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TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

GE.71-9210

1. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Training and assistance in the field of international trade law" (A/CN.9/58), submitted to the fourth session of the Commission, summarizes, in an annex, information provided by international bodies concerning their activities relating to training and assistance in international trade law.
2. The present addendum contains information, received after the preparation of the Secretary-General's report, regarding a proposed programme of assistance to developing countries in the field of laws and regulations applicable to ships and shipping under the joint auspices of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and, possibly, other organizations within the United Nations system.
3. The proposed programme of assistance was submitted by the IMCO Secretariat^{1/} to the third session (September 1970) of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation of IMCO, and was subsequently endorsed by the Legal Committee and the Council of IMCO. The proposal recognizes the fact that, in many instances, international maritime transport involves legal, technical, commercial and economic aspects of shipping and would therefore fall within the field of competence of IMCO, UNCTAD, UNCITRAL and, possibly, other organizations within the United Nations system. For these reasons, the IMCO proposal advocates the development, in appropriate cases, of a single programme of assistance that would be jointly sponsored, and run by, all organizations concerned.
4. The IMCO Secretariat's proposal envisages the holding of special seminars and courses and also the organizing of a training programme under which professional and commercial bodies engaged in international trade and shipping would accept selected fellows for secondment to their various offices, thereby providing such fellows with the opportunity of becoming familiar with the systems and procedures by means of which regulations are developed and applied in practice.
5. The Council of IMCO, at its twenty-fifth session (November 1970), endorsed the principle that such a programme would be desirable and authorized the IMCO Secretariat to initiate discussions with other organizations concerned with a view to elaborating the details of the programme.

^{1/} IMCO document WGTC.III/5.

6. The document submitted by the IMCO Secretariat to the IMCO Working Group on Technical Co-operation indicates that the proposed programme would qualify for financing by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
 7. The UNCTAD representative at the third session of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation of IMCO, in a statement made on behalf of the UNCTAD Secretariat and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, welcomed the IMCO proposal and declared that the Joint Shipping Legislation Unit would be ready to discuss it.
 8. The proposal of the IMCO Secretariat was brought to the attention of the UNCTAD Working Group on International Shipping Legislation and the UNCTAD Committee on Shipping (TD/B/C.4/L.68, TD/B/C.4/ISL/L.8) and was noted by the UNCTAD Working Group in its report on its second session (TD/B/C.4/86, TD/B/C.4/ISL/8, page 30, paras. 113 and 114).
 9. The Commission may wish to take note of the IMCO proposal described above. The Commission will be kept informed of any inter-secretariat consultations which may take place on the subject.
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