1. The Commission will recall that it has made a review of priorities during previous sessions in the light of then existing resolutions of the Council and rules of procedure. In addition, at the tenth session, the Commission has examined and commented on a report by the Secretary-General (Section II, doc. E/CN.3/249) on the work programme of the Commission and of the Office as requested by Council resolution 6643 (XXIV).

2. Resolution 402B(XII), which was adopted subsequent to the sixth session of the Commission, established procedures which are recommended in connexion with the establishment of priorities. These are as follows:

(a) The Secretary-General should report to each commission session the action which he has taken to carry out the commission's programme according to the priorities previously established, and submit suggestions of priorities for future work, including suggestions regarding projects which might be deferred or eliminated;

(b) The programme of work of each commission should be divided into broad subjects, a differentiation being made, where practicable, between those of higher and lower priority;

(c) The broad subjects should be subdivided into three groups, the first group consisting of continuing projects of high priority, the second group of ad hoc projects also of high priority, and the third group of projects of lower priority, which might be deferred or eliminated, or undertaken only in so far as resources permitted;
(d) It is not necessary to indicate the relative importance of
individual projects in the first and second groups, respectively
mentioned in (c); but, within the group of subjects of lower priority,
individual projects should be listed, if possible, in their order of
priority, or some indication of priority should be given;
(e) In the case of ad hoc projects, there should be an indication of
probable duration;
(f) The Secretary-General, within his existing authority, should have
discretion as to the scheduling of work in order that the best use may
be made of existing staff and resources and to take account of
unforeseen circumstances which may arise.

3. The following paragraphs, based on the discussion of the Commission at its
tenrh session, contain the proposals of the Secretary-General on the priorities
which might be accorded to the various projects reviewed by the Commission.

4. Continuing projects of high priority
   (1) The maintenance of the systematic publication of statistics, together
       with the development of improved indexes and bibliographies, with attention
       to speeding up the release of certain publications and to reviewing the
       contents of existing publications in order to permit the inclusion of
       additional analytical tables within the total programme.
   (2) The maintenance and development of publications dealing with
       statistical methods, with particular reference to the need for the
       inclusion in these publications of additional material concerning the
       practices of national offices in solving problems of collection and
       analysis.
   (3) The further development, as necessary, of mechanisms for regional
       consultations on statistical questions including strengthening of
       services available through the regional statisticians, especially in
       connexion with the statistical needs of the less well-developed
       countries.
   (4) Advice and assistance in giving effect to existing standards or
       guiding principles for the improvement of national and international
       statistics, together with the exchange of information on problems
       of methods and applications:

/...
(a) population and housing censuses,
(b) vital statistics,
(c) social statistics,
(d) basic industrial statistics,
(e) index numbers of industrial production,
(f) external trade statistics,
(g) distribution statistics,
(h) national accounts,
(i) capital formation statistics,
(j) questions of methodology, including sampling.

5. **Ad hoc projects also of high priority**
   (1) Comparative study of national practices in the field of distribution statistics, including various methodological considerations in the conduct of large-scale inquiries.
   (2) Completion of technical studies of definitions and methods for censuses of housing.
   (3) Studies designed to improve the accuracy of vital statistics including experimental studies on methods of obtaining vital statistics in countries where the conventional registration methods may not be applicable, and an analysis of the methods and uses of population registers.
   (4) Continue to work toward the improvement of comparability in external trade statistics, especially trade-by-country statistics and methods by which distinctions might be made between capital goods and consumers' goods. In this work full use should be made of regional and other consultations with the statistical offices of Member States; to investigate the statistical treatment of goods traded in free ports or zones.
   (5) Continue to study, with the assistance of experts, if necessary, suggestions for statistical programmes on the characteristics of business enterprises, including proposals for tabulations showing important aspects of economic activity; examine the question of what reporting unit, i.e., the enterprise or establishment, would be most...
suitable for reporting different types of data; examine methods for
inter-relating data for establishments and enterprises, taking
account of different record-keeping practices.
(6) Complete the revisions suggested in connexion with the
International Standard Industrial Classification and re-issue the
ISIC for general use.
(7) Continue study of national experience with the existing standards
for basic industrial statistics and prepare any proposed revisions in
definitions and concepts which may appear necessary, including
proposals for censuses of industrial production.
(8) Continue to examine alternative methods of compiling index numbers
of wholesale prices; develop suggestions for pricing highly fabricated
goods and other problems of collection and examine methods for general
purpose indexes of retail sales.
(9) Collect information from Member States on indexes of national
product and expenditure in constant prices, on the related price
index numbers and on the methods of computing these indexes; to
prepare a study of the conceptual and statistical problems in this
field in consultation with interested regional and international
organizations and individual experts.
(10) Develop methods for the compilation of national accounts, including
capital formation statistics in countries at a very early stage of
economic development.
(11) Formulation of a statistical programme in the field of income
distribution; revision of the study "Statistics of the Distribution of
Personal Income" and appraisal of the conceptual and statistical problems
in this field.
(12) Complete the revision of the System of National Accounts, explore
methods and possibilities of completing, with the aid of an expert group
if necessary, the systematic comparison of SNA with the system used by
countries with centrally planned economies, in co-operation with regional
statistical groups and the statistical offices of Member States.
(13) Development of standards for the improvement of social statistics generally including statistics bearing on conditions (or levels) of living, co-operating with the specialized agencies towards this end; prepare preliminary co-ordinated plans for a Co-operation of Social Studies to be issued in 1963.

(14) Investigate methods, in co-operation with ILO and UNESCO, for the statistical studies of the supply of and requirements for scientific and technical manpower, especially with reference to the needs of less well developed countries.

(15) Examine the techniques of operating research which might be employed by less well developed countries to evaluate the requirements for human and material resources in broad sectors of the economy.

6. Projects of lower priority
Standards for statistics of:

- transport
- crime
- migration
- tourism.