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President: Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Development of international travel, its present increasing volume and future prospects (E/2688, E/L.657) (*concluded*)

1. Mr. SIMONNET (France) said that his Government had played a particularly active part in developing international travel. In France itself, everything possible was being done to improve tourist facilities and to simplify the formalities with which travellers had to comply.

2. It was because not enough had been done to promote tourism throughout the world that France had joined with four other delegations in co-sponsoring the draft resolution (E/L.657) before the Council. Some representatives had stressed the economic and financial aspects of the draft resolution but he believed that the Council should be equally concerned with the social, cultural and international aspects of travel. International travel involved certain human rights and fundamental freedoms and could promote social advancement, culture and international peace. It must not be forgotten that the conditions of international travel were less favourable than in 1914. An effort must therefore be made to help people who wished to travel abroad and particular attention should be given to low-cost travel. The Council would be doing useful work if it made it possible for everyone to enjoy the right to freedom of movement recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) said that the United States memorandum (E/2688) was a very valuable document. In some countries international travel was an important "invisible export". The International Monetary Fund set the amount spent by tourists in

1953 at \$1,400 million and that figure was certainly too low an estimate. Moreover, Europe derived 19 per cent of its dollar revenue from American tourists. The social and cultural aspects of travel were also especially important in the case of the under-developed or developing countries.

4. That was why Argentina was trying to develop travel and to attract as many foreign visitors as possible. His Government was encouraging tourism by, for example, giving assistance in the building of hotels, by a credit policy, by establishing a hotel school, and by improving transport and communications.

5. Argentina had already signed the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring and it was one of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (E/L.657), which stressed the useful work already performed by competent organizations, including the International Union of Official Travel Organisations. With regard to operative paragraph 1 (b), it was not for the public authorities to take over the hotels or means of transport; the idea was merely that the State should take steps to encourage the development of such facilities.

6. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would be able to submit to the Council at its twenty-third session a report which would lead to the calling of an international conference on tourism.

7. Mr. GABAL (Egypt) felt that the Council's efforts to promote international travel would have a very favourable effect on international co-operation.

8. There had been a remarkable development of travel in Egypt and the Egyptian Government had taken such steps as reorganization of the Department of Tourism, the establishment of tourist offices abroad and local offices, the introduction of new regulations for travel agencies in the interest of tourists, assistance to the hotel industry, and low-interest loans for the construction or modernization of second class hotels. Egyptian consulates issued individual or collective visas to tourists without distinction as to religion, race or colour. Lastly, the Egyptian Government had made customs formalities as flexible as possible.

9. At its meeting from 21 to 29 January 1955 the Executive Committee of the IUOTO had considered the question of developing international travel and had adopted a recommendation, most of the principles of which were embodied in the joint draft resolution (E/L.657). Egypt fully supported those principles and had therefore agreed to co-sponsor the joint draft resolution.

10. He interpreted operative paragraph 1 (b) in the same way as the Argentine representative; the words "to give adequate support to the official organizations", in paragraph 1 (c), were general and the international arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 (d) included any bilateral or multilateral agreements to facilitate travel, such as the Convention concerning Customs Facilities and the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, conven-

tions to encourage youth travel and travel of persons of medium or small-income groups.

11. Mr. SOLLI (Norway) was happy to note the United States delegation's initiative. He would vote for the joint draft resolution (E/L.657). It was only a first step and would have to be followed by specific recommendations directed, *inter alia*, at encouraging the exchange of persons working in the tourist industry. Such persons should acquire a direct knowledge of foreign countries so that they could advise their clients. His delegation therefore asked the Secretary-General to take that aspect of the question into account in drafting his report. His delegation supported the Netherlands representative's proposals (837th meeting) for co-ordination in travel matters.

12. His delegation noted from the explanations given by previous speakers that resolution No. 3 adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission at its seventh session (E/2696, para. 84) and operative paragraph 1 (d) of the joint draft resolution (E/L.657) were directed to the same end. Steps should therefore be taken to ensure that there was no duplication. His delegation proposed to raise that question at the resumed nineteenth session.

13. Mr. HSIA (China) said that the recommendations in the United States memorandum (E/2688, para. 13) were very useful as tourism was a considerable source of revenue. The Chinese delegation would therefore support the joint draft resolution (E/L.657).

14. Mr. KADAPA (India) said that his country attached much importance to international travel from the point of view of human understanding, cultural relations and economic development. The Indian Government had signed the two conventions adopted at the conference on tourism held at United Nations Headquarters in May and June 1954¹ and had already put into effect some of the recommendations made by the conference. As a result of the efforts of government authorities and the travel, trade and public organizations, more and more visitors were coming to India. The number had nearly tripled in recent years.

