

United Nations

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Nations Unies UNRESTRICTED

CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL

E/CN.3/SR.23  
26 April 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York  
Monday, 26 April 1948, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. MARSHALL (Canada)  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. P.C. MAHALANOBIS (India)  
Rapporteur: Mr. S.A. RICE (United States of America)  
Members: Mr. D.K. LIEU (China)  
Mr. G. DARMOIS (France)  
\*Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE (Mexico)  
Mr. P.J. IDENBURG (Netherlands)  
Mr. G. JAHN (Norway)  
Mr. S. BILKUR (Turkey)  
Mr. H. CAMPION (United Kingdom)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R.M. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization)  
Mr. C. TAEUBER (Food and Agriculture Organization)  
Mr. R. HOFMAN (United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization)  
Mr. A.M. LESTER (International Civil Aviation  
Organization)  
Mr. J.J. POLAK (International Monetary Fund)  
Mr. K. STOWMAN (World Health Organization)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEPPER (American Federation of Labor)  
Mr. G. RIDCEWAY (International Chamber of Commerce)

Secretariat:

Mr. W.R. LEONARD (Representing the Assistant  
Secretary-General in Charge of  
Economic Affairs)  
Mr. W.J. DRUCE (Commission Secretary)

\* Observer

/Adoption

Adoption of the Agenda (Document E/CN.3/39)

Mr. RICE (United States of America) called attention to item 14 of the provisional agenda and stated that since the Rules of Procedure did not permit organizations with consultative status in category B to put items on the Commission agenda, he wished to introduce the item, with a relevant corrigendum, to the document on behalf of his Government. He also wished to propose a change in the order of agenda items so that item 8 would become item 3. At the request of Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) it was agreed that item 10 should be given early consideration. The agenda was adopted with those modifications.

Election of Officers

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) favoured retention of the present officers of the Commission to ensure the continuity of its work.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands), while he agreed with Mr. Campion that it might be desirable to retain the present officers for another year, did not wish such action to constitute a precedent. He pointed out, furthermore, that the present officers did not adequately provide a broad geographic representation and expressed himself in favour of the principle of rotation under which each country would share responsibility in this work.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) commented on the fact that although nearby countries had assisted in the statistical work of the Secretariat through a temporary detail of staff members, nevertheless this practice should not be encouraged. The Secretariat should be strengthened instead.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), seconded by Mr. JAHN (Norway) moved that the present officers of the Commission should be re-elected for another year.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Election of a Member to Serve on the Population Commission

Mr. RICE (United States of America) who had served as the representative of the Statistical Commission on the Population Commission during the last two sessions presented his reasons for wishing to withdraw and nominated Mr. Mahalanobis for the position.

/Mr. MAHALANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) was elected unanimously as the representative of the Statistical Commission on the Population Commission.

Regional Organizations for the Coordination of Statistics (document E/CN.3/47).

Mr. RICE (United States of America) expressed his Government's concern over all the current tendencies toward a breakdown of the kind of coordinated international statistical activity which was conceived when this Commission was established. He did not believe that it was possible to regionalize the responsibility for developing over-all standards in statistics and such a tendency towards regionalization seemed to be involved in the proposal under consideration and in the proposal placed upon the agenda for the Economic Commission for Europe. It was the view of his Government that there be one central responsibility for coordinating the separate efforts relating to statistics. The Statistical Commission of the United Nations and the Statistical Office of the United Nations were conceived to be the appropriate agencies to fill that central coordinating role.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) explained that the proposal on the agenda of the Economic Commission for Europe, which was meeting in Geneva, was intended on the one hand, to meet the need for reliable comparable statistics in the war-ravaged countries of Europe, and on the other, to meet the needs of the Statistical Commission to implement its recommendations by immediate practical measures, particularly with respect to individual European countries. However, he considered the establishment of a European Statistical Committee superfluous because the work could be done under the auspices of the Statistical Commission. Mr. Idenburg emphasized that the Commission could extend its activities to meet existing needs by entering into consultations with government statistical experts in European countries. From discussions and consultations as are now proposed will arise the most valuable suggestions for their own work and for drafting our programme of future work. We will not have to depend on our own knowledge and experience but can take into account the opinions and experience of the very competent group of workers who have the responsibility for utilizing our recommendations

/in the

in the statistical field. Finally, through such discussions, the officers of statistical agencies will feel more than they now do their responsibility in the work of the United Nations. They will become more diligent in supplying information requested by the Statistical Office and more eager to send their comments and suggestions to the United Nations. In view of this explanation, Mr. Idenburg requested the Statistical Commission to consider the following motion:

"That the Statistical Commission recommend to the Economic and Social Council:

That it request the Secretary-General to encourage and facilitate consultation among representatives of the statistical agencies of European Member Governments upon statistical questions."

Mr. RICE (United States of America) seconded the motion.

After the representative of the Netherlands had made clear that the Commission was not proposing to establish a new formal organization, Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) expressed his full support of the motion.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the proposal to set up a European Statistical Commission raised the broader question of conflict between functionalism and regionalism in the organization of the United Nations. He assumed that the motion submitted by the Netherlands representative would not be taken as a precedent in dealing with other regional commissions and that the report would make clear that it applied only to Europe. He pointed out that there are two aspects to this question. On the one hand, the Member Governments do not want duplicating requests for statistics not only from the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies but also from the regional Commissions. On this point, the Statistical Commission must assume the ultimate responsibility for coordination. This should be a point of general principle which we are establishing. On the other hand, we are saying that there is a special case here for implementing recommendations of the Statistical Commission which will give them reality and purpose looking toward a sounder work programme in future years..

/Mr. JAHN

Mr. JAHN (Norway) was not in favour of statistical work being done on a regional basis. It was a world question, which should not be dealt with by different geographical units.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed with the representative of Norway that world comparability and overall standardization were a fundamental requirement. Certain regional subsidiary implementation of the global standard however, might need to be established, since some problems were of special interest to certain countries. He would not oppose the establishment of such regional standards, provided that they did not hamper or conflict with global or overall coordination.

Mr. LIEU (China) considered the idea of consultations excellent. He could not, however, commit his Government to any such suggestion, and hoped that for the time being it would be confined to Europe.

The Commission approved the Netherlands resolution with one dissenting vote.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) informed the Commission that the Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East had asked if he might have the informal views of the Statistical Commission on a paper to be presented at the next meeting of ECAFE.

The paper, which dealt with the general statistical work of ECAFE, would be circulated, and the comments of the Statistical Commission would be referred to ECAFE.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that, as the Commission had not yet had an opportunity to study the paper, it should be discussed at a later meeting.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the item under consideration was the broad question of regional organizations, of which Europe was only one example. The ECAFE paper was another facet of the same question, and in his opinion the whole item should be discussed again at a later meeting. He shared the opinion of the Norwegian representative that the responsibility for coordination was more a matter for the Secretariat than for the Commission.

Coordination of Plans for 1950 Censuses of Population and Agriculture.

- (a) National and international activities for population censuses in 1950.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on document E/CN.3/48.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) drew attention to paragraph 15, which was related to certain recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling. He suggested, therefore, that it might be better to deal with that matter when the report of the Sub-Commission, which figured later on the agenda, was under consideration.

- (b) Report on the work of the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas. E/CN.3/48

The CHAIRMAN introduced Mr. Dedrick, the Chairman of the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas.

Mr. DEDRICK (Chairman of the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas), after circulating copies of the resolutions passed by the Committee, proceeded to give a brief sketch of the organizational background of the Committee.

The Committee had been created by the Inter-American Statistical Institute in 1946, in accordance with a resolution passed by the First Inter-American Demographical Congress in 1943 recommending that the Institute should undertake the coordination of the programme for the provision of population censuses for the American nations in or around the year 1950.

The first session of the Committee, at which all twenty-two American nations had been represented, had taken place a week in advance of the World Statistical Congress in September 1947. It had been realized during the course of the session that without further studies of national needs, it would be impossible to establish a complete Inter-American statistical programme of population censuses. A coordinating Board had therefore been created to perform certain studies and report to later meetings of the Committee. It was hoped that the Coordinating Board would meet again in June, and the Committee would meet for the second time in October or November.

/With regard

With regard to agricultural censuses, an Agricultural Census Sub-Committee had been established. Staff members of the FAO had participated in the work of the Sub-Committee with regard to the taking of an agricultural census in 1950.

Mr. Dedrick drew attention to resolution No. 2 on the minimum Inter-American population census programme. That resolution did not provide a definite or exact procedure, but contained ten items in addition to the usual questions of name and address. Other items which had been considered for inclusion, but upon which the Committee had taken no definite decision, were also listed in the resolution.

Each step in the programme would require the consent of all the countries concerned. The Committee had taken the view that the 1950 census would not be a truly international census unless the twenty-two national censuses were successful. There was much work to be done, but the Committee would move forward by means of research, technical studies, and clearance back to each country. It was hoped that when the Committee held its next session, it would be able to reach general definitions for the Inter-American Census.

Each of the twenty-two American countries would take a census sometime between July 1949 and July 1951; in the case of Ecuador, Paraguay and Haiti, it would be the first time a full census had been taken.

In conclusion, Mr. Dedrick expressed the willingness of his Committee to place any of its documents at the disposal of the Statistical Commission and to give any assistance the Commission might desire.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) asked Mr. Dedrick if he could give the Commission any information with regard to the coordination of programmes and definitions used for the American census, with those of other censuses.

Further, he wished to point out that when he had been in Curaçao recently, responsible officials had not appeared to know anything about the programme.

