



Twenty-third session
Item 8

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 International Union of Official Travel Organizations a summary of its activities from March 1956 to October 1956, which is reproduced below.

International Union of Official Travel Organizations (I.U.O.T.O.)

The authoritative body of the I.U.O.T.O. is its General Assembly which meets every year concurrently with an International conference dealing with technical subjects. It met in October 1955 in New Delhi, India, and in October 1956 in Vienna, Austria. The Executive Committee runs the I.U.O.T.O. in between two consecutive General Assemblies. It met in June 1955 in Istanbul, in October 1955 in New Delhi, in April 1956 in Luxembourg and in October 1956 in Vienna.

The main part of the activities of the I.U.O.T.O. is carried out through its Commissions, of which there are two types: the Regional Commissions dealing with all aspects of tourist travel within the framework of the geographical area of their competence, and the Technical Commissions which have a well-defined technical scope of work at a world level. The Commissions hold meetings concurrently with the annual conferences. They also hold meetings in the course of the year.

The Secretariat General of the I.U.O.T.O. prepares the work of the General Assemblies and Executive Committee meetings. It also helps the Commissions in their work, especially the Technical Commissions. Lastly, it issues two publications. (see section C)

A. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

The Commission dealing with tourist problems interesting Europe was known until the summer of 1956 as the European Travel Commission. It is now called the Regional Commission for Tourism in Europe. During the period under consideration this Commission has conducted a joint publicity campaign in the United States, grouping efforts from national travel organizations of all the Western European countries with a view to presenting Europe as a whole to potential American travellers. To that end it has also enlisted the co-operation of the main commercial bodies interested, which it has grouped into a Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the President of the Commission. This Commission has issued a White Paper on a tourist policy in Europe. This White Paper proposes policies on transatlantic travel, travel in Europe, accommodation in Europe, the geographical spread of traffic, the spreading of traffic through the year and the organization of the necessary co-ordination.

The Commission has achieved excellent results in the implementation within Europe, and under the circumstances particular to this area, of the policies laid down by the Technical Commissions. The Commission acts in close liaison with the Tourism Committee of the O.E.E.C. and follows meetings of the Inland Transport Committee of the E.C.E. as well as its subsidiary bodies. The Commission has re-elected as its President, both in October 1955 and in October 1956, Mr. A. Haulot (Belgium).

The African Travel Commission deals with particularly difficult problems in view of the size of the African continent, and in view of the slower development of tourist traffic in this continent. As an example of co-operation within the I.U.O.T.O. a proposal for a joint propaganda action on a reciprocal basis should be mentioned. It aims at being a first step towards a joint action for the whole of the continent. The Commission also took steps to provide for statistics to be established every year on a uniform basis. It aims at simplifying frontier formalities and at developing the construction of medium class hotels. Lastly, in view of the particular importance of air travel and the great distances in Africa, it recommended the preparation of air itineraries, to facilitate in particular the movement of private aeroplanes. The Commission has re-elected as its President, both in October 1955 and in October 1956, Mr. A. Noel (Morocco).

The Middle East Travel Commission can report good co-operation between its members and a considerable improvement of transport and accommodation facilities in this region. The Commission has re-elected as its President, both in October 1955 and in October 1956, Dr. M. Baykan (Turkey).

The recently established East Asian Travel Commission has set itself a programme of work in seven points, dealing not only with the implementation within this region of the policies laid down by the Technical Commissions of the I.U.O.T.O., but also with the collection and dissemination of information on the present status of tourism in the countries of the region, the reduction of travel expenses, mutual co-operation amongst members and lastly, co-operation with other international bodies, including the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far-East of the United Nations. The Commission elected at its inaugural meeting in February 1956 as its President, Mr. D. Majima (Japan).

The South Asian Travel Commission is in the process of being created.

The I.U.O.T.O. General Assembly decided in October 1956 to invite the Inter-American Travel Congresses and the Pacific Area Travel Association to act as their Regional Commissions respectively for the Americas and the Pacific area.

B. TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS

The Commission on the Elimination of Travel Barriers has dealt with the following subjects:

- (a) Passports, visas and frontier formalities - Action has continued to obtain the elimination of such obligations and formalities. Adopting a recommendation from the Commission, the Assembly of the I.U.O.T.O. urged all its members to ratify the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, drawn up in New York by a United Nations Conference in 1954.
- (b) Currency problems - Recommendations were made with a view to obtaining an increase in the amount of currency allowances granted for travel abroad in several countries.
- (c) Free circulation of travel publicity material.

(d) Taxes falling directly or indirectly on tourists - The Assembly adopted a recommendation by the Commission that new charges of this nature should not be introduced and that the existing ones should be suppressed.

(e) International circulation of autocycles.

The Commission has re-elected as its President, both in October 1955 and in October 1956, Dr. P. Romani (Italy).

