STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth session, 8 May 1950

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION ON TRANSPORT STATISTICS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

Memorandum prepared for consideration under item 5(a) of the provisional agenda.

1. The Transport and Communications Commission at its fourth session considered the Secretariat document "Transport Statistics, Part 2" (E/CN.2/75-E/CN.3/85) which is also on the agenda of the fifth session of the Statistical Commission. The Transport and Communications Commission adopted the resolution quoted in paragraph 2 below and proposed to the Economic and Social Council the draft resolution quoted in paragraph 3 below.

2. Resolution of the Transport and Communications Commission

Resolution No. 7

The Transport and Communications Commission

Recommends that, where general policy permits, the statistical series listed below be compiled, by each country in which there is traffic of the sort described, on a monthly or annual basis as indicated below and that the definitions set forth in Annex 1 to document E/CN.2/75 - E/CN.3/85 be used for the series as far as possible;

LIST OF STATISTICAL SERIES

(It is recommended that those series marked by an asterisk be published on a monthly basis and the remainder on an annual basis.)

For railways
freight net ton-kilometres performed*
passenger-kilometres performed*
goods loaded*
goods unloaded*
goods carried*
number of locomotives
number of vehicles in the passenger stock
number of goods wagons
passenger capacity
goods capacity
total starting draw-bar pull

/For inland
E/CN.3/96
For inland waterways
freight net ton-kilometres performed* 
goods loaded* 
goods unloaded* 
number of dumb barges 
number of self-propelled cargo vessels 
number of tugs 
goods capacity 
total horsepower

For road transport
number of private cars 
number of buses 
number of lorries 
passenger capacity 
goods capacity

For seaborne shipping
goods unloaded in coastwise traffic* 
net registered tonnage of vessels entered with cargo in coastwise traffic* 
net registered tonnage of vessels cleared with cargo in coastwise traffic* 
goods loaded in international seaborne traffic* 
goods unloaded in international seaborne traffic* 
net registered tonnage of vessels entered with cargo in external trade* 
net registered tonnage of vessels cleared with cargo in external trade* 
number and gross registered tonnage of 
   (a) passenger vessels 
   (b) tankers 
   (c) dry cargo vessels 

passenger capacity of passenger vessels

For civil aviation
cargo ton-kilometres performed* 
mail ton-kilometres performed* 
passenger-kilometres performed* 
cargo loaded* 
cargo unloaded* 
kilometres flown*

number of small passenger aircraft 
number of large passenger aircraft 
number of cargo aircraft

Requests that the Secretary-General circulate the definitions mentioned above and a copy of this resolution to the Member Governments of the United Nations, so that they may examine the possibility of producing, for purposes of international comparability, series in substantial agreement with the definitions set forth in Annex 1 to document E/CN.2/75 - E/CN.3/85. The experience of Governments in making this examination is to be used by the Secretary-General in order to propose to the Transport and Communications Commission and the Statistical Commission at subsequent sessions changes in the definitions where necessary. After the establishment of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) the definitions proposed for shipping statistics should be reviewed.

/Requests
Requests that the Secretary-General circulate the definitions and a copy of this resolution to bodies which publish international transport statistics inviting them to make sure of the definitions in the interest of achieving comparability; and

Having in mind that governmental and non-governmental bodies are studying the definition of figures for operating revenue and expense of railways and civil aviation enterprises,

Requests the Secretary-General to bring this resolution and the relevant suggestions made in Annex 1 to document E/CN.2/75 - E/CN.3/85 to the attention of the bodies concerned.

3. **Draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council**

The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note of the progress achieved in the study of Transport Statistics, in accordance with Council resolution 1478 (VII), which is indicated in resolution 7 of the Transport and Communications Commission.

4. Before taking action the Transport and Communications Commission discussed the Secretariat document. The discussion is described both in the Summary Record of the Meeting (E/CN.2/SR.42 and 43) and in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council (E/1665). The Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States members each submitted written comments (E/CN.2/90, E/CN.2/89 with Add.1, E/CN.2/87). The discussion and comments are briefly summarized below for the information of the Statistical Commission. During the discussion the Transport and Communications Commission had before it the current issue of the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics which contains figures for a large number of countries collected according to definitions proposed in Annex 1 to document E/CN.2/75 - E/CN.3/85.

5. The members of the Transport and Communications Commission expressed the opinion that the definitions of transport statistical series suggested in Annex 1 to the Secretariat document represented progress in the task of improving comparability in national transport statistics. Members found with respect to the series now collected in their countries that, although the definitions in use did not coincide in every case exactly with those proposed in Annex 1, the differences were not great. Certain countries did not collect figures in some of
the series discussed and the representatives of some of them felt that the definitions would be a useful guide to their governments in considering the production of series not now compiled. The delegate of the United Kingdom, however, doubted the value of computing monthly figures on the tonnages of goods loaded and unloaded at sea-ports. Other countries felt that the list of series recommended for collection was too short. At the request of the delegate of the United States, the Secretariat agreed that definitions for series measuring the transport of fluids by pipe-line would be added.

6. The result of the discussion, embodied in the resolution which was adopted, was that the definitions of Annex 1 were on the whole satisfactory but that the experience of governments in examining the possibility of producing figures in agreement with the definitions of Annex 1 should be used by the Secretariat to propose to the Transport and Communications Commission and the Statistical Commission at subsequent sessions changes in the definitions where necessary. In particular the written and oral comments made by the members of the Transport and Communications Commission and those which may be made by the members of the Statistical Commission at its fifth session should be so used by the Secretariat.

7. The International Civil Aviation Organization was consulted in the preparation of Annex 1 and the interest of that Organization is recognized in the working arrangements, both formal and informal, between it and the Statistical Office. The interest of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) when it comes into being, is recognized in the resolution adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission. In this connexion the Director of the Transport and Communications Division informed the Commission that some of the governments represented on the Preparatory Committee of IMCO felt that a saving could be made by arranging that the Statistical Office provide some statistical services for IMCO.