Mr. DEDRICK (Chairman of the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas) replied, in regard to the first point, that officers of the  
/Committee

Committee had been in close touch with United Nations Secretariat. There had been no final decision with regard to definitions, as that matter would have to be worked out over a period of time with the agreement of each country. It was considered premature to take too rigid a stand at the present moment.

It was true that the Caribbean Commission was not yet adequately informed with regard to the programme; that situation would, however, be rectified within the next few days.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) stated that the Inter-American Statistical Institute was to be congratulated on having been able to induce all the American countries to take a census.

He did not intend to comment on the items listed for the minimum programme, beyond the fact that he considered it very courageous to include the item of income from wages and salaries.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) congratulated Mr. Dedrick on the work of the Committee which represented a big step forward.

With regard to the technical side of the work, he drew attention to the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling contained in document E/CN.3/37, with particular reference to those in paragraphs 14, 26, 43, 45 and 46. It was important that those recommendations should be taken into consideration.

Paragraph IV of resolution No. 2 of the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas stated that it would be desirable to obtain figures for the total de facto population. In that connection, he wished to point out that India had experimented in seven censuses with the de facto principle, and had reached the conclusion that it was not feasible, at least under Indian conditions.

The CHAIRMAN declared that it was not only a question of Indian conditions; Canada, too, had found it could not use the de facto principle.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) asked Mr. Dedrick whether the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas had taken steps to adjust its minimum proposals to those contained in document E/CN.3/W.9.  
/Mr. MAHALANOBIS



Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) observed that the minimum list could be interpreted in two different ways: either every individual would be required to give information according to the list, or certain items on the list could be estimated on the basis of sampling.

The CHAIRMAN said that the points raised by the representatives of the United States and India could be answered when the item came up for general discussion.

The meeting rose at 12:50 p.m.

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E/CN.3/SR.23/Corr.1

28 April 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

Page 3, paragraph 2, line 7

For

"However, he considered the establishment of a European Statistical Committee superfluous because the work could be done under the auspices of the Statistical Commission."

Read:

"If the Commission would agree on the motion he would present, he considered..."

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E/CN.3/SR.24/Corr.1  
29 April 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

The following changes should be made in document E/CN.3/SR.24:

Page 3, line 5:

For "correction", read "collation".

Page 4, first sentence should read:

"The Commission was faced with two different conceptions about censuses: the minimum programme drawn up by the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas, and the Secretariat paper (E/CN.3/W.9) defining the minimum list developed by the Population Commission."

Page 4, third paragraph should read:

"Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) indicated that the general experience in population census in India had been that an attempted complete count on an elaborate schedule would not give accurate results. From the operational point of view, sampling was a less expensive method and provided more accurate results."

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E/CN.3/SR.25  
28 April 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York  
Tuesday, 27 April 1948 at 2:30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. MARSHALL (Canada)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS (India)

Rapporteur: Mr. S. A. RICE (United States of America)

Members:

Mr. D. K. LIEU	(China)
Mr. G. DARMOIS	(France)
*Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE	(Mexico)
Mr. P. J. IDENBURG	(Netherlands)
Mr. G. JAHN	(Norway)
Mr. S. Bilkur	(Turkey)
Mr. V. A. RABICHKO	(Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)
Mr. T. RIABUSHKIN	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Mr. H. CAMPION	(United Kingdom)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOODBURY	(International Labour Organization)
Mr. C. TAEUBER	(Food and Agriculture Organization)
Mr. R. HOFMAN	(United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Mr. A. LESTER	(International Civil Aviation Organization)
Mr. J. J. POLAK	(International Monetary Fund)
Mr. K. STOWMAN	(World Health Organization)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEPER	(American Federation of Labor)
Mr. G. RIDGEWAY	(International Chamber of Commerce)

Secretariat:

Mr. W. R. LEONARD	(Representing the Assistant Secretary- General in Charge of Economic Affairs)
Mr. W. J. BRUCE	(Commission Secretary)

\* Observer

NOTE: Any corrections of this record should be submitted in writing, in either of the working languages (English or French) and within twenty-four hours, to Mr. E. Delavenav, Director, Official Records Division, Room CC-119, Lake Success. Corrections should be accompanied by or incorporated in a letter, on headed notepaper, bearing the appropriate symbol number and enclosed in an envelope marked "Urgent". Corrections can be dealt with more speedily by the services concerned if delegations will be good enough also to incorporate them in a mimeographed copy of the record.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PAPER ON STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC DOCUMENTATION PREPARED  
BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR  
EAST

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that at the last session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Executive Secretary had been asked to prepare a paper on statistical and economic documentation. The draft now before the Commission was the result of that request, and had been submitted to the Commission for its informal views before being presented to ECAFE.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) was favourably impressed with the document as a whole. The author had evidently had the same conception of the relationship which should exist between the Statistical Commission and the regional commissions as had been expressed by the Statistical Commission the previous day when it had passed the Netherlands motion with regard to consultations among statistical officers.

Mr. TAEUBER (Food and Agriculture Organization) drew attention to the statement that ECAFE would expect to work out arrangements for interchange of data with regional offices of the specialized agencies, especially with FAO. He pointed out that regional offices of FAO would not have primary statistical functions, these will be handled by headquarters.

Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) welcomed the proposal that regional offices should help to promote the statistical programmes of the specialized agencies; such action should accelerate the sending in of statistics. He would suggest however, that before any steps were taken, contact should be made with the specialized agencies through the United Nations Statistical Office.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the representatives of the United States and China should prepare a statement of the comments regarding the document, to be submitted to the Commission the following day.

/CONSIDERATION OF

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON STATISTICAL SAMPLING  
(document E/CN.3/37)

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), as Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, introduced the Sub-Commission's report.

From the point of view of the Sub-Commission, it was most important that the Statistical Commission should endorse the operational recommendations in the report. Three of the important points of the report were: first, the opinion of the Sub-Commission that sufficient advance had been made in the study of statistical sampling to enable it to be used to improve the collection of primary material; second, the emphasis on the shortage of trained personnel; and third, the attention drawn by the Sub-Commission to the waste of effort which would result if attempts were made at complete enumeration when adequate facilities were not available.

It was the considered opinion of the Sub-Commission that there were many cases where a sample survey only should be undertaken, and that where complete enumeration was possible, it was useful to have a sample survey taken at the same time.

In conclusion, Mr. Mahalanobis drew particular attention to paragraphs 14, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26 and 43.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) spoke of his long experience in sampling. While he was convinced of its usefulness, he felt bound to point out that there were certain limitations to its practice, especially in small countries where complete data were needed for very small areas. It had also been found to be unreliable in agricultural censuses, where a true sample of the farms did not yield reliable data of farm swine or hens.

If the use of sampling were to be recommended, therefore, it would be advisable to draw attention to the need for caution in its practice.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed that there were certain disadvantages. Moreover, it had always to be remembered that sampling should be undertaken only by trained and experienced operators. Paragraph 15 of the report emphasized the acute shortage of such trained workers.

/Mr. CAMPION

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) asked whether it was intended that at the second session of the Sub-Commission the experience of the various countries with regard to sampling should be collected and annotated. This experience would be useful to those areas where sampling might be over sold.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) affirmed that that would be done, adding that the second session, which was originally to have been held in April, had been postponed to allow time for the collection of just such information. The Sub-Commission could not, of course, expect to have enough material by then to give a considered opinion, but a beginning would be made, and he hoped that a file of periodic reports could be maintained by the Secretariat.

Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) suggested that the Sub-Commission should not overlook certain other uses of sampling besides its use for the purpose of censuses. It might, for example investigate the use of sampling technique to simplify the analysis of transport data. Other fields in which the use of sampling might be considered were public opinion surveys and the study of quality control in factories and production.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) replied that the Sub-Commission at its first session had had time to consider only the specific items on its agenda. He was not sure whether quality control came within the purview of the Sub-Commission, but he himself would like to see that item on the agenda of the next session if the Statistical Commission agreed.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) expressed his satisfaction at the good results achieved by the Sub-Commission.

An important point, which had been brought into relief by the remarks of the ICAO representative, was the question of the different functions of the Statistical Commission, the Sub-Commission and the Secretariat. As the frequency of the sessions of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council was reduced, the need for the Secretariat to examine in detail the various issues which arose between sessions became more urgent. He thought that the Commission should draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the need for one or more sampling experts in the Secretariat.

/Mr. MAHALANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) associated himself with the remarks of the United States representative. It was essential for the Statistical Office of the United Nations to have adequate staff.

In that connection, he would like to remind the Commission that the Sub-Commission was an entirely technical body, whose members served as individual experts and not as representatives of governments.

The Commission decided unanimously to recommend that the staff of the Statistical Office of the United Nations should be increased by a Specialist in the field of sampling.

Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization) voiced the appreciation of his organization of the family budget studies in the report of the Sub-Commission. The ILO was collecting material on the application of sampling to recent family budget studies, and would be glad to submit that information to the Sub-Commission on that subject at a later date.

In reply to a suggestion by Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) that the report of the Sub-Commission should be circulated to Member States, with a request for information concerning the practice and results of sampling in their countries, Mr. BRUCE (Secretariat) stated that the report was being printed and would be circulated to Member States in its printed form.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Sub-Commission should give high priority to the discussion of methods of so-called sampling in use in certain countries which was not sampling at all from the scientific point of view, and of the use of sampling where applied where applied in the wrong fields. An analysis of the work done would be of great value to governments.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) noted that the Chairman's suggestion would imply a great deal of work on the part of the Secretariat, since any task assigned to the Sub-Commission meant an equivalent amount of work for the Secretariat.

An alternative suggestion would be to appoint an ad hoc panel of experts to perform that task.

