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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS DEALING WITH TRANSPORT STATISTICS

(Paper prepared by the Secretariat for consideration  
under Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda)

1. Reference is made to document E/CN.2/25, a paper prepared in connection with the Second Session of the Transport and Communications Commission convening in Geneva as from 12 April 1948. This paper summarizes the actions and recommendations of various international agencies which have considered the subject of transport statistics. The introductory section (pp. 1-3) deals with the interest of the ILO in economic statistics in the field of inland transport especially from the point of view of their relation to labour statistics in the transport industry; the second section (pp. 3-4) deals with pre-war international activities and recommendations relating to transport statistics; the final section (pp. 4-8), in which the Statistical Commission will be especially interested, deals with the activities of organs of the United Nations in the transport statistics.
2. The Statistical Commission will be advised of conclusions reached by the Transport and Communications Commission on this matter in advance of its own discussions.
3. The scheduled work programme of the Statistical Office in this field contemplates the gradual expansion of the transport tables in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, in the Statistical Yearbook, and possibly in other published forms. Efforts will be directed primarily toward the collection and publication of comparable figures on the traffic volume of various kinds of transport and toward the assembly of figures on the capacities of various elements of the transport system. The expansions in the amount of statistics collected will be closely adjusted to the analytical needs in this field and will be co-ordinated with any complementary collections of transport statistics in order to avoid duplication. It is noted that a considerable improvement and expansion has occurred over the last year in the very limited amount of transport statistics published.