

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.TIMBER COMMITTEE:REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE RECONVENED THIRD SESSION
OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE.Report of the ad hoc Working Party on Equipment.
(As approved by the Timber Committee on 15.9.48).

1. At the reconvened Third Session of the Timber Committee an ad hoc Working Party on Equipment was set up to consider item 4 of the Agenda, "Establishment of amounts, sources and estimates of delivery dates of equipment":-

"(a) European Equipment,

(b) Dollar Equipment."

Mr. Sartorius (Timber Secretariat) acted as Chairman.

2. As the first part of its task the Working Party examined generally the revised lists of equipment requirements of Czechoslovakia, Finland, Poland and Yugoslavia, and the original lists of requirements from Austria and Greece. The Hungarian delegate made a statement on his country's position. The Working Party heard statements from the representatives of equipment supplying countries, namely Belgium, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. The results of this examination are incorporated in the later paragraphs of this report.

3. The Working Party agreed that the essential feature of this problem was whether the equipment programme of the timber producing countries could be met with reasonable certainty over the next 12 months in time for the commencement of 1949/50 timber felling season. Accordingly it has prepared lists of equipment likely to be available from Western European equipment supplying countries over the next 12 months and a residual list of equipment requirements which it appears necessary must come from the United States. These lists are necessarily very approximate in character and are based upon general estimates of the position in the light of the evidence now available.

4. Equipment available from Western European countries over the next 12 months.

Category I - Transport Equipment

Tractors
Trucks
Trailers
Cable ways

Category II - General equipment

Electric generators
Compressors
Mobile Workshops

Category III - Logging and felling equipment

Mechanical saws
Mobile cranes
Engines for trucks and tractors

Category IV - Woodworking equipment

Chain saws Ripsaws
Band saws Planers
Circular saws Four-cutter planers
Rotary veneer Dryers
 machines
Specialised wood-
 working equipment

Category V - Materials and supplies

Steel products
Rope and rope materials
Ball bearings

The total value of equipment available in Europe of which the above items are the most important, is estimated to be equivalent to 17.5 million U.S. dollars. No doubt there is some overlapping in this total in the sense that some Western European countries can supply some items of equipment in excess of the total required. It is impossible to make an exact estimate of this overlapping but the Working Party thinks this may be of the order of 5-6 \$m. If this estimate is about right, the net availability of equipment from Western Europe would be about 11-12 \$m.

5. Equipment required for delivery from the United States over the next 12 months.

Category I - Transport equipment (Value - \$2.8 million)

Tractors (caterpillar)
Trucks (special heavy)

Category III - Logging and felling equipment (Value - \$1.5 million)

Mobile cranes
Engines for trucks

Category IV - Woodworking equipment (Value - \$1.2 million)

Chain saws
Band saws
Circular saws
Ripsaws
Planers
Four-cutter planers
Rotary veneer machines
Dryers
Specialised woodworking equipment.

The total value of special equipment required from the United States, of which the above are the most important items, is estimated at 5.5 million U.S. dollars.

6. Comments

(a) The list of equipment likely to be available from the Western European supplying countries over the next 12 months shows that for a good many items, particularly transport and general equipment and sawmilling equipment, there is a good chance that the timber producing countries can find a good deal of what they may want from these countries, particularly for such items as trucks, trailers, lorries, rubber tyres and tubes, sawmilling equipment and general items. The result of the Working Party's examination is that whereas the timber producing countries originally appeared to consider that such items must come from the United States, it now appears probable that much of this kind of equipment can be found in Western Europe with a reasonable period of delivery. While it rests with the timber producing countries to decide in what countries they can best fulfil their needs, it is obviously necessary that every attempt should be made by the timber producing countries to find what they want in Western Europe before going to the United States.

(b) If the equipment programmes of the timber producing countries are to be realised over the next 12 months, the actual purchasers of equipment from the timber producing countries must immediately contact the actual firms supplying equipment in Western Europe and the United States, if this has not already been done, in order to determine exactly whether their requirements can be met, and to begin procurement as soon as possible. Only in this way can any precision be given to the "period of delivery"; any delay in approaching the firms supplying equipment may well mean that the period of delivery of some items is pushed back because other customers place their orders first.

(c) All the governments of the equipment supplying countries should use their best endeavours to facilitate the progress of this equipment programme of the timber producing countries in whatever way seems to them possible.

7. CONCLUSIONS.

The Working Party found it impossible to examine in detail all the specific items of equipment required by the timber producing countries, and all the items of equipment which the various equipment supplying countries considered they could deliver. In many cases no firm details regarding delivery dates were available, in some instances the description of the items was too vague to allow a close examination. Obviously the whole question is technical and complicated. The Working Party is, however, generally satisfied that there is a reasonable chance, providing negotiations are immediately put in hand between the equipment buyers and sellers, of the equipment programme of the timber producing countries being met generally by the last quarter of 1949 in time for the commencement of the timber felling season 1949/50, particularly as regards transport, logging and felling and sawmill equipment (the most essential categories of every programme).

Note: A detailed list of equipment will be circulated separately (document E/ECE/TIM/21 Appendix I, Annex 1)