/The CHAIRMAN



The CHAIRMAN proposed that a small sub-committee should be established, to prepare a report on the subject for submission to the Commission. He proposed as members the representatives of India and France.

The Commission adopted the Chairman's proposal unanimously.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretariat) reminded the Commission that the membership of the Sub-Commission, which was the responsibility of the Commission, was not yet complete.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) asked if the USSR representative would nominate an expert in statistical sampling from his country.

Mr. RIABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replied that he would give his answer at the next meeting.

PUBLICATION PROGRAMME OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE (document E/CN.3/46)

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) remarked that the publication programme was being submitted for the information of the members of the Commission who might wish to comment particularly on the table of contents proposed for the Statistical Yearbook.

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Mr. TEPER (American Federation of Labor) and Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) pointed out that certain countries had not furnished the data requested by the Statistical Office and consequently, there were important omissions of certain statistical series. Mr. Lester thought that the extent of co-operation of contributing countries should be reviewed in a report which might be presented to the Commission at its next session.

Coordination of international statistical yearbooks.

In reply to a question from Mr. RICE (United States of America), Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that although there had been considerable delay in working out a coordinated plan with the specialized agencies and various commissions of the United Nations for the inclusion of various subjects in the most appropriate yearbooks, the Secretariat was now able to prepare a draft outline of an integrated table of contents for discussion.

/Statistical

Statistical Yearbook

The CHAIRMAN called for comments on Annex I of document E/CN.3/46 which contained a summary table of contents for the Statistical Yearbook. He noted that the headings were provisional and that sections VIII on wages and prices, and XI on public finance had been inadvertently omitted in the document.

The members of the Commission agreed on the importance of early publication of a comprehensive Statistical Yearbook.

Mr. LEONARD and Mr. LINDER, of the Secretariat, explained the principles observed in determining the scope of the Statistical Yearbook, the Demographic Yearbook and the statistical yearbooks of the various specialized agencies. While the Secretariat had sought to avoid duplication in the collection, compilation and processing of data, it was considered appropriate to duplicate publication of certain material in more than one yearbook. Moreover, whenever a specialized agency had given complete coverage to a specific subject in its own yearbook, the general Statistical Yearbook would contain only summary material on that matter. For example, most detailed statistics on agriculture would be covered in the Food and Agriculture Organization's publication. Consequently, the Statistical Yearbook presented only an abstract of general agricultural statistics.

Suggestions for additions or modifications of the summary table of contents included the following:

A suggestion from Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) that educational and cultural statistics should be dealt with under a separate heading as soon as UNESCO could make available sufficient data;

A proposal by Mr. TEPER (American Federation of Labor) to add over-all figures on labour force under the heading "Manpower", as well as statistics on retail prices in connection with cost of living data and on national product in connection with national income figures;

A proposal by Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) that gold and silver production figures should not be grouped together and that internal trade data should be related to information on national income;

/A suggestion

A suggestion by Mr. RIABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) to include data on general productive areas as well as on areas allocated for the production of various crops in the section on food and agriculture.

Concerning the last suggestion, Mr. TAEUBER (Food and Agriculture Organization) pointed out that the FAO Yearbook would contain full information on those subjects.

Mr. RIABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) further suggested that the outline of the table of contents should be sent to the various Governments for discussion and comment with a view to considering suggestions received in the contents of the next issue.

After an exchange of views, Mr. RICE (United States of America) moved that the Commission urge the Secretary-General to proceed with the publication of the Statistical Yearbook with all possible expedition, in general accordance with the outline submitted by the Secretariat with the modifications suggested, and that the yearbook should be sent to all Member Governments with a request for comments and criticism which would be taken into account in preparing the subsequent issues of the Yearbook.

The motion was adopted.

Demographic Yearbook.

In reply to a query from Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) concerning population estimates, Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) said that a questionnaire had been sent to most Governments with an insert giving population projections for five years after 1947. The Governments were asked to substitute their own population projections where they differed from those of the Secretariat. A check list had been submitted to determine what elements of population were included in the figures sent. Estimates of future population might be included in future issues of the Demographic Yearbook.

External Trade Statistics

Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) questioned the advisability of publishing the methodological study in connection with the unit value indexes if further study was to be given to the problem. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat)  
/replied

replied that any further study would have to be taken into account in the publication plans.

National income statistics

At the request of Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) explained that the United Nations Statistical Office had established liaison with the newly-organized International Association for Research in Income and Wealth.

Methodological studies of the League of Nations

In accordance with a suggestion by Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund), Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) agreed that, if time permitted, a footnote would be inserted in the publications being prepared by the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts to inform readers of the reporting manual issued by the International Monetary Fund on balance of payments statistics.

The meeting rose at 5:40 p.m.

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**CONSEIL  
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ET SOCIAL**

E/CN.3/SR.26  
4 May 1948  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York  
On Wednesday 28 April 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. H. MARSHALL	(Canada)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS	(India)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. S. A. RICE	(United States of America)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. D. K. LIEU	(China)
	Mr. G. DARMOIS	(France)
	Mr. P. J. IDENBURG	(Netherlands)
	Mr. E. PETERSEN	(Norway)
	Mr. S. BILKUR	(Turkey)
	Mr. V. A. RABITCHKO	(Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)
	Mr. T. RIABOUCHKINE	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. H. CAMPION	(United Kingdom)

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOOLBURY	(International Labour Office)
Mr. TAEUBER	(Food and Agriculture Organization)
Mr. R. HOFMAN	(United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organi- zation)
Mr. A. M. LESTER	(International Civil Aviation Organization)
Mr. J. S. GOULD	(International Bank for Reconstruc- tion and Development)
Mr. J. J. POLAK	(International Monetary Fund)
Mr. K. STOWMAN	(World Health Organization)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Mr. L. TEPPER	(American Federation of Labor)
Mr. RIDGEWAY	(International Chamber of Commerce)

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Secretariat:

Mr. W. R. LEONARD	(Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs)
Mr. W. J. BRUCE	(Secretary of the Commission)
Mr. J. B. DERKSEN	(Secretariat)

POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE MEMORANDUM ON THE STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

The CHAIRMAN suggested postponing until the afternoon meeting a further discussion of the memorandum on statistical and economical documentation prepared by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

That proposal was adopted.

ITEM 7 OF THE AGENDA: REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORK ON NATIONAL INCOME ESTIMATES AND RELATED SUBJECTS: (document E/CN.3/40).

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) presented and commented on the memorandum on the development of work on statistics of national income prepared by the Secretariat. The Statistical Office of the United Nations had made progress in various spheres particularly in the analyses of systems of social accounts now in use in a number of countries, and the distribution of national income. The result of the work undertaken would appear in a first annual report on national income which was almost completed. The need to adopt a uniform statistical basis which would permit better comparability of data on national income could not be too highly stressed.

The Commission could usefully make its views known on the way in which the Statistical Office had interpreted and carried out its instructions.

/Mr. CAMPION

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) thought that the work which had been undertaken and was being done on national income was very important. The task was arduous and difficult.

Reservations should be made on the possibility of obtaining statistics of family and individual incomes classified by range of income. (document E/CN.3/40 paragraph 3) which had been classified according to their importance. The work was delicate because of the variability of data between the various countries. The fact that family or individual incomes were shown sometimes with the tax deducted and sometimes not, and the fact that the rate of tax varied widely made results in that field extremely divergent. That should be very clearly shown in the report.

He stressed the importance of the estimation of the real national income for which very different methods were used in the various countries.

He was not sure of the possibilities of obtaining meaningful international comparisons in regard to categories of consumers expenditures capital formation and income accruing to labour etc (document E/CN.3/40 paragraph 7).

Finally he thought that the analyses of statistics of national wealth and capital formation (document E/CN.3/40 paragraph 5) though useful it might be did not perhaps, deserve a high degree of priority.

Mr. BILKUR (Turkey) wished the Statistical Office to state its views on methods of collecting information and estimating national income, and to establish a standard form.

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) agreed with what the United Kingdom representative had said on statistics on family and individual incomes which varied considerably in the different countries, particularly owing  
/to differences

to difference of incidence of taxation.

The second point raised by the United Kingdom representative, i.e. the measurement of real national income and its periodic changes was a very important one. Appraisals had been made as regards ten countries, and it was found that methods used differed considerably.

In regard to international comparison of the various components of national income, the report insisted on the need for uniform and strictly defined classifications as a primary condition to any comparison. That was true for all categories of income, those mentioned in paragraph 7 (document E/CN.3/40) as agricultural incomes, with which the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization was especially concerned.

As to national wealth and capital formation, he realized that that problem was not urgent, but thought, nevertheless, that it would be useful, in future, periodically to collect statistics in that sphere.

In reply to the Turkish representative, he said that the conclusions of the Committee on Future Work covered the point raised by the Turkish representative.

Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization) pointed out the importance of a greater comparability of statistics, and of a study of the income of the working class, which was calculated differently from country to country.

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) admitted the importance of such a study in spite of the present difficulty of carrying it out.

Mr. LIEU (China) said how difficult he found it to assess real national income in an internationally comparable way. The series of statistics which had been used were not identical in each country; they  
/were,



were, in fact, not always the same within a given country, but sometimes differed from one area to another. For example the cost of living did not always include rent. Price indexes did not always give comparable information between towns. Well defined standards should be set up and they should be uniformly followed.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee on Future Work had made recommendations along the lines of the Chinese representative's remarks; if the Commission decided to call a meeting of a group of experts to study the question of price statistics, that would be one of the problems it would have to consider.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that in certain cases it might be better, when studying the cost of living, to divide a country into areas.

