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WORKING GROUP ON LABOUR MOBILITY

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION

Note by the Secretariat

I. The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration was created in December, 1951, at an international conference organized in Brussels by the Belgian Government at the request of the United States. The Committee started operations on 1st February, 1952.

2. According to the resolution adopted by the Brussels Conference, the purpose of the Committee would be to make arrangements for the transport of migrants, for whom existing facilities were inadequate and who could not otherwise be moved, from certain European countries having surplus population to countries overseas, which offered opportunities for orderly immigration, consistent with the policies of the countries concerned. The resolution also stated that among the migrants with whom the Committee would be concerned were included refugees and new refugees, for whose migration arrangements might be made between the Committee and the governments of the countries affording asylum.

3. The Committee was given an 11 months' test to see what international action could be accomplished in the migration field. At the Conference of the Committee in October, 1952, member nations decided to continue the activities of the Committee through 1953, and to make plans during that year for the future.

II. Membership

4. By the end of 1952, the following 21 nations were members of the Committee: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and Venezuela.

5. The contact between the Committee and the member states are two-fold:

- (a) On a high departmental level in Geneva. The Committee meets about three times a year. At these meetings states are represented by a Foreign Office official normally accompanied by a technician. Usually the representatives are top-ranking Civil Servants.

- (b) Functional missions on certain member states' territory. Such missions are in charge of debarkation and embarkation and placing of arriving persons. The head of a mission is a senior member of the Committee. Permanent missions exist in Austria, Italy, Germany, Greece, Australia, Chile, Venezuela.

III. Functions of the Migration Committee

6. The main function of the Committee, according to its mandate, is to move persons otherwise unable to move. During 1952, however, it had become apparent that the provision of transport alone furnished no easy key to the complex task of widening the migration stream from Europe. The under-manned countries of Latin America, who were interested in diverting the main stream of migration to their shores, found they could not undertake large-scale land settlement without the aid of international financing.

7. At the Committee meeting in October, 1952, member nations, therefore, decided that investigations should be made on the possibilities of securing outside financial and technical assistance for the establishment of land settlement projects in immigration countries. A team of experts was sent to Brazil to work out a project for the settlement of 5,000 families.

8. The Committee was also authorised to endeavour to improve the selection and settlement services which are involved in the movements of migrants, in the expectation that this would substantially speed up and increase movements. Such technical services were to include vocational training, language training and orientation, as well as assistance in selection and medical services, etc.

9. As to the vocational training, a pilot project is now in operation for training up to 600 Italian workers, chiefly heads of families, in the building trades prior to their emigration to Brazil. The project is jointly sponsored by the Italian and Brazilian Governments.

10. As to the language training, the Committee together with the United Nations, the ILO, and UNESCO has worked out a plan to give instruction in the English and Portuguese languages in the second half of 1953 to a minimum of 1,600 Greeks, mostly heads of families, selected for emigration to Brazil and Australia.

IV. Achievements in 1952

11. During the first eleven months of operation from 1st February till 31st December, nearly 78,000 European immigrants were moved under the Committee's auspices. Germany provided almost 38,000, Italy almost 12,000, Austria 11,000. The Netherlands, Greece, Trieste and Shanghai area accounted for the remainder.

The leading reception countries were the United States (almost half the total), Australia, Brazil, Canada, Venezuela, Chile and Israel.

V. Migration Plans for 1953

12. The programme for 1953 envisages the movement of 120,000 migrants overseas. They will come from the following countries:

13. Italy (39,300), Germany (39,900), Austria (10,200), Netherlands (9,000), Greece (4,700), Trieste (4,300), Shanghai (1,300) and others (11,300).

14. Almost half the total - 52,500 - are destined for the republics of South America: Brazil (23,000), Chile, Paraguay, Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Other important receiving countries will be Australia, Canada and the United States.

15. To effect these movements, a \$34,500,000 operational budget and a \$2,000,000 administrative budget has been established. A contribution to the administrative budget is a qualification for membership of the Committee.

16. The United States contributes \$8,500,000 of the total, whilst other member states together contribute \$1,250,000. To these sums are added the services rendered by member states for which they are credited and a further \$13,250,000, which consists of payments by states or individuals themselves for transportation costs, etc.

VI. Relationship with other International Organizations

17. The Committee has a close co-operation with international agencies able to contribute to the techniques of migration, such as the FAO and WHO. An informal working group, representing the United Nations, UNESCO, ILO and the Committee, has met several times in Geneva to develop the Greek language training project. ILO has co-operated in the establishment of the vocational training project in Italy, and has participated in the placement board in Brazil. There has been close co-operation and interchange of ideas between officers of the ILO and the Migration Committee in Italy on matters concerned with pre-selection and selection of migration to Brazil. The Committee has established contact with the OEEC and the two organizations exchange information and send observers to each other's meetings. An informal relationship has also been established with the NATO Secretariat, in order that the two organizations can exchange documents and information on subjects of mutual interest.