a document setting out the current visa requirements of States. Such a project could only be effectively undertaken by the Secretariat of the United Nations with the full co-operation of the governments of Member States and other governments, which would have to supply up-to-date information on visa requirements at frequent intervals. It would furthermore call for special machinery within the Secretariat involving considerable additional expenditure. The Commission may therefore wish to know that the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) in 1952 started the publication of a system of information cards on frontier formalities providing condensed data, currently being kept up to date, inter alia on passport and visa requirements. In view of this recent development it would appear that the regular publication by the United Nations of a periodic document setting out visa requirements, as suggested by ICAO, would result in some duplication of effort in this field.