Mr. LIEU (China) said that that applied to his country where there was considerable divergency between the regions.

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) was reluctant to use cost of living indexes in the assessment of the real national income, especially in view of the present economic situation. Another method which might give satisfactory results was to use the index of volume of production.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) like Mr. Campion spoke of taxation. Rates of taxation which differed from country to country according to its products or income, might falsify statistical results in which it was not fully allowed for.

/Mr. TEPPER

Mr. IEFER (American Federation of Labor) suggested asking all countries to prepare an estimate of possible errors in the assessment of national income.

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) replied that a suggestion of that kind was already included in the next annual report.

Mr. IESIER (International Civil Aviation Organization) thought the Statistical Office capable of estimating the possible margin of error and the degree of non-comparability for each assessment.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that as used technically in the taking of samples, the term "margin of error" had a specific and exact meaning; the expression should therefore, be changed to "margin of uncertainty".

Mr. PETERSEN (Norway) suggested enlarging the program of work so as to include a study of national social accounts and budgets.

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) observed that the chief concern of the Secretariat had been to establish and develop a system, and that it relied on the various Governments to inform it of their views on all the very special problems dealt with in the memorandum.

Mr. RABITCHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) agreed that it would be difficult to obtain comparable data for different countries in estimation of national income, as this did not lend itself to uniform calculation, and each country had its own methods. It would be difficult not to go beyond correcting the figures collected. It would be desirable, in future, to collect data on the methods of

/evaluation

evaluation of national income and, according to the information gathered, either to work out a uniform method or to make a combination of various methods in use; the result thus obtained should then be embodied in a report to the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN thought the remarks made during that meeting, on a question which had necessitated a great deal of work on the part of the Secretariat, very pertinent. The Commission would undoubtedly wish to give the Statistical Office any assistance asked for by the Committee on Future Work.

ITEM 8 OF THE AGENDA: SECOND REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE CO-ORDINATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (Document E/CN.3/41)

Section 1, Clearance of questionnaires, paragraphs 3 to 8 inclusive

Mr. RICE (United States of America) found the report as a whole most satisfactory. Speaking with reference to sub-paragraph (a) under "Procedures" in paragraph 4, he remarked that the agencies which drew up the questionnaires were not always the best judges in the matter. It might be advisable to have the questionnaires sent out through the Statistical Office of the United Nations and to send to that Office questionnaires in draft form without waiting for approval of the final draft. Such a method would allow necessary changes to be made in the preliminary drafting stage. As his suggestion was linked with the one found in paragraph 7 of the document in question, Mr. Rice supported the proposal contained in that paragraph to ask international agencies to supply advance drafts of statistical questionnaires at the earliest possible date, in order to enable the Statistical Office of the United Nations to act as a centre for possible changes of a substantive nature and to transmit them through the usual channels, thus ensuring the necessary co-ordination.

Mr. HOFMAN (UNESCO) pointed out that the circulation of statistical questionnaires involved serious difficulties as far as UNESCO was concerned, owing chiefly to the fact that its headquarters were so

/far from

far from those of the United Nations. Mr. Hoffman supported the proposal that only advance drafts of questionnaires be supplied, in order to enable the interested agencies to make such comments as they deemed necessary.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) inquired whether the Consultative Committee on Statistical Matters had not already considered similar proposals.

Mr. LEONARD (Representative of the Assistant Secretary-General) replied that it had not.

The CHAIRMAN next asked the members of the Commission and the representatives of the specialized agencies for comments with respect to paragraphs 7 and 8.

Mr. LESTER (ICAO) felt that difficulties might arise if the various agencies were to send to other organizations documents which were not yet in their final official form. That objection however, was a purely technical one; the ICAO representative accepted nevertheless the procedure proposed in paragraph 7.

Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) doubted that the specialized agencies would be able to carry out literally the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7 and 8.

Mr. WOLLEURY (International Labour Office) pointed out that the ILO had received most useful commentaries after it had transmitted its questionnaires to other organizations. He was greatly in favour of circulating questionnaires in their draft form.

/Mr. POLAK

Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) observed that as regards some of the questionnaires, the degree of usefulness of any comments that might be made by the different specialized agencies varied in accordance with the fields of activity of those agencies. In certain cases the opinions of some of them might not be required.

Mr. LESTER (ICAO) proposed a compromise solution which would avoid waste of time; The Secretariat of the United Nations would have the first opportunity to see all the questionnaires and might be asked to call the attention of the receiving agencies to points of particular interest to them.

Mr. TAEUBER (FAO) stated that, after the transmittal of certain questionnaires, his Organization had received valuable comments which it would not otherwise have obtained. He thought that there was no need to establish and to follow rigorously too narrow a procedure.

Mr. LEONARD (Representative of the Assistant Secretary-General): wished to reply to Mr. Rice's remark with respect to sub-paragraph (a) under "Procedures" in paragraph 4. He pointed out that questionnaires were frequently drawn up on some particular question on which there was urgent need for information, even though they properly belonged within the framework of more comprehensive and general questionnaires. When the Statistical Office was supplied with advance drafts, it was able to exercise a useful co-ordinating function.

Mr. STOWMAN (WHO) said that in general, leaving technicalities aside, the circulation of questionnaires served a useful purpose. The co-operation that had been established between the Statistical Office

/and the

and the World Health Organization in Geneva in drawing up the latter's annual report had resulted in obtaining answers to important questions. Mr. Stowman found Mr. Lester's suggestion interesting.

Mr. GOULD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that the suggestion was one which the Secretariat ought to follow. He also asked that the specialized agencies might be notified of the receipt of their comments and of action taken upon them.

Mr. LESTER (ICAO) observed, with reference to paragraph 8 of the report, that when a conference met, it was frequently difficult to foresee, whether or not it would decide to undertake a statistical investigation.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) was happy to see that a spirit of co-operation and a commendable regard for each other's interests prevailed among the representatives of the specialized agencies and of the Secretariat who were taking part in the present session.

As regards paragraphs 7 and 8, he believed that the members of the Commission wished to simplify rather than to complicate the administrative procedure. He therefore proposed that, taking into account the suggestions made, the summary record should contain a mention of the recommendation that the international agencies should be asked to supply, "as far as possible", advance drafts of statistical questionnaires (document E/CN.3/41, paragraph 7), and that those words "as far as possible" should be added at the end of paragraph 8 (page 3).

/Mr. IDENBURG

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) supported the proposal.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) emphasized that the specialized agencies and the United Nations Secretariat would have to do their utmost to avoid duplication in the questionnaires submitted to Governments.

The proposal of the United States representative was adopted.

Section II, Examination of statistical programmes, paragraphs 9 to 12 inclusive.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the first sentence of paragraph 11 should be adopted as a recommendation of the Commission.

Mr. DARTOIS (France) supported the proposal.

Mr. LEONARD (Representative of the Assistant Secretary-General) pointed out that the object of the sentence in question was to stress the need for well-integrated statistical programmes and for avoiding a plethora of separate inquiries.

Mr. TAEUBER (FAO) suggested that the word "re-examine", in the second line of paragraph 11, be replaced by the word "study".

Mr. RICE (United States of America) and Mr. DARTOIS (France) supported the amendment.

After a brief exchange of views between Mr. STOWMAN (WEO) Mr. LEONARD (Representative of the Assistant Secretary-General) and Mr. RICE (United States of America), section II of the Secretariat report was approved as amended above.

/Section III,

Section III, Distribution of responsibility for the collection of  
statistics, Paragraphs 13 and 14

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) pointed out that there was no centralized statistical service in his country; difficulties might therefore arise if a particular ministry were asked to reply to an international questionnaire.

Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) observed that the aim of avoiding duplication was not to impose an unnecessary burden upon its various Governments, but that it should be remembered that at an advanced stage of co-ordination the desire for absolute elimination of duplication might place an excessive burden upon the specialized agencies; it might therefore be necessary at the present time to take into account the total effort imposed upon the United Nations as a whole upon the specialized agencies and Governments, and not only the work imposed upon Governments.

After an exchange of views, the CHAIRMAN ascertained that there was general agreement on the substance of paragraphs 13 and 14.

Paragraph 15, The International Labour Office

Mr. WOODBURY (ILO) explained that discussions with respect to migration statistics had not yet resulted in a clear division of functions between the Statistical Office and the ILO. As regards social insurance statistics, the ILO was preparing a draft questionnaire which would be circulated as soon as a decision was reached on the principal tables it would contain.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) thought that work on migration statistics should only be carried on in full agreement with the Statistical Office, as the question was linked with that of population statistics.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.



**United Nations**

**Nations Unies**

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.26/Corr.1  
14 May 1948  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Third Session

CORRIGENDUM TO THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Wednesday, 28 April 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

On page 8 the last sentence should read:

"He favoured circulating questionnaires in their draft form, but pointed out disadvantages that might arise from a too rigid insistence upon including all questionnaires -- e.g. those of interest solely to the originating agency -- in the arrangement."

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.26/Corr.2  
25 May 1948

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

CORRIGENDUM TO THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York,  
Wednesday, 28 April 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

Corrigendum to pages 4 and 5, lines 24 to 26 and 1 to 5:

"Mr. LIEU (China) remarked that it was difficult to assess real national income in such a way as to achieve genuine international comparability. The usual method of assessing real income consisted in evaluating the nominal income figure by means of wholesale price indexes. In his country, for instance, different series of index numbers, varying from town to town, were employed. Those series did not vary in the same way and it was difficult to establish which of them were the most applicable. In order to compare the amounts of real national income per inhabitant, it might be better to employ cost of living indexes, but in their case too the indexes varied from one part of the country to another. Living conditions varied so much that no exact idea of them could be formed from those indexes. He hoped that full account of that lack of comparability, particularly on the international level, would be taken in any study of real national income that might be undertaken."

