SUMMARY OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES REGARDING THE STUDY "CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITIES BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN, RELATIONSHIP OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION." (E/CN.3/307)

(Report by the Secretary-General)

1. The first draft of the study entitled "Classification of Commodities by Industrial Origin" was completed in September 1964 (ST/STAT/9). It was then distributed to all members of the Statistical Commission and other selected countries, as well as to regional commissions of the United Nations and other international organizations with a letter pointing out that it was a draft study and that the Statistical Office of United Nations would be grateful to receive comments and suggestions on the study. Replies up to the end of January 1965 were received from the following countries and organizations: Argentina, Canada, Chile, China (Taiwan), Japan, Norway, Panama, United Kingdom, Unica of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, GATT, EEC, FAO, ECAFÉ, ECE, ECLA. All the replies indicated that this kind of work was important, that it responded to an evident need and that the document ST/STAT/9 was a valuable contribution.

2. A number of countries made comments on some of the suggested relationships between the Standard International Trade Classification and the International Standard Industrial Classification. In the light of these, it seems that it may be necessary to amend about 10-15 relationships. Other comments indicated a desire to make changes in the existing International Standard Industrial Classification, but it is thought that these questions should be dealt with in the context of a revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification.

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3. Some suggested that a more detailed explanation should be given in the introduction to the effect that the study contains a straight comparison between commodities and industries. In addition, it should be pointed out that for clarification of the principles of classification of activities one would need to refer to the publication explaining and presenting the International Standard Industrial Classification.\(^1\)

4. It was also felt by some that the introductory explanations might indicate the existence of several problems, other than commodity classification, of comparing international trade and output (industrial origin) data, such as valuation, duplication in output, time lags, etc.

5. Several countries requested that a study be prepared showing for each group (3-digit) of the International Standard Industrial Classification the equivalent sub-group (4-digit) or item (5-digit) of the Standard International Trade Classification, i.e., the reverse of the relationship shown in the present document.

6. It was also pointed out that the breakdowns of the Standard International Trade Classification made especially for comparison with the International Standard Industrial Classification, and shown in the appendix to the study, indicate some of the areas for possible future revision of the Standard International Trade Classification.

**CONCLUSIONS**

7. The Statistical Commission will wish to thank those countries and organizations which have sent comments on, and suggestions for, the study "Classification of Commodities by Industrial Origin".

8. The Commission may wish to recommend that the study should avoid changes in the present International Standard Industrial Classification and that any question which involves revision should be dealt with in the context of a general revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification.

9. The Commission may wish to recommend that any further revision of the Standard International Trade Classification should also take into consideration the breakdown found necessary in this study.

\(^1\) Indexes to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev.1, Add.1.
10. The Commission may wish to ask the Secretary-General to revise the study in the light of the comments received and those made during its own discussions and to publish the revised edition. In addition, it may wish to request that the publication should show the reverse relationship, i.e., linking the International Standard Industrial Classification to the Standard International Trade Classification.