The Commission on Research compiles every year a book on International Travel Statistics. These statistics not only aim at helping the members of the I.U.O.T.O. and the travel industry, but they are also put at the disposal of the United Nations competent bodies. The Commission also studied state aid to the hotel industry and the basic functioning of the official travel organizations. It also plans to undertake, in collaboration with the International Travel Research Institute (I.T.R.I.) (see section D), a preliminary study of the international comparison of the prices of tourist services. The Commission re-elected as its President in October 1955, Mr. J. Boucoiran (France) and as its President when it met in October 1956 Mr. Z. Kulczyki (Poland).

The Commission on Travel Plant studied supplementary accommodation, i.e. all means of accommodation for tourists except hotelry. It has also started recently a study of the equipment of road and rail transport and, in particular, the possibility of introducing a system of international classification of tourist buses and of establishing international standards for the classification of railway carriages. The Commission also studied the classification of hotels and the possible standardization of hotel guides edited by the National Travel Offices. One of the findings of the Commission was that the present means of accommodation were insufficient to provide for the probable enormous increase in tourist traffic due to the improvement in the means of transport, especially through the use of jet aeroplanes with a large seating capacity. Adopting a recommendation by the Commission, the I.U.O.T.O. Assembly called the attention of the Governments to this problem of hotel capacity, and urged them to take certain steps designed to increase the existing number of hotels. The Commission elected as its President in October 1955 Mr. Ch. Duvelle (French Overseas Territories) and re-elected him in 1956.

The Travel Development Commission studied the amount and breakdown of the publicity budgets of national travel organizations. The Assembly viewed with concern a tendency on the part of some governments to reduce their tourist promotion activities. The Commission also studied low cost tourism and youth travel. The Commission prepared a report on the development of credit travel as having important promotional value. Within the framework of this Commission, members of the I.U.O.T.O. have exchanged information as to what assistance they might wish to receive in the travel field, and what assistance they would be in a position to render to other members. Although this exchange of information only took place as late as the summer of 1956, it has already materialized in the case of one member being able to use the services of an expert made available by another member. The Commission also studied the facilities made available to transit passengers at airports, the interchangeability of tickets between sea, air and other forms of transport, as well as other minor matters. The Commission re-elected as its President in October 1955 and October 1956, Mr. J.G. Bridges (United Kingdom).

A more specialized commission, the International Commission on Travel Films and Travel Press, has issued a catalogue on travel propaganda films listing 804 films from 37 countries. For each film the following information is given: the name and various linguistic versions, the size(s) and length(s), the duration, the producer and producing company, the date of production, whether it is in colour or in black and white and lastly a short description of the film. The Commission re-elected as its President, both in October 1955 and in October 1956, Mr. G. Ollivier (Monaco).

C. PUBLICATIONS BY THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL

The Secretariat General publishes every two months a magazine "World Travel - Tourisme Mondial" which aims at making known the activities of the I.U.O.T.O. and of the International Travel Research Institute (see section D), as well as at spreading the view points of, and the positions taken by, the I.U.O.T.O. The Secretariat General of the I.U.O.T.O. is also charged with the publishing of a joint publication of U.N.E.S.C.O. and the I.U.O.T.O. "Travel Abroad - Frontier Formalities". This publication consists of cards covering

153 countries or territories. Each card gives information about passports and visas, health regulations, currency regulations, customs formalities and allowances, regulations governing the temporary importation and use of private vehicles, special travel facilities and organizations assisting youth travel. This publication is issued in three languages (English, French, Spanish) and the information that it contains is kept currently up to date by means of corrigenda issued as and when needed.

D. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (I.T.R.I.)

The I.U.O.T.O. realizing the need for scientific and economic studies in the field of tourist travel, founded four years ago, the International Travel Research Institute (I.T.R.I.). Since March 1955 this Institute has published the following studies:

- Economic structure and localization of tourist regions
- Tourist problems in Spain
- Surveys and sample tests in the service of tourism
- International comparison of tourist prices
- Tourist promotion and publicity media - a critical survey.

The I.T.R.I. has also conducted a survey of transatlantic passenger traffic for the European travel Commission of the I.U.O.T.O. A study of tourist trends in Africa is under preparation, as well as a survey of travel in South East Asia, to continue the series of surveys which was initiated before March 1955 with:

- Trends and prospects of Latin American tourism
- Tourist trends in the Middle East

As previously mentioned, I.T.R.I. contemplates an expansion, with the help of the I.U.O.T.O. members, of its study on the international comparison of tourist prices. Methodological essays were also prepared within the framework of the I.T.R.I. on surveys of road traffic and on a study of the evolution and structural changes of the hotel clientele.

E. NEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE I.U.O.T.O.

Since March 1955 the National Travel Organizations of the following countries have joined the I.U.O.T.O. - Australia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Puerto Rico, Rumania, Singapore, Syria and U.S.S.R. This brings the membership of the I.U.O.T.O. to 58 national travel organizations. Some national or international bodies interested in travel were also accepted as associate members.