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.27  
30 April 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Wednesday, 28 April 1948, at 3:10 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. H. MARSHALL	(Canada)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS	(India)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. S. A. RICE	(United States of America)
	Mr. D. K. LIEU	(China)
	Mr. G. DARMOIS	(France)
	*Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE	(Mexico)
	Mr. Ph. J. ITENBURG	(Netherlands)
	Mr. E. PETERSEN	(Norway)
	Mr. S. BILKUR	(Turkey)
	Mr. V. A. RABICHKO	(Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)
	Mr. T. RIABUSHKIN	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. H. CAMPION	(United Kingdom)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOOLBURY	(International Labour Office)
Mr. R. HCFMAN	(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Mr. K. STOWMAN	(World Health Organization)
Mr. C. TAEUBER	(Food and Agriculture Organization)
Mr. J. J. POLAK	(International Monetary Fund)
Mr. A. M. LESTER	(International Civil Aviation Organization)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEPER	(American Federation of Labor)
Mr. G. RILGEWAY	(International Chamber of Commerce)

Secretariat:

Mr. W. R. LEONARD	(Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs)
Mr. W. J. BRUCE	(Secretary to the Commission)

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\*Observer

CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF MEMORANDUM FROM ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA  
AND THE FAR EAST ON STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC DOCUMENTATION

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Rice (United States of America) and Mr. Lieu (China) to present their comments on the memorandum considered the previous day.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) read a draft letter of comment, which he proposed should be adopted tentatively by the Commission subject to later modifications.

Mr. STOWMAN (World Health Organization) remarked that his agency had an interest in the matter, since it had an epidemiological branch office in Singapore which collected certain statistics for analysis in Geneva. The letter as read by Mr. Rice (United States of America) was fully satisfactory to the World Health Organization.

The CHAIRMAN noted the Commission's desire to defer tentative approval of the letter until it could be circulated and studied.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION OF SECOND REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON CO-ORDINATION  
OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES  
(E/CN.3/41)

In connection with paragraph 15 (the International Labour Office), the CHAIRMAN read section III of document E/CN.3/C.2/3, a note by the Secretariat on migration statistics. He agreed with Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) that the question should be the subject of further study by the Secretariat in consultation with the International Labour Office.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) commented on the fact that the question of migration statistics had been the subject of a resolution in the Social Commission (document E/CN.5/87). He was not sure of the present status of this resolution, but he felt that it brought up again the ever present problem of correlation among the various Commissions. He thought that

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positive action should be taken by the Statistical Commission and that the question should be mentioned to the Council in connection with the report of the Committee on Future Work.

Mr. Rice also referred to a recent United Nations press release on the adoption of a resolution by the International Labour Office's Industrial Committee on the Chemical Industry, recommending the standardization of health and accident statistics. He felt that such a release, dealing with a question which interested many different commissions, agencies and other organs, could produce considerable confusion, unless the International Labour Office could ensure that the resolution was properly channeled.

Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Office) explained that the resolution adopted by the Industrial Committee would go to the governing body of the International Labour Office, and from there would be properly channeled to all interested bodies.

In reply to a question from Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) regarding plans for work during the next year, Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Office) said that the plans for the next Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1949 included family budget studies, occupational classifications, earnings and payroll statistics, and labour productivity. The agency was also carrying on its work on consumer price indices (cost of living).

In connection with paragraph 16 of the Secretariat's report, Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) mentioned the fact that his agency was still operating under provisional arrangements in the collection of air transport statistics; he expected these arrangements would be improved in the near future.

Mr. Lester pointed out that at the moment the International Civil Aviation Organization was receiving statistics from certain countries

/through

through two channels -- its own reporting system, and the original channel previously used by the Statistical Office. He believed that the two channels would be co-ordinated in the natural course of events.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS DEALING WITH TRANSPORT STATISTICS (E/CN.3/45/Add.1)

Further to the general subject of transport statistics, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Commission now take up item 12 on the agenda, and asked for comments on the resolution adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) noted the request in paragraph 4 of the resolution for the establishment of a working group of experts to study statistical requirements in the transport field. He felt that this request could be met by the setting up of a sub-commission which would include among its members experts in the field of transport and communications.

Referring to paragraph 2 of the resolution, Mr. Idenburg pointed out that it had been the policy of the Commission to discourage decentralization of its activities to regional organizations. He believed the central position of the Statistical Office could be safeguarded if the collection of this type of statistics were done by a branch of the Statistical Office operating within the framework of the regional organization.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) could not support the proposal to establish a new sub-commission. Discussions with members of delegations at the previous session of the Economic and Social Council had conveyed the impression that the establishment of new organs and committees was undesirable.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) then made an alternative proposal for a working group of experts to be set up under the auspices of the Statistical Commission, a suggestion which Mr. RICE (United States of America) supported.

/Mr. CAMPION

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) was of the opinion that it was never the function of a commission to collect statistics and that therefore such work should not be entrusted to the regional economic commissions. He also called attention to a discrepancy in language in the resolution, which referred to "inland transport" in one paragraph and to "transport and communications" in another.

Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) also expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal to entrust collection of statistics to the regional commissions; he considered this a highly controversial point. If domestic aviation statistics were to be included under the heading of inland transport, such an arrangement would be unworkable unless there were extremely close co-ordination with the Statistical Office at Lake Success.

On the question of statistical requirements in the transport field, he did not see how the establishment of a group of experts could be contemplated until the Secretariat had first surveyed the problem. He felt strongly that a Secretariat study was in order before an expert study, at least in the field of international aviation statistics.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) believed the Commission should not delay in taking a stand in the matter, in view of the immediate and urgent need in Europe for statistical data on inland transport.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) recalled that the subject of transport statistics had been raised at previous sessions of the Statistical Commission but had not so far received special consideration. Action on the matter was, therefore, urgent. He agreed with the view of Mr. Lester (ICAO) that preliminary work by the Secretariat was required before a group of experts was set up.

/Mr. CAMPION

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) agreed with the ICAO proposal and with the suggestion that a working group of experts should be set up. He felt, however, that the study mentioned in paragraph (4) should be confined to the field of inland transport.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) also supported the ICAO proposal. The Council should be asked to authorize the Statistical Office to establish an order of priority for statistics of various forms of transport and to set up a working group of experts at the discretion of the Secretary-General. As regards paragraph (2) the Commission should advise the Council that, in its opinion, the collection of statistics on inland transport should not be entrusted to regional commissions.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that paragraph (2) was intended to mean that the statistics would be collected by the staff of the regional offices.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) thought that the Commission should recommend, with reference to paragraph (2), that the Statistical Office should provide staff for branch offices.

Mr. LIEU (China) agreed that it was for the Statistical Commission rather than for regional commissions to establish methods of statistical compilations; he thought, however, that the regional commissions might be permitted to collect statistics, and to forward them to the Statistical Office for compilation and analysis.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) felt that there was general agreement that, while standards should be developed by the Statistical Commission, certain statistical activities would have to be carried out locally, as in fact they already were. The important point was that all

/such



such activities should be under the general supervision and control of the Statistical Office. To achieve that object, the Commission might recommend that some arrangement should be worked out by the Secretary-General. Thus, the Secretary-General might send members of the Statistical Office staff to regional offices. The standardization and co-ordination of statistics would, of course, remain the responsibility of the Statistical Commission.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) and Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) supported Mr. Rice's remarks.

Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) called attention to the fact that the resolution of the Transport and Communications Commission distinguished between general transport and communications statistics, to be entrusted to international agencies, and inland transport statistics, to be assigned to regional commissions. The distinction was, in fact, not between international and domestic transport, which would fit neatly into the framework of the United Nations, but between overseas and inland transport. The latter in many regions of the globe actually meant international transport. A certain confusion and duplication of effort might arise unless that point were cleared up.

Some of the international agencies operating in the field, beside the ICAO, were the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the Universal Postal Union, the International Railway Union, and the International Telecommunications Union.

The CHAIRMAN ascertained that there was general agreement in favour of a recommendation to the Council that the Statistical Office should be authorized to make a preliminary study of the question of transport and communications statistics, to define the scope of the work to be undertaken, and to set up a working group to deal with the matter.

/He

He requested Mr. Campion (United Kingdom) and Mr. Idenburg (Netherlands) to draft a recommendation along those lines -- taking into account the point raised by Mr. Lester (International Civil Aviation Organization) -- as well as a recommendation, in the light of the present discussion, with respect to paragraph (2).

The Commission took note of a resolution concerning inland transport statistics adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON CO-ORDINATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (E/CN.3/41)

The CHAIRMAN called for comments on paragraphs 17 and 18 of document E/CN.3/41, dealing with the International Monetary Fund.

In reply to a question by Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), Mr. POIAK (International Monetary Fund) said that the annual questionnaire on balance of payments statistics which had been sent by the Fund to the Member States of the United Nations and to some non-member Governments was intended only for reports to the Fund; it was not suggested as a standard which Governments should use for their national publications of balance of payments statistics.

The Commission took note without comment of paragraph 19 (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

The Commission took note without comment of paragraphs 20 to 25 inclusive, dealing with FAO, UNESCO, and the Interim Commission of WHO.

With reference to paragraphs 26 and 27 (Other International Organizations) Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) explained that an understanding had been reached whereby the statistics required by the ITO would for the time being be supplied by the Statistical Office.