15. He praised the work done by the International Union of Official Travel Organisations, whose regional commission for Asia and the Far East was started in India. He pointed out that the Executive Committee of the International Hotel Association had held its annual session in that country in March, and that the next annual general meeting of the IUOTO would be held in India in the autumn of 1955.

16. Mr. CORKERY (Australia) remarked that in principle his delegation favoured measures to expand international travel, and it fully realized their value. Yet it would have preferred the consideration of the item to be postponed to the resumed nineteenth session. In the first place, the relevant material had been issued only comparatively recently. Secondly, in the case of Australia, the problem of tourism was primarily the concern of the various States of the Commonwealth and there had been no time to consult them.

17. In the circumstances, his delegation would have to abstain in the vote, without taking a stand on the substance of the question and on the proposed decision.

18. Mr. MOULTON (International Civil Aviation Organization) said that tourism could be promoted by: first, improved hotel facilities; secondly, increased publicity; and thirdly, simplified travel formalities. The first two steps would however be useless without the third. The International Civil Aviation Organization was the only official inter-governmental organization that had tried to work out specific formulas to facilitate international air travel while observing the security requirements of Member States. Its *Standards and Recommended Practices on Facilitation of International Air Transport*² had been favourably received by Member States. He hoped that the measures recommended in the joint draft resolution (E/L.657) to promote international travel would include simplification of frontier formalities, and that the application of the recommendation in paragraph 1 (c) would not lead to an increase in the number of forms to be filled in by travellers and travel agencies.

19. Mr. CARNES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) assured the Council that UNESCO would continue to do everything in its power to promote tourism, the economic and social aspects of which were in many respects closely interrelated. In order to facilitate travel for educational, scientific and cultural purposes, UNESCO published each year a pamphlet entitled *Vacations Abroad*. Volume VII, which had come out in March 1955, contained information on some 800 vacation courses, study tours and international work camps in over sixty countries. In addition, there was *Travel Abroad*, a publication dealing with tourist regulations of different countries. It would be merged with a publication of the International Union of Official Travel Organisations entitled *Frontier Formalities*, so as to provide the general public with valuable information, in exact and concise form. Further, UNESCO was planning trips abroad for workers, in co-operation with the non-governmental organizations concerned. So far it had organized trips in Europe only, but it expected to organize similar trips in Latin America and South-East Asia. Lastly, UNESCO gave Governments technical advice on the restoration of monuments and the maintenance of historic sites which were of tourist as well as cultural interest.

20. The development of international travel would promote international understanding only if due account was taken of its educational aspect. He therefore felt that in the Council's resolution Governments should be urged to leave nothing undone in that regard. Every traveller was a potential ambassador of good will promoting friendship between nations and, therefore, peace.

21. Mr. ALFONZO RAVARD (Venezuela) said the tourist acted as an ambassador in two respects: he represented his countrymen to foreign peoples, and then, foreign peoples to his countrymen.

22. The social aspects of the problem to which the representative of UNESCO had briefly referred were important and complex. It might be advisable to study them thoroughly. Travellers found their intellectual horizons broadened, discovered new ways of life, and sometimes received deep impressions which changed their whole personality and might eventually affect the

¹ See *United Nations Conference on Customs Formalities for the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles and for Tourism, Final Act* (E/CONF.16/19).

² International Civil Aviation Organization, *Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*, Montreal, Canada, September 1949.

entire international community. He would be pleased to support any proposal to invite UNESCO to make a thorough study of the problem. The administrative and legal difficulties must also be borne in mind. The Transport and Communications Commission had submitted a draft resolution on frontier formalities (E/2696, para. 118) which the Council would examine at its resumed nineteenth session and which, if adopted, would certainly help to promote international travel.

23. He would not dwell on the economic importance of foreign travel; the preceding speakers had amplified the considerations put forward in the United States memorandum (E/2688). He would, however, give the Council some information showing how much importance his Government attached to the matter. A General Directorate of Tourism, concerned mainly with orientation and co-ordination, had been set up in Venezuela. He explained the functions of that agency, which had proved most useful in different fields. The Venezuelan hotel industry received assistance from the Government, which bought large amounts of stock of private companies and also helped them directly in various ways. Owing to that policy, first-class hotels had been built at Caracas and Maracaibo and more modest establishments were being built or remodelled throughout the country.

24. For all those reasons, his delegation supported the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.657) and would vote for it.

