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TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

PROBLEMS OF MARITIME SHIPPING AFFECTING LATIN AMERICA

Addendum to Note by the Secretary-General

It is stated on page 4 of document E/CN.2/83, under the heading "Remark", that the Secretary-General intended to "circulate to the members of the Commission at a later date further information on some of the problems under consideration, should such information be available in due time".

Since the issuing of that document further developments have taken place in the sphere which is covered under Part IV (Survey of the Maritime Problems Affecting Latin America Discussed at Inter-Governmental Meetings from 1940 up to the present) of document E/CN.2/83.

The relevant information is given hereafter.

A summary was made in paragraphs 6 and 7, pages 21 and 22, of document E/CN.2/83 of the recommendations approved by the Commission on Commercial Co-operation of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and of the decisions which were adopted by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council after having considered these recommendations. It has been stated in particular that at its meeting of 10 November 1949 the latter body examined the draft resolution adopted on 14 October 1949 by the Commission on Commercial Co-operation concerning a proposed study of maritime transport and decided to postpone its consideration until its next session in January 1950.

The Commission on Commercial Co-operation, in the light of the observations made by the Council at its above-mentioned meeting of 10 November, discussed the matter further and, at its meetings of 20 and 22 December 1949 and 12 January 1950, made some revisions in the draft resolution referred to above.

/The Commission  
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The Commission decided to make specific reference in the draft resolution to such questions as freight rates, maritime insurance, pay system and social insurance for officers and men. It was also deemed important to include in the proposed study all aspects and factors directly or indirectly affecting maritime transport and freight rates in particular. The Commission decided that the analysis of the problem should not be limited merely to those factors taken into account by conference lines when fixing freight rates (i.e. nature, volume and handling of cargo, value of commodities, packing, stowage, length of voyage, etc.) but that it should also include data concerning port operations in general, port duties and expenditures, administrative machinery, port facilities, equipment, etc. The Commission considered it useful to include as well in the draft resolution other points such as maritime legislation, organization of maritime services, protective measures in favour of the merchant marine, subsidies, depreciation and replacement of ships, financial aid by Governments and regulations in force.

The Commission deemed that the results of the proposed study would enable the Council to act appropriately on the question of freight rates. It would then have at hand sound and authentic information which might be put at the disposal of interested Governments with a view to improving the efficiency of their respective merchant fleets by utilizing methods employed by the more highly developed countries of the Western Hemisphere. Data obtained regarding administration of port services would represent a sound basis for recommending to the Governments an adequate policy which would aim at simplification of existing requirements often constituting deterrents to the efficiency of port operations.

The Commission prepared for submission to the Council at its meeting in January 1950 a report which included general information on maritime transport, covering such topics as conference lines and freight rates; a short survey on the results achieved by the Inter-American Maritime Conference (Washington, 1940), by the United Nations Maritime Conference (Geneva, 1948), by the Ninth International Conference of American States (Bogotá, 1948) and by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council from 1946 up to the present.

The Council, at its meeting of 19 January 1950, considered this report and adopted a resolution the text of which is reproduced in the annex to this document. The resolution states, inter alia, that the Commission on Commercial

Co-operation is authorized to undertake the proposed study, as soon as possible, in whatever form necessary, using the Technical Secretariat.

ANNEX

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
ON 19 JANUARY 1950

1. Whereas the study and solution of the problems of inter-American maritime transport are of the highest importance for the economic development of the American countries; and
2. Whereas the subject has received special attention both from the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee and from its successor, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council; and
3. Whereas the first Inter-American Maritime Conference was held at Washington, DC in 1940 on the initiative of the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee; and
4. Whereas some of the recommendations made on that occasion are still applicable to the present situation and should be reconsidered; and
5. Whereas the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, in preparing the Draft Basic Convention on Economic Co-operation, strongly recommended that one chapter should deal with maritime transport, a recommendation which was approved when the said Convention was signed at the Ninth International Conference of American States (Bogotá, 1948); and
6. Whereas the chapter in question lays the foundation for a transport policy which should be worked out in full; and
7. Whereas the Council should endeavour to find an adequate solution to the maritime problems confronting the American States, particularly the problem of freight rates; and
8. Whereas, in order to be able properly to undertake the study of freight rates, it is necessary to collect and analyse all information that will make it possible to determine whether the prevailing freight rates are equitable; and
9. Whereas, in view of the scope and complexity of the information required to carry out this study, it is not possible to lay down a single definite plan of procedure for the compilation of such information and the procedure will consequently have to be subordinated to such methods as are dictated by circumstances;

/Now therefore

Now therefore the Inter-American Economic and Social Council resolves:

First: to approve the following points, which were set forth in the Report of the Commission on Commercial Co-operation, as a basis for the carrying out by that Commission of a special over-all study of these problems:

- (1) Legislation concerning maritime, lake and river transport, whether operated by national or international services.
- (2) Organization, supervision and control of shipping services.
- (3) Organization, supervision and control of harbour services: administrative control of the various harbour activities.
- (4) Harbour dues; procedure for assessing dues and factors that are taken into account.
- (5) Shipping lines whose ships call at the country's ports; types of service; frequency of calls.
- (6) Average tonnage (in metric tons) of cargoes handled by the country's main ports in the years 1938, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, with import and export figures.
- (7) Stevedoring expenses afloat and ashore.
- (8) Harbour service operations, loading and unloading; docking; labour; mechanical equipment; organization and supervision of these operations.
- (9) Protectionist measures in favour of the Merchant Marine; forms of State subsidization of shipping lines or services.
- (10) Procedure followed by shipping companies in regard to depreciation and renewal of their fleets.
- (11) Credit associations: their organization, resources and procedure.
- (12) Financing by the State, its methods.
- (13) Existing regulations and factors determining the types of ships which may be employed in different shipping services.
- (14) Pay system and social insurance of officers and men; composition and organization of crews; special schools and the regulations governing them.
- (15) Maritime insurance.

Secondly: to authorize the Commission on Commercial Co-operation to carry out this study as soon as possible in whatever manner may be necessary, using the Technical Secretariat.

/Thirdly:

Thirdly: to recommend to the Commission on Commercial Co-operation that it should proceed to study the problem of freight rates, taking as a basis the results of the above-mentioned investigations.

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