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The Commission took note without comment of paragraphs 28, 29 and 30, dealing with the Consultative Committee on Statistical Matters, co-ordination within the Secretariat and regional economic commissions.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) recalled that at its last session the Commission had noted the lack of any regular procedure for bringing items on the agenda of one commission to the attention of other commissions which had an interest in them. He asked what steps the Secretariat -- which appeared to be the only possible liaison agent -- had taken in the matter.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) replied that the Economic and Social Council had given some consideration to the problem in connection with a preliminary discussion of the co-ordination of the work of functional commissions, and had requested the Secretary-General to consider in what manner the reports and work programmes of the commissions might best be presented to the Council. No other machinery had been set up. Items on the agenda of other commissions which might be of interest to the Statistical Commission had been mentioned in various documents presented to the Commission by the Secretariat, but no consolidated document on the subject had been prepared.

The meeting rose at 5:30 p.m.

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.29  
5 May 1948  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,  
on Thursday, 29 April 1948, at 4.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. MARSHALL Canada

Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS India

Rapporteur: Mr. S. A. RICE United States of America

Members:

Mr. G. DARMOIS	France
*Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE	Mexico
Mr. Ph. J. IDENBURG	Netherlands
Mr. E. PETERSEN	Norway
Mr. S. BILKUR	Turkey
Mr. V. A. RABITCHKO	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Mr. T. V. RIABOUCHKINE	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. H. CAMPION	United Kingdom

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOODBURY	(International Labour Office)
Mr. C. TAEUBER	(Food and Agriculture Organization)
Mr. R. HOFMAN	(United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)
Mr. B. KORTEKAAS	(International Civil Aviation Organization)
Mr. J. J. POLAK	(International Monetary Fund)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Mr. L. TEPER	(American Federation of Labor)
Mr. G. RIDGEWAY	(International Chamber of Commerce)

Secretariat:

Mr. W. W. LEONARD	(Representing the Assistant Secretary- General in charge of Economic Affairs)
Mr. W. J. BRUCE	(Secretary to the Commission)

\*Observer

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION (Document E/CN.3/C.1/W.2)

The CHAIRMAN submitted to the members of the Commission the report of the Committee on Statistical Classification on the proposed international standard industrial classification. He touched briefly on the headings of the report, and mentioned the several modifications made at the Committee's last meeting. In approving the proposed international standard classification of all economic activities, the Committee had hoped that the Commission would also approve it, and would recommend that the Economic and Social Council should urge Member Governments to make use of it. The Committee further proposed a plan for the development of a standard classification of external trade statistics, recommended that the Statistical Office should explore the field of commodity classification, and suggested that the Commission should request the International Labour Organization to report further on the progress of its work on the classification of occupations.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), supported by Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands), formally proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. RIABOUCHKINE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), stressed the importance of considering the proposed international standard industrial classification merely as a provisional draft, subject to amendment. The draft contained some faults which should be corrected. Thus, for example, the part which had been adopted was purely formal and did not permit a classification on a real economic basis.

His delegation had submitted to the Committee a draft classification with a broader scope, and he suggested that the group of experts should be requested to study it with a view to establishing a final classification.

/Mr. MAILLANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), thought that at the present stage, the adoption of an international standard industrial classification should be speeded up; the procedure suggested by Mr. Riabouchkine, however, would only delay it. As nothing was unalterable, especially in the field of statistics, the Commission could always later recommend any modifications it thought necessary.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), supported that view. The Committee had already discussed the USSR proposal, and there was, therefore, no need to go back on its decision on that matter.

Mr. RIABOUCHKINE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), asked that the memorandum submitted by his delegation should be appended to the Commission's verbatim record.

The draft report of the Committee on Statistical Classification was put to the vote and adopted with two dissenting votes.

COMMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), read the revised text of the note stating the Commission's views on the proposed functions of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in the field of statistics.

In reply to a remark by Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), on the need for allowing the statistical offices of the Member Governments of the region a free hand in the execution of their purely administrative functions, Mr. RICE (United States of America) stressed the need for a general programme to centralize the work of ECAFE in the field of statistics, but said that it was clearly understood that the regional offices would be free to act within the framework of that programme.

/Mr. R. BITCHKO

Mr. RABITCHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) feared that there was a tendency to underestimate the scope and functions of **ECAFE**, which should be able, if it thought necessary, to set up a statistical commission for Asia and the Far East for the centralisation of the statistical work of the different countries of that part of the world.

Mr. TAEUBER (Food and Agriculture Organization) and Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) suggested some small drafting changes in the text of the note, which were accepted by the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the members of the Commission agreed to the note being used as a basis for the Secretary-General's reply to the Executive Secretary of ECAFE.

The Commission agreed.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF STATISTICS (Document E/CN.3/47).

The CHAIRMAN said that the text of the resolution on consultation among the representatives of statistical agencies of European Member Governments, adopted at the Commission's twenty-third meeting, should be communicated to the Economic Commission for Europe, which was at present meeting in Geneva (see Document E/CN.3/SR.23).

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) wondered whether a similar recommendation should not be added to the note to be sent to ECAFE.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) thought that would be premature, as the establishment of a statistical commission for Asia and the Far East was not, at present, contemplated.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.30  
1 May 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Friday, 30 April 1948, at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. MARSHALL (Canada)  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS (India)  
Rapporteur: Mr. S. A. RICE (United States of America)  
Members: Mr. D. K. LIEU (China)  
Mr. G. DARMOIS (France)  
\*Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE (Mexico)  
Mr. Ph. J. IDENBURG (Netherlands)  
Mr. E. PETERSEN (Norway)  
Mr. S. BILKUR (Turkey)  
Mr. H. CAMPION (United Kingdom)  
Mr. V. A. RABISHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics)  
Mr. T. V. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization)  
Mr. C. TAEUBER (Food and Agricultural Organization)  
Mr. R. HOFMAN (United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization)  
Mr. B. KORTEKAAS (International Civil Aviation  
Organization)  
Mr. J. J. POLAK (International Monetary Fund)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEPER (American Federation of Labor)  
Mr. G. RIDGEWAY (International Chamber of Commerce)

Secretariat:

Mr. W. R. LEONARD (Representing the Assistant Secretary-  
General in charge of Economic Affairs)  
Mr. W. J. BRUCE (Secretary to the Commission)

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\* Observer.



CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON THE RESOLUTION OF  
THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (E/CN.3/W.5)

Mr. LIEU (China) expressed his agreement with the views contained in the report, but drew attention to the fact that in his own country, where railway statistics were closely bound up with railway accounting systems, it would be difficult to conform to an international standard; perhaps the same was true of other countries.

The report was approved without further discussion.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FUTURE WORK (E/CN.3/C.2/13)

Sections I and II

Sections I and II were approved, without discussion.

Section III (Recommendations) paragraph 1.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) proposed the deletion of the words "and definitions" in sub-paragraph (a) and the addition of the words "and related aggregates" after the word "income", in the third line of the sub-paragraph.

He suggested that the first part of sub-paragraph (b) should be redrafted to read:

"Before international comparability of the separate items of the various breakdowns of national income can be achieved much further work will be necessary on the methods used in various countries. Analysis and classification of the concepts used, collection of statistics of capital formation and of consumers' expenditure, of income accruing to labour and capital, analysis of the methods used in measuring real national income and development of recommendations for achieving international comparability in these fields are some of the subjects that may require consultation with experts."

Mr. PETERSEN (Norway) wished to have the words "social accounts" added to the heading of paragraph 1.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested that in sub-paragraph (b) the words "separate items of the various breakdowns" should be replaced by "constituent items".

Paragraph 1, was approved as amended.

/Paragraph 2.

Paragraph 2.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) wondered whether the reference to "the general background and present status of statistics" implied an examination and review of the definitions and procedures contained in the International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the answer to that question depended on the extent of work which would be accomplished by the committee of experts; it was certainly true that good index numbers could be obtained only if sufficient reliable production statistics were available. The consultants might make sufficient progress in their studies to make recommendations concerning a census of industrial production; in that case, they would have to refer to information contained in the International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics as well as to data accumulated by the League of Nations.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) believed that reference was being made not to a detailed study of censuses of industrial production, but to the use of statistics of industrial production to weight indexes of industrial production. He thought that the committee of consultants should not examine the International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics at their first meeting.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that it might be best not to assign too much work to the consultants.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) concurred with that view. He felt that it was desirable to afford the group of experts a certain latitude in their work, and thought that the Commission should not be any more specific on the assignment.

Paragraph 2 was approved.

Paragraph 3.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that sub-paragraph (a) should be redrafted in accordance with the wording used in sub-paragraph (a) on page 2.

Mr. PETERSEN (Norway) thought that sub-paragraph (b) should read:  
"Wholesale and retail price index numbers including the indexes of prices of export and imports."

/Mr. POLAK

Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) wished to emphasize the fact that his organization had been, and was still concentrating attention on studies of index numbers and quantum of external trade. He wished, accordingly, to make the following amendments to paragraph 3: in the second part of that paragraph, he wished to delete all the words after "price statistics" and introduce the words 'with the assistance, if necessary, of one or more groups of experts', and at the end of sub-paragraph (c) he wished to see the following words added: 'The Commission notes that the International Monetary Fund is giving particular attention to these index numbers.'

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) thought the amendment proposed by the IMF representative to paragraph (c) undesirable; the work carried on by that organization on the Secretariat level, was a matter for co-ordination with the Secretariat of the United Nations, but should not receive particular mention in the report of the Commission. Such mention would imply, by omission, that other Specialized Agencies had no interest in the matter, whereas in fact, mention of the International Credit Organization would also be highly relevant.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) supported the views of the United Kingdom representative all the more since the report, when adopted by the Commission, would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council with a statement of financial implications.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the committee of experts, when studying the question of price statistics, would undoubtedly take into account the work of Specialized Agencies and representatives of IMF might be included among the experts in the group. He proposed that the paragraph should be voted upon without the additions proposed by the International Monetary Fund representative.

