

Executive Committee

BARRIERS TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS

1. The following paragraphs were circulated informally on 8 June 1949 to members of the Executive Committee who were present at the Annecy meeting of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

" In October 1947, the International Chamber of Commerce submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a Report on barriers to the international transport of goods which had been drawn up by a committee of experts and approved in June 1947 by the I.C.C. Congress at Montreux. The Report contained 12 recommendations concerning matters in the following categories:

- " 1) Documents required in the international transport of goods;
- " 2) Consular, customs and public health formalities and documents required by the customs;
- " 3) The regulation of shipping;
- " 4) Matters of wider scope, such as commodity allocations, priorities and licences.

" This Report was referred by the Secretary-General to the Transport and Communications Commission. The Third Session of the Commission, in March 1949, adopted a resolution recognizing that many of the recommendations proposed by the I.C.C. relate to matters which are already under consideration by various specialized agencies and other organizations, and recommending to the Economic and Social Council that the Secretary-General be instructed to transmit the I.C.C. Report (E/C.2/50), and a Secretariat Report relating thereto (E/CN.2/49), to the Members of the United Nations with the request that they report their views on certain subjects, particularly those relating to customs documents and formalities, to the Interim Commission of the I.T.O. if it will accept the responsibility of dealing with the matter or, if it appears after enquiry by the Secretary-General that it will not, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

" This resolution will be submitted to the Ninth Session of the Economic and Social Council, which is to be held in Geneva in July, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs has enquired whether the Interim Commission will be prepared to make a formal statement in this regard should it be requested by the Council."

2. By letter dated 31 August 1949 the Department of Economic Affairs of the United Nations has advised that the Economic and Social Council at its Ninth Session in Geneva adopted the following resolution:

" The Economic and Social Council

" Transmits to the Members of the United Nations the Secretariat's report on barriers to the International transport of goods¹ and the report of the International Chamber of Commerce²; and

" Invites the Members of the United Nations to transmit to the Secretary-General their views on the recommendations of the International Chamber of Commerce report numbered 1 to 12 (with certain exceptions)³),

" Instructs the Secretary-General:

" 1. To report to the next session of the Transport and Communications Commission and to the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization on the results of the enquiry to Governments; and

" 2. To draw the attention of the Member Governments to the work already done in the field by the International Civil Aviation Organization in its 'International Standards and Recommended Practices on Facilitation of International Air Transport.'

1) See E/CN.2/49

2) See E/C.2/59

3) The exceptions are those recommendations or parts thereof relating to:

Public Health formalities - falling within the purview of the World Health Organization

Negotiable air consignment note - now being dealt with by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Maritime Tonnage Measurement - covered in Resolution No. 1 of the third session of the Transport and Communications Commission