25. Mr. TRUJILLO (Ecuador) feared that the preceding speakers had taken too optimistic a view. The question under consideration had also a negative aspect, to which UNESCO in particular should give attention. The under-developed countries had had a bitter experience. Travellers who had received mistaken impressions had on occasion made hostile comments about some foreign nations. Such mistakes and distortion could not but harm international understanding. To avoid them, tourists should be briefed before their departure so that they would not receive a distorted picture of the countries visited. They should be warned against making unfavourable generalizations and forming hasty and unfounded judgments, which in fact contributed to misunderstanding among peoples. The Council and UNESCO must not forget that international travel should bring about a flow of good will as well as capital.

26. The statements in the second paragraph of the preamble to the five-power draft resolution (E/L.657) did not correspond to the facts. He therefore suggested that the word "promotes" should be replaced by "should promote", and hoped that the sponsors would accept that slight amendment. Furthermore, paragraph 1 (a) of the operative part notwithstanding, the economic benefits of tourism were less important than the development of international understanding. If peoples came to know each other better, without prejudice and mistaken notions, they would have greater respect for each other and peaceful co-existence would become a reality.

27. He had meant his criticism to be constructive. His Government took a keen interest in tourism. It had set up a special information service for foreign travellers. Fine hotels were being built throughout the country. Lastly, when it had the necessary funds, Ecuador hoped to make the Galapagos Islands, which were famous for their fauna, studied by Darwin in working out his theory of evolution, a tourist and cultural centre.

28. He thanked the United States delegation for having drawn the Council's attention to the question, but he emphasized the need to eliminate the negative aspect of international travel.

29. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) gave his unreserved support to the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.657). He had read the United States memorandum with interest; the Pakistan authorities would do their utmost to put into effect the recommendations contained in it, particularly recommendations 5 and 6 (E/2688, para. 13). The Pakistan Government was working to develop international travel; many visitors came to the country and many Pakistan nationals travelled abroad. But the tourist industry was still in its infancy and there were plans for a special tourist bureau to develop it.

30. His delegation had just received the documentation on the tourist facilities available in Pakistan; it would place it at the disposal of the Secretary-General for the purposes of the survey mentioned in the draft resolution. His delegation had informed the Transport and Communications Commission that the Government of Pakistan had abolished visa formalities on a reciprocal basis. Pakistan was building hotels and new roads, and extending and modernizing its railway system, and it had just inaugurated its first international air service. Those measures were obviously in the interests of trade, but the tourist industry also benefited by them. The country had many attractions for tourists. Furthermore, hospitality was an article of faith to the people; they shared their bread with the foreign visitors, whom they warmly welcomed. They were accordingly glad to see tourists and hoped that the number would increase as a result of the development of means of communication and hotel accommodation.

31. Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ (Dominican Republic) said that his Government was making every effort to encourage international travel, with its great social and economic advantages. To that end, the Dominican Republic was taking the necessary measures to facilitate customs formalities, to help in the construction of hotels, and to improve transport, and more particularly the road system. Finally, the Directorate General of Travel had undertaken a wide publicity campaign.

32. He thanked the United States delegation for submitting its memorandum (E/2688) on the subject. He associated himself with the comments made by the representative of Ecuador, who had so opportunely drawn the Council's attention to one of the negative aspects of international travel.

33. He was in favour of the joint draft resolution (E/L.657).

34. Mr. FOMIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation had voted for the inclusion of item 6 on the Council's agenda because in its view the development of international travel should make it possible to strengthen the cultural and friendly ties between nations.

35. After careful study of the United States memorandum (E/2688), his delegation could see no objection to recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 appearing in paragraph 13 of the document. But recommendations 6 and 8 referred to questions which did not concern the Council, since they came within the scope of either the domestic legislation of the countries concerned or of

bilateral agreements. As to the improved statistics relating to travel, mentioned in recommendation 7, that was a question within the domestic jurisdiction of each Member State.

36. The draft resolution (E/L.657) covered most of the recommendations submitted by the United States of America. In a spirit of conciliation, the USSR delegation would vote for that draft resolution, although it did not agree with all the details of it. It would express the hope, however, that when the Secretary-General was preparing his report on the measures taken in response to the resolution, he would bear in mind the comments made by the USSR delegation on recommendations 6, 7 and 8 of the United States memorandum.

37. Sir Alec RANDALL (United Kingdom) pointed out that international travel could not promote international understanding and thereby reduce international tension unless the tourists themselves tried to understand the countries which they visited; in that connexion, the comment made by the representative of Ecuador was particularly relevant.