Paragraph 3 was approved as amended by the Chairman and the representative of Norway.

Paragraph 4.

Paragraph 4 was referred to the Rapporteur for drafting changes to take into account previous decisions of the Commission.

Paragraphs 5 and 6.

Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization) wished to suggest the following amendments to the two paragraphs deleting paragraph (b); replacing paragraph (c) by (b); adding a new paragraph 6 to read: "With regard to migration statistics which the Committee also did not put in the high priority groups, the Committee suggests that the Secretariat should examine in consultation with the ILO the adequacy of existing migration statistics and report at the next session".

Paragraph 6 would become paragraph 7, and would read: "In regard to certain other items which are the primary responsibilities of various Specialized Agencies the Committee on Future Work suggests that the Commissions, etc."

Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought the suggestion of the ILO representative acceptable if the wording he proposed for paragraph 6 were changed to read "in consultation with other interested Specialized Agencies". That would take due account of the interest which other Specialized Agencies had in the matter.

Mr. POLAK (IMF) suggested the deletion of the first sentence of paragraph 6. Mr. TAEUBER (FAO) expressed his view that the list of subjects in paragraph 6 was incomplete.

At the CHAIRMAN's request, Mr. Rice agreed to redraft these paragraphs for the report in the light of the suggestions made.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 were referred to the Rapporteur for drafting changes.

Part III, paragraph 7

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) called attention to the fact that very little, if any consideration had been given by most countries in taking censuses of housing to the definitions and recommendations of the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations. He therefore suggested that the latter part of sub-paragraph (b) should be amended to read: "... and request all Governments having experience in the use of these or other definitions in their housing statistics to evaluate the applicability of  
/such definitions".

such definitions". For the same reason, the words "in their use of the above definitions and recommendations" in sub-paragraph (c) should be replaced by "in this field".

Mr. Idenburg's amendments were accepted.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply to Mr. LIEU (China), observed that sub-paragraphs (a) asked Governments to consider the use of existing international definitions. The aim of paragraph 7 as a whole was to have the Secretariat obtain information with regard to the present status of those definitions and recommendations.

Furthermore, there was no intention to limit the recommendations in paragraph 7 to those countries which were going to take housing censuses in connection with the 1950 population censuses.

Paragraph 7 was approved as amended.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), with reference to the report as a whole, stated that the Commission, in the portion of its report to the Council dealing with future work, should indicate that the projects it recommended were particularly opportune at the present time, both because the war had interrupted the compilation of statistical series in many countries, and because many countries were at the moment considering changing the base periods of statistical series.

The sentiment of his Government was that the Secretariat itself should be equipped to deal with most technical matters, and that expert consultants should be recruited only in cases of special need. He hoped that this view would be reflected in the Commission's report to the Council.

The report of the Committee on Future Work (document E/CN.3/C.2/13)  
was approved as amended.

REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON THE COMMISSION'S REPORT DEALING WITH THE  
REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON STATISTICAL SAMPLING

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) read a first draft of the report. It was understood that the report would be circulated in document form before the following meeting, at which a detailed discussion would take place.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America) took issue with the last point in the report, according to which consideration was to be given to remuneration by the United Nations of the members of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling. While he recognized that a problem existed, the solution proposed would in effect make the members of the Sub-Commission at the same time members of the Secretariat, establishing a most undesirable precedent.

Technical experts could, and should, be engaged by the Secretariat when needed, in the capacity of consultants. It appeared increasingly advisable to use the Secretariat, rather than commissions or sub-commissions which met for a brief time once a year, as an instrument for technical work.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed with Mr. Rice (United States of America) as regards the need for expert consultants. Nevertheless, the Sub-Commission, composed of individual experts rather than Government representatives, also filled a need. As its members were not all compensated by Governments, some form of compensation ought to be considered.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that the members of the Sub-Commission received generous travelling allowances, and could in most cases absent themselves from their regular duties without loss of salary.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) suggested that the situation might be eased if, when the date and place of sessions of the Sub-Commission were chosen, the convenience of the individual members, for whom no alternates could be supplied, were taken into account and if, when the Secretariat sent invitations to the members, it would at the same time notify their employers and Governments of the fact. The Commission, in its report to the Council, should make a note of the special position of the Sub-Commission.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) did not think that the Commission should take any formal stand on the matter, which might perhaps be handled by the Secretariat at the request of the Chairman.

/Mr. BRUCE

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) explained that the Economic and Social Council had set up a committee to determine the date and place of sessions of the Council's subsidiary bodies. The matter was therefore largely out of the hands of the Secretariat. The latter could, however, inform employers and Governments whenever members were asked to attend a session of the Sub-Commission.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the discussion would be continued at the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 12:50 p.m.

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**United Nations**  
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UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.31  
5 May 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Monday, 5 May 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. MARSHALL (Canada)  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. P.C. MAHALANOBIS (India)  
Rapporteur: Mr. S.A. RICE (United States of America)  
Mr. D.K. LIEU (China)  
Mr. G. DARMOIS (France)  
\* Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE (Mexico)  
Mr. Ph. J. IDENBURG (Netherlands)  
Mr. G. JAHN (Norway)  
Mr. S. BILKUR (Turkey)  
Mr. V.A. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)  
Mr. T. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)  
Mr. H. CAMPION (United Kingdom)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R.M. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization)  
Mr. R. HOFMAN (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)  
Mr. B. KORTEKAAS (International Civil Aviation Organization)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEPPER (American Federation of Labor)  
Mr. G. RIDGEWAY (International Chamber of Commerce)

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\* Observer



Secretariat:

Mr. W.R. LEONARD	(Representing the Assistant Secretary- General in charge of Economic Affairs)
Mr. W.J. BRUCE	(Secretary to the Commission)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION ON THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON STATISTICAL SAMPLING (document E/CN.3/W.6)

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that three points covered by paragraph 9: 1) possibility of consultation, 2) dates of meetings of the Sub-Commission, and 3) a request by the Secretary-General or the Statistical Office of the services of members available in an expert capacity, might be left out of the draft report as they had already been noted by the Secretariat. The questions might appear in the summary records.

The representative of India moved the adoption of the deletion of paragraph 9, and was seconded by the representative of France. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed the hope that the report submitted by the Sub-Commission did not mark the end of the work on sampling by the Statistical Commission. Paragraph 3 endorsed generally the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling. In order not to prejudge the final work of the Commission, paragraph 3 should state that the Commission took note of the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling. That wording would avoid the implication that the work of the Statistical Commission in that field had been completed.

After a brief exchange of views, the following wording was proposed by the Commission for paragraph 3 of the report of the Statistical Commission:

"The Statistical Commission takes note with approval of the interim recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling;..."

/The above

The above redrafted text was moved by the representative of India and seconded by the representative of France.

The motion was carried.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE SUGGESTED REPORT FOR 1950 CENSUS PROPOSALS

The CHAIRMAN stated that an informal discussion had been held the previous week to deal with the subject of population and statistics. The representatives of the United States and of the United Kingdom had evolved from that discussion a plan of action which had received the unanimous approval of all the members present. The Commission's task was to reach agreement on the manner in which procedure could be put into operation. That seemed to involve two steps:

- 1) to present and approve action concerning document E/CN.9/W.9 on the proposed recommendations regarding the list of subjects for the 1950 census of population. A memorandum on the proposed report of the work covered in document E/CN.9/W.9 had been circulated to the members;

- 2) to consider the statistical items in the provisional agenda of the Population Commission and decide what action should be taken or what instructions should be given to the representative of the Statistical Commission on the Population Commission, concerning those subjects, particularly with regard to item 15 of the Population Commission agenda.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) drew the attention of the Commission to the major discrepancies between those of the Secretariat and those prepared by the Committee for the 1950 Census of the Americas. He also pointed out that during the informal discussions held, there had been general agreement on the differences of interpretation of the term de facto enumeration in the various countries. If some clarification was not possible in the document under discussion, the views of the members should, at least, be placed on record.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN replied that, with regard to the first point raised by the representative of India, the intention was to cover it in paragraph 3. The Commission agreed that it was important to take into account and co-ordinate the views of the various bodies concerned.

With regard to any discussion on the term de facto enumeration, it might not be profitable to go further into the matter at the present stage as it had already been discussed in the document which contained the recommendations presented to the Statistical Commission by the Secretariat. He agreed, however, that the term needed clarification and that the Secretariat should take note of the observations made by members.

The Chairman recalled that the Commission had previously decided against recommending that every country should take a census on a full de facto principle, but if a de jure census was taken, there should be an additional count which would make it possible to construct a de facto total for the whole population.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that in India the meaning of the terms de jure and de facto was different to that used in the Secretariat document. De jure was interpreted in the Secretariat paper to include nationals of a particular country residing abroad, or persons in military forces serving abroad, whereas in India the term would refer especially to a relaxation of the time limit for enumeration. Residents abroad would not be included. The meaning of the terms de facto and de jure needed clarification for purposes of international comparability.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that the underlying theory of the proposed action by the Statistical Commission was that the technical details of the problem should be worked out by the Secretariat. Although he agreed with the representative of India on the overriding importance of the question, he thought that it would be difficult for the Commission to formulate a statement of the definition. The Secretariat

/might

might reconcile the different views expressed and issue recommendations to Governments accordingly.

