

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist in promoting and continuing the institutional arrangements required for smooth implementation of the recommendations concerning the transit problems of land-locked countries and to prepare a long-range plan for solving the problems of the land-locked countries in the region for implementation during the Second Development Decade;

2. *Urges* member states concerned, which have not ratified or acceded to the 1965 Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States, to give urgent and favourable consideration to the possibility of ratifying or acceding to it at an early date, so as to facilitate the development of intra-regional and world trade.

425th meeting,
23 April 1970.

108 (XXVI). ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL CENTRES FOR MARITIME AND PORT PERSONNEL

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Fully convinced that a serious shortage of qualified maritime and port personnel at all levels constitutes one of the major impediments to the sound development of national merchant marines and port facilities and also to the establishment and effective operation of shippers' organizations and freight study units in the developing countries of the ECAFE region,

Noting the survey conducted in 1967 by the ECAFE secretariat, with the assistance of the Government of Singapore, of the training facilities for ship and shore personnel in the ECAFE region, which indicated the areas in which maritime training could be organized on a regional and sub-regional basis,

Further noting the findings of the Working Party on Shipping and Ocean Freight Rates (first session), which was endorsed by the Committee on Trade (eleventh session) and the Commission (twenty-fourth session), that there was considerable scope for regional co-operation in the training of ships' officers and management personnel and that the training facilities in one or more of the existing institutions in the region could be expanded so that they could become regional centres,

Noting with appreciation the offers made in the Committee on Trade by the Governments of China, India and Singapore to place their national training facilities at the disposal of trainees from other countries of the region and also the offers made by other Governments to provide technical assistance in this field,

1. *Endorses* the view of the Committee on Trade (thirteenth session) that the secretariat should develop a plan for establishing one or more regional maritime training centres, taking into account the needs and existing facilities in the region;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ECAFE to conduct a comprehensive survey of the current training facilities in the region, to ascertain the region's current and future needs, to study the economic feasibility of organizing training for ship, shore and port personnel on a regional and sub-regional basis, to take other necessary steps with a view to the early establishment of such regional and/or sub-regional centres, and to report to the Committee on Trade and the Committee on Transport and Communications;

3. *Urges* the developed countries, the United Nations Development Programme and other interested international organizations to give their fullest co-operation and support to the work of the secretariat in this field.

427th meeting,
24 April 1970.

109 (XXVI). SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing the growing importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation among Asian countries in the field of shipping, particularly in the context of the development of intra-regional trade and commerce during the Second Development Decade,

Noting that the aims of such activities should be the development of shipping fleets and related services including ocean, coastal, inter-island and feeder services suited to the trade and economic conditions and needs of the region,

Considering the important role that regional or sub-regional shipping arrangements would play in furthering regional co-operation for achieving the objectives of the Second Development Decade,

Welcoming the increasing co-operation between ECAFE, UNCTAD and the specialized agencies concerned as well as interested non-governmental agencies,

Endorsing the design for joint implementation by the Transport and Communications Division (operational and technical aspects) and the International Trade Division (economic aspects) of national, sub-regional and regional shipping and related services as reflected in the current programme of work and priorities, as well as the inclusion of such studies as coastal shipping and inter-island communications in their joint work,

Stressing the need for redoubling the efforts to establish guide-lines for the acquisition and financing of new fleets for the ECAFE countries,

1. *Urges* the countries of the region to take co-operative measures for developing national, sub-regional and regional shipping services and related facilities;