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DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1449 (XLVII) of 7 August 1969 on development of tourism, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to study the guidelines for the creation of an intergovernmental tourism organization (which were contained in a resolution adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism, held at Sofia, Bulgaria, in May 1969) and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, through the Council at its resumed forty-seventh session, on the constitutional, organizational and financial implications of the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization and on any other effective measures for the development of tourism.
2. The report of the Secretary-General (E/4750 and Add.1), prepared in response to the aforementioned resolution, was considered by the Council at its resumed forty-seventh session and is now before the General Assembly. At its 1649th plenary meeting, on 18 November 1969, the Council adopted resolution 1471 (XLVII) on the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization, in which it recommends a draft resolution for adoption by the Assembly. The Council resolution reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1449 (XLVII) of 7 August 1969 on the development of tourism,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the constitutional, organizational and financial implications of the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization, 1/

1/ E/4750.

"Recommends the General Assembly to adopt the following draft resolution:

'The General Assembly,

'Having considered the note of the Secretary-General (E/4653/Add.1), transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism held at Sofia in May 1969 and the resolution adopted at that Conference on the creation of an intergovernmental tourism organization,

'Having further considered the report of the Secretary-General (E/4750) called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1449 (XLVII) of 7 August 1969,

'Taking into account resolution XXI/5 of November 1969 adopted by the General Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations at its twenty-first session, held at Dublin from 28 October to 5 November 1969 (see E/4750/Add.1) on the adaptation of the Union to its present and future responsibilities,

'Acknowledging the vital contribution that international tourism is making to the economic, social, cultural and educational progress of mankind and in safeguarding world peace,

'Taking into account the important role that tourism can play in the national economy, particularly in that of the developing countries,

'Considering the active interest taken by the United Nations, its organs and specialized agencies in various fields related to tourism, and the continuing need for co-ordination of their activities in these fields,

'Conscious of the leading role that the Union has hitherto played in the field of tourism and the technical ability and experience that it has built up,

'Recognizing, nevertheless, that the operational capacity of the Union in the field of tourism has been limited by its status as a non-governmental organization,

'Taking note of the determination reaffirmed by the Union in resolution XXI/5 of its General Assembly to set up as promptly as possible and by the most appropriate means a tourism organization of intergovernmental character,

'Further taking note that the Union in that resolution recognized that the procedure indicated by the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism for the creation of an intergovernmental tourism organization within the United Nations does not necessarily constitute the only means of establishing the best organization for world tourism,

'1. Believes that a formula that would allow agreement to be reached among Governments more readily for the establishment of an international tourism organization of intergovernmental character, particularly to assist the developing countries, would be:

'(a) The conversion of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations into an international organization of intergovernmental character through a revision of its statutes;

'(b) The establishment of operational links between the United Nations and the transformed Union by means of a formal agreement;

'2. Takes note of the recommendation in resolution XXI/5 of the General Assembly of the Union of November 1969, requesting the President of the Union to entrust a working group with the preparation of its draft revised statutes, bearing in mind the principles laid down by the General Assembly of the Union at its twentieth session at Tokyo in October 1967 and by the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism held at Sofia in May 1969, and to convene an extraordinary General Assembly of the Union to draw up and adopt the statutes of an intergovernmental organization;

'3. Recommends those States whose national official tourist organizations are members of the Union to take joint action at its forthcoming extraordinary General Assembly to amend the statutes of the Union in order to give the organization an intergovernmental character;

'4. Invites States whose national official tourist organizations are members of the Union to approve and adopt, in accordance with their respective internal procedures, the procedure outlined in paragraph 3 above, to be pursued for the creation of a tourism organization of intergovernmental character and accordingly, give necessary instructions and powers to their representatives to the Union;

'5. Decides, once the statutes of the Union have been changed, that:

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'(a) An agreement between the United Nations and the transformed Union should be concluded which would establish close co-operation and relationships between the United Nations and the transformed Union, define the modalities of such co-operation and relationships, and recognize the decisive and central role that the transformed Union is to play in the field of world tourism in co-operation with the existing machinery within the United Nations;

'(b) The transformed Union should function as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme to participate in the activities of the Programme in order to assist in the preparation and implementation of technical assistance and pre-investment projects in the field of tourism, financed by the Programme, and consideration should be given to enabling the transformed Union to function as a participating and executing agency of the Programme;

'(c) Necessary procedures should be elaborated to enable the transformed Union to submit for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council recommendations and proposals relating to international agreements to be drawn up in the field of tourism;

'6. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Secretary-General of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations, to prepare a report containing concrete proposals on measures to be taken for the full implementation of the provisions mentioned in paragraph 5 above and present it to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session.'

3. An account of the discussions in the Council will be found in its report to the General Assembly.<sup>2/</sup>

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<sup>2/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7603), chapter XI, section G, and Supplement No. 3A (A/7603/Add.1 (part V)).