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DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, ITS PRESENT
INCREASING VOLUME AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Addendum to the note by the Secretary-General

Since the issuance of document E/2933, the Secretary-General has received from the Government of Pakistan a communication transmitting information in connexion with recommendations made in Economic and Social Council resolution 563 (XIX). The text of the communication follows.

Information has also been received from the World Touring and Automobile Organisation (OTA) concerning its activities in the field of promoting international travel, a summary of which is set out below.

Pakistan

(a) The Government of Pakistan generally supports the aims of the resolution and believes that foreign tourist traffic is directly beneficial to local trade and industry. It improves business contacts which form the basis of international trade.

(b) A preliminary tourist survey has been carried out to assess the existing facilities and also the deficiencies relating to tourism in Pakistan. The survey reports have been examined by the Government and it has been decided to draw up a short-term development plan, followed by a long-term development plan. The short-term plan is expected to be ready shortly.

(c) Through a recent change in the administrative set-up, the Communications and Transport Division of the Ministry of Communications of the Government of Pakistan is now the official agency dealing with tourism in Pakistan. All co-operation and encouragement is being extended to private travel agencies and other travel interests, who are represented on the Regional Tourist Advisory Committees, set up by the Government.

(d) Since the submission of the last report to the Secretary-General^{1/} the following reciprocal agreements have been concluded:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| (i) Denmark |) | |
| (ii) Netherlands |) | |
| (iii) West Germany |) | |
| (iv) Sweden |) | Abolition of |
| (v) Turkey |) | visas. |
| (vi) Greece |) | |
| (vii) United States | - | Abolition of visa fees and |
| | | liberalization of visa procedure. |
| (viii) Austria | - | Abolition of visa fees. |
| (ix) Iraq |) | |
| (x) Jordan |) | Reduction of visa fees. |
| (xi) Lebanon |) | |

In addition tourists are allowed to import a reasonable quantity of personal effects without duty and without any permit. However, any item imported in excess of the limit of Rs.1,500/-/- in value will require an import permit from the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports before clearance. Such permits are liberally and promptly issued in the case of tourists, but this restriction cannot entirely be waived as this concession is liable to abuse. The Government is, however, prepared to consider sympathetically any suggestion that may be received for simplification of the present procedure for issue of permits to facilitate tourism.

(e) The Pakistan Government is in touch with countries more advanced in tourism and is exchanging useful information on the subject with them. Pakistan is a member of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations and participates in its deliberations.

World Touring and Automobile Organisation (OTA)

OTA and the organizations affiliated with it continued their activities towards the development of international tourism, at a worldwide and regional level. At its Third Assembly, held during 1955, in Washington, D.C., a number of resolutions were

^{1/} See document E/CN.2/99/Add.1, Annex A.

adopted, inter alia concerning the simplification of passports and frontier formalities in accordance with the recommendations of the 1947 Meeting of Experts, concerning statistics on tourist travel and concerning the ratification of or accession to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and the international instruments, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Customs Formalities for the Temporary Importation of Private Road Motor Vehicles and for Tourism.

At the general meetings of the International Touring Alliance (AIT) and the International Automobile Federation various problems related to the development of international tourism, and falling within the particular competence of these organizations, were considered. At a regional level, questions concerning the development of tourism in Africa were discussed at the Fifth International Congress of African Touring, held under the auspices of the AIT in 1955 at Elizabethville, Belgian Congo. A number of resolutions, dealing with the development of transportation, hotel and other facilities were adopted. In Europe, a number of activities were undertaken, primarily aimed at the facilitation of international motor touring; active participation, inter alia in the work undertaken under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe in this field, continued.