38. Several international bodies had been concerned for some time with the problem of international travel: the Economic Commission for Europe, the Organization for European Economic Co-operation, which had set up a committee on travel, and the IUOTO, which had achieved remarkable results. But he wished to warn the Council against duplication; he thought from reading the third paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution (E/L.657) that the sponsors had not been unaware of that aspect of the question.

39. In some countries, the development of international travel was dependent on State action. In the United Kingdom, the Government gave assistance to the British Travel and Holidays Association, but took no part in the management of the hotel industry, which had made considerable efforts to attract foreign tourists. In 1953, more than 600,000 tourists had visited Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom Government was proud of that achievement.

40. In conclusion, he announced his support for the joint draft resolution (E/L.657).

41. Mr. MENEMENCIOLU (Turkey) thanked the United States delegation for its memorandum on the development of international travel (E/2688).

42. The Turkish Government, fully aware of the importance of the question, had taken part in the preparation of most of the conventions relating to international travel; it had adopted legislation designed to attract foreign tourists to Turkey and had improved transport and communications. Its efforts had been rewarded, to judge by the recent increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting Turkey. But the Turkish delegation thought that there was still room in that field for concerted international action; it was accordingly in favour of the joint draft resolution (E/L.657).

43. The PRESIDENT invited the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce to address the Council.

44. Mr. LUSARDI (International Chamber of Commerce) recalled that in 1953 a brochure by the International Chamber of Commerce on *Red Tape in Travel* had been transmitted to the Council (E/C.2/372). The recommendations in that document had been substan-

tially in conformity with those of the 1947 Meeting of Experts to Prepare for a World Conference on Passport and Frontier Formalities (E/436). The ICC had noted the United States delegation's memorandum (E/2688) with interest, particularly the recommendation that border-crossing formalities be reduced to a minimum. The ICC also noted the recommendations of the World Touring and Automobile Organization (E/C.2/413), the International Union of Official Travel Organisations (E/C.2/412) and the United States Chamber of Commerce (E/C.2/415), which the Council had before it.

45. The Transport and Communications Commission at its seventh session had adopted a resolution on passports and frontier formalities (E/2696, para. 84) containing a recommendation concerning the ICAO standard visa format; the ICC had endorsed annex 9 to the ICAO Convention containing that format at its congresses in Quebec and Lisbon, in 1949 and 1951 respectively. Despite the signature of two conventions and a protocol on customs formalities for the temporary importation of private motor vehicles and for tourism, there was still much to be done to eliminate red tape in travel. The ICC was continuing its study of the question and hoped that the Council, with the assistance of Governments, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned, would renew its efforts to remove the obstacles to international travel.

46. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs), in reply to a comment from the representative of Norway, pointed out that, if the Council adopted the draft resolution on passports and frontier formalities submitted by the Transport and Communications Commission (E/2696, para. 118), the Secretariat was intending to address only one inquiry to Governments requesting information in connexion with both that draft resolution and paragraph 1(d) of the operative part of the joint draft resolution (E/L.657).

47. In reply to the representative of ICAO, he said that the Secretariat would consult all the specialized agencies concerned before it drew up its report.

48. Mr. VAKIL (Secretary of the Council) read a communication addressed to the Secretary-General by the Lebanese Government on the subject of item 6 on the Council's agenda. In that communication, the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council of its support for the views expressed by the IUOTO in its statement to the Council (E/C.2/412).

49. In reply to a question from Mr. HOTCHKIS (United States of America), Mr. TRUJILLO (Ecuador) proposed that in the second paragraph of the preamble to the joint draft resolution (E/L.657), the phrase "promotes international understanding" should be replaced by the phrase "should promote international understanding".

50. Mr. CAFIERO (Argentina) said that, while fully understanding the Ecuadorian representative's viewpoint, he would hesitate to accept an amendment which might give the impression that international travel had not, in one way or another, promoted international understanding. There was no doubt that the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned would take due note of the Ecuadorian representative's comment; he would accordingly ask him not to press his amendment.

51. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) suggested that the second paragraph of the preamble to the draft resolution should be amended to read as follows:

"Recognizing the importance of international travel in promoting international understanding and cultural relationships, in fostering international trade, in furthering economic development and in contributing towards the improvement of balances of payment."

52. Mr. TRUJILLO (Ecuador) and Mr. HOTCHKIS (United States of America) were in favour of the amendment proposed by Pakistan.

53. Mr. KADAPA (India) said that he preferred the original text, but would accept the Pakistan amendment.

54. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the joint draft resolution (E/L.657), as modified by the Pakistan amendment, which had been accepted by the sponsors.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.