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ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

SUB-COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Second session

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EXCERPT FROM REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In connexion with the concern of the Sub-Commission on Economic Development with problems of transportation as they affect under-developed countries, the following extract from the "Report of the Transport and Communications Commission on its Second Session to the Economic and Social Council" will be of interest.

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"3. Agenda Item 2. Future Organization in the Field of Inland Transport

"The Commission had before it the question of regional organization in the field of inland transport in Asia and the Far East, the Middle East, the Americas, and Africa.

"The Economic and Social Council at its First Session had requested the Temporary Transport and Communications Commission to make a survey and recommendations to the Council concerning inter-governmental organization in the field of transport. At its Second Session, it decided to request the permanent Transport and Communications Commission to consider further the question of organization in the field of inland transport. At its Fifth Session, the Council, on the recommendation of the Transport and Communications Commission, requested the Secretary-General to make studies of the question of regional organization in the field of inland transport in Asia and the Far East, and in the Americas.

"Item 2(a). Asia and the Far East

"The Economic and Social Council at its Fifth Session, while requesting the study referred to above, had simultaneously established the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), which as the first function in its terms of reference has to initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Asia and the Far East, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Far East and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of
/these areas

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these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world.

"The Commission at its Second Session had before it the Secretary-General's report containing the replies of the Governments concerned to an enquiry made in implementation of the Council's request.

"The Commission noted that many of the Governments in their replies indicated that they did not consider that a special regional organization is at present required in the field of inland transport in Asia and the Far East. It noted at the same time that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at its First Session had agreed upon an immediate programme, including, inter alia, the suggestion of measures designed to meet requirements for essential reconstruction needs, involving, e.g., improvement of internal and external transport. It also noted that this programme has not yet been implemented.

"It further noted the statements of Members of the Commission from India and China emphasizing the needs of the countries of Asia and the Far East for the rehabilitation of transport facilities, while the Indian Member also stressed the necessity of setting up a regional organization in the field of inland transport for Asia and the Far East.

"Taking all these matters into account, the Commission made the recommendation contained in Resolution No. 3.

"Item 2(a). Middle East

"The Secretary-General's study concerning the question of a regional organization in Asia and the Far East had been initiated as a study concerning the whole continent of Asia and the Far East. The enquiry referred to above was addressed to Governments of countries having jurisdiction over territories in Asia or the Eastern Pacific. Following the decision of the General Assembly at its Second Session to consider the Middle East as an economic region, the study was divided into two parts, one on Asia and the Far East, and the other on the Middle East respectively.

"The Commission noted that a majority of the Middle Eastern Governments which replied to the enquiry were of the opinion that there were problems in the field of inland transport in the Middle East which require regional machinery to deal with them.

"It noted also that the Economic and Social Council at its Sixth Session had established an ad hoc Committee to study the factors bearing upon the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East.

"It furthermore noted that the Member of the Commission from a Middle Eastern country, namely Egypt, strongly supported the desirability of having a regional transport machinery in that area.

/"The Commission

"The Commission therefore decided to make the recommendation to the Council contained in Resolution No. 4.

"Item 2(b). The Americas

"The Commission noted the report prepared by the Secretary-General at the request of the Council on the question of a Regional Organization in the field of Inland Transport in the Americas, which contained replies from Governments in that area to an enquiry addressed to them in implementation of the Council's request. It noted in particular the fact that seven out of nine of the Latin-American Governments which had replied to the enquiry prior to this Session of the Commission were of the opinion that there were problems in the field of inland transport in the Americas which required an organization to deal with them.

"At the same time the Commission noted that the Council at its Sixth Session had established an Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), which will hold its first session in June 1948, whose functions include inter alia initiation and participation in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems arising out of the war, for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America, and for maintaining and strengthening economic relations with Latin-American countries among themselves and with other countries of the world.

"It also noted the views of the Chilean Member of the Commission who was in agreement with the views expressed in the Secretary-General's report that there were problems in the field in inland transport which might require some regional machinery to deal with them. He was, however, of the view that the question is one which should be handled through ECLA.

"The Commission, taking all of these points into consideration, decided to make the Recommendations contained in Resolution No. 5.

"Item 2(c). Africa.

"The Commission at its first session, in the absence of its members from Africa (the Egyptian and South African members), had deferred all consideration of the question of regional organization in the field of inland transport in Africa until its second session. As the two members from Africa were present during the second session, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the same procedure be followed as had been followed with respect to Asia and the Far East, that is that the Secretary-General be requested to study the question, and accordingly adopted the recommendation contained in Resolution No. 6.

"The Commission expressed the opinion that in seeking the requested information it would be desirable for the Secretary-General to address an
/enquiry

enquiry to the Governments concerned, as was done in the case of Asia and the Far East and the Americas, and to include among his questions one as to whether the Governments concerned were of the opinion that Africa should be considered as constituting one or two regions for this purpose. Where Governments were of the latter opinion they should be asked to indicate what they consider the line of demarcation.

"Item 2. Co-ordination among Inland Transport Experts of Different Regions

"The Commission was somewhat concerned that, with the development of regional activity in the field of inland transport, there might not be adequate co-ordination between the transport experts of the various regions. Believing that provision for such co-ordination should be provided for, it made the recommendation to the Council contained in Resolution No. 7."

/RESOLUTION NO. 3

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Inland Transport in Asia and the Far East

(Agenda Item 2 (a))

The Transport and Communications Commission

RECOMMENDS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) should be requested to convene an early meeting of inland transport experts of the countries represented on ECAFE to examine:

- (a) the problems with respect to rehabilitation and co-ordinated development of inland transport facilities and services in Asia and the Far East;
- (b) the means which are best suited to promote the solution of these problems, either by setting up regional machinery, or otherwise (it being understood that any such machinery would be part of ECAFE).

/RESOLUTION NO. 4

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Inland Transport in the Middle East

(Agenda Item 2 (a))

The Transport and Communications Commission

NOTING

that an Economic Commission for the Middle East may be set up in the near future

RECOMMENDS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

that if and when that Commission is established it should be requested to convene an early meeting of inland transport experts of the countries represented on the Economic Commission for the Middle East to examine:

- (a) the problems with respect to the co-ordinated development of inland transport facilities and services in the Middle East,
- (b) the means which are best suited to promote a solution of these problems, either by setting up a regional machinery, or otherwise (it being understood that any such machinery would be part of the Economic Commission for the Middle East).

/RESOLUTION NO. 5

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Inland Transport in Latin America

(Agenda Item 2 (b))

The Transport and Communications Commission

NOTING

that a number of Latin-American Governments in reply to the Secretary-General's enquiry concerning organization in the field of inland transport in the Americas, stated that in their opinion there were problems requiring regional machinery in the field of inland transport in the Americas,

RECOMMENDS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. that it refer to the Economic Commission for Latin America the consideration of the means which are best suited to promote the solution of problems in the field of inland transport in Latin America.
2. and that it instruct the Secretary-General to report to the third session of the Transport and Communications Commission on the measures which have been taken to give effect to this.

/RESOLUTION NO. 6

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Inland Transport in Africa

(Agenda Item 2 (c))

The Transport and Communications Commission

REQUESTS THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

to instruct the Secretary-General to undertake a study and to report on the needs for and problems concerning a regional organization or regional organizations in the field of Inland Transport in Africa, and to authorize him to seek the information required to make the study.

/RESOLUTION NO. 7

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Co-ordination Among Inland Transport Experts of
Different Regions

(Agenda Item 2)

The Transport and Communications Commission

CONSIDERING

that it is desirable to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the risk that, with the creation of regional Economic Commissions, there may be a possibility of less satisfactory co-operation than in the past among the inland transport experts of countries belonging to different regions between which there have been important exchanges of traffic,

RECOMMENDS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

that the attention of regional Economic Commissions should be drawn to the advantages of permitting the participation, in the work of their meetings of experts in the field of inland transport, of experts from other regions when questions which might affect these latter regions are under consideration.