Mr. JAHN ( Norway) agreed with the views expressed by the Indian representative, but supported the opinion of the representative of the United States, that the Commission could not go into the matter at the present time. De facto and de jure were not the only terms in the document under discussion which needed more exact definition. The document was not intended to cover international comparability, but only dealt with the general ground for taking a census. In Norway, because of the movement of seasonal populations, both de facto and de jure censuses were necessary.

Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) stated that the Statistical Office of the United Nations was aware that the terms de facto and de jure were used to express different meanings and, in fact, were quite ambiguous. There was also some confusion as to whether a census, when taken simultaneously, would have to be taken on a specific date, or over a period of time.

With regard to the Demographic Year Book, wherein de facto was sought information was being collected as to the exact definition of the terms de facto and de jure, in different countries and on the basis of the information received, the Secretariat would make a study of the actual practice in the use of those terms.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed with the representative of the United States on the inadvisability of attempting to obtain exact definitions at the present stage, but drew the attention of the Commission to the importance of clearing up the meaning of the term de facto, which was one of the great obstacles in reaching maximum agreement in international comparability. Perhaps the Commission might draw attention to that point in paragraph 3 or, alternatively, request the Secretariat to take note of the question.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the suggestion of the representative of India might be incorporated in paragraph 3 by the addition of a sentence stating that the Commission considered of particular importance the clarification of the concept of the terms de facto and de jure population.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the question of nationality should be included among the recommended items for a population census. In a considerable number of countries, Governments were faced with the question of many nationalities, such as in the USSR, where there were 150 different nationalities. The question was therefore of great importance to many countries in the solution of practical and political problems.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the question was covered to a certain extent by the last sentence of paragraph 4.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that most Governments would be interested to know not only the total population of their countries, but also what portion of that population was formed by its own nationals. He recognized, however, that in the present world situation the differentiation between citizens and nationals might be difficult to ascertain.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) expressed doubts as to the advisability of requesting that kind of information from certain countries. He would prefer not to include it in a minimum list.

The CHAIRMAN explained that there was no suggestion that the question of nationality should be eliminated altogether. Those countries which could do so should include the question of nationality in the list of

/topics

topics suggested in the memorandum under discussion. It was also included in a different form in the list recommended by the Committee for the 1950 Census of the Americas.

Mr. KYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the majority of the members feared the technical implementation of the principle he had expressed. The Commission might be willing to consider, as a compromise solution, the addition of the words "and as far as possible the question of nationality", after listing the items in the document.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) raised the point that both "nationality" and "citizenship" needed clarification.

Mr. KYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered there was a difference of opinion among the members with regard to the meaning of the word "nationality". He thought that the majority of the members thought of "nationality" in terms of the country, whereas he had considered it rather from the point of view of linguistic differences.

The CHAIRMAN said, with regard to the exact definition of citizenship, that the Commission had already agreed that it would involve a great many difficulties because of the complexity of some of the citizenship laws.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that the task of the Commission was to study the proposal for a minimum list of subjects and definitions to be recommended to all countries for their censuses, if they were taking them about 1950. Because no general agreement had been reached on the definition of the term "nationality", he suggested that the item should be omitted from the lists. That did not mean however that a country would not, at any time, include additional items in its own population census, if it so desired.

/Mr. MAHALANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that India, before partition, had about 700 different language groups. The constitutional structure of India was such that the concept of nationality would be even more difficult to determine than in most countries.

Mr. RYABUSEKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in view of the difficulties which his proposal appeared to have raised, he would not insist that his views should be reflected in the Commission's recommendations. He would agree to their appearing only in the summary records. He wished to call attention to the fact that the Commission's resolution included only four questions whereas that of the Population Commission dealt with ten basic questions. Other bodies appeared also to be going ahead with their work, and the Commission should therefore include in its report some reference to the fact that other items might be elaborated by the Secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that the motion on the question of nationality, submitted by the representative of the USSR, would be considered as having been withdrawn.

After an exchange of views, the Commission agreed to certain modifications in the drafting of paragraph 4, which would read as follows:

"It does, however, consider that all countries taking censuses should try to provide comparable answers to the following items: total population, age, sex, marital status, and types of economic activity."

With regard to paragraph 5, the Commission agreed to delete the word "minimum" in the penultimate sentence.

Paragraph 6 was redrafted to read as follows:

"The Statistical Commission has made certain observations, which appear in the summary records, on the technical aspects of the recommended definitions and refers these to the Secretary-General for

/consideration

consideration in the additional consultations recommended in paragraph 3.)

The CHAIRMAN agreed to ask the Secretary, at the suggestion of the representative of India, to furnish a full report in its summary records of various issues of importance which the Commission had discussed, relating to population censuses.

The representative of India moved the adoption of the suggested report for 1950 census proposals and was seconded by the United Kingdom representative. The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CENSUS ACTIVITIES

The CHAIRMAN invited comments on paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of document E/CN.3/48, which contained suggestions by the Secretariat for recommendations which the Statistical Commission might wish to make to the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) favoured the suggestions in paragraphs 13 and 15, but was opposed to paragraph 14, which, in his opinion, implied that Member Governments which had ignored the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council with regard to the question of a census might take action at the request of the regional commissions. It should be sufficient for the Council to call the attention of Member Governments to the programme.

Mr. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed the omission of the recommendation in paragraph 13. The question of taking a census was within the competence of each particular country, and the resolution of the Economic and Social Council, mentioned in paragraph 1, was quite sufficient at the present stage.

/Mr. RICE



Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that there was some difference between the action referred to in paragraph 1 and the recommendation in paragraph 13. The emphasis in paragraph 1 was on the question of the use of comparable schedules, whereas paragraph 13 contained the simple proposal that the Economic and Social Council should urge Member Governments to take censuses. It should be possible to take the first steps towards obtaining world population censuses in 1950, as in paragraph 13, without necessarily striving towards elaboration on the basis of comparability, as in paragraph 1.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt some uncertainty with regard to the implications of paragraph 13, and asked what exactly was meant by the term "in or about 1950" for the taking of the proposed census.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) explained that an attempt had been made before the war to have censuses every ten years, and to encourage countries to take them at the same time. The war had disrupted those arrangements, and although certain countries had taken censuses within the last few years, it was desirable to return to the ten-year system. It would be for each country to do as it wished in that respect, but Mr. Jahn could see no reason why the Economic and Social Council should not urge Member Governments to take their censuses in or about 1950.

In reply to a suggestion by Mr. MAHAJANOBIS (India) that countries which had taken a census in recent years might take a sample census only in 1950, Mr. Jahn urged that the idea of sampling should not be over-emphasized where censuses were concerned. Census figures were used for administrative rather than purely scientific purposes, and complete enumeration was therefore needed for smaller units than could be achieved by sampling methods.

/In reply

In reply to Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), who did not understand why such a recommendation as that contained in paragraph 13 was to be made at the present stage, when there had already been so much discussion concerning the 1950 census, Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) explained that in examining the Council resolution on the subject, the Secretariat had discovered that the full intention of the Population and Statistical Commissions had not been covered by that resolution, which was the outcome of two proposals -- the 1950 Census of the Americas and the 1950 World Census of Agriculture -- and did not contain a specific request to all Member Governments to take censuses.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that the matter could be covered if the Commission accepted the recommendation in paragraph 15, which assumed approval of the principle of paragraph 13.

Mr. BILKUR (Turkey) expressed the interest of his country in the idea of technical assistance for the taking of an agricultural census. Turkey had already taken a population census four times, but thought it might be desirable for experts from the Statistical Office to assist economically under-developed countries where census errors might occur.

He declared that he would have further points to raise with regard to technical assistance when the programme of statistical education was discussed.

The Commission decided to accept the recommendation in paragraph 15 and to reject that in paragraph 14.

CONSIDERATION OF STATISTICAL ITEMS IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE  
POPULATION COMMISSION (document E/CN.9/15)

Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that the United Kingdom representative had proposed that the representative of the Statistical Commission on the Population Commission should invite the advice of  
/the

the latter body with regard to how best the Statistical Commission could serve its statistical requirements.

There could be no attempt to go through the various items on the agenda and decide where to give assistance. The Statistical Commission could not presuppose what the statistical interests of the Population Commission would be, and could only ascertain by asking that body.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) drew attention to item 12, which concerned population statistics. The Statistical Commission representative should ask the Population Commission what its exact needs in that field were, so that the Statistical Commission could place that item on the agenda of its next session.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), seconded by Mr. RICE (United States of America), moved that the representative of the Statistical Commission should draw the attention of the Population Commission to any action taken by the Statistical Commission concerning the different items of the provisional agenda, and should ask what assistance the Statistical Commission could offer with regard to the future work of the Commission.

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

The CHAIRMAN announced that the agenda was completed, with the exception of item 14, the programme of statistical education. The Commission was awaiting a reply from UNESCO in Paris before it could complete consideration of that item. He proposed, therefore, that the Commission should meet the following afternoon, by which time it was hoped the reply would be available. There would then remain only consideration of the Rapporteur's draft report, which might be ready by the time item 14 had been disposed of.

The meeting rose at 1:10 p.m.

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.32  
7 May 1948  
ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Wednesday, 4 May 1948 at 2:30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. MARSHALL (Canada)  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS (India)  
Rapporteur: Mr. S. A. RICE (United States of America)

Mr. D. K. LIEU (China)  
Mr. G. DARMOIS (France)  
Mr. Ph. J. IDENBURG (Netherlands)  
Mr. E. PETERSEN (Norway)  
Mr. S. BILKUR (Turkey)  
Mr. V. A. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)  
Mr. T. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)  
Mr. H. CAMPION (United Kingdom)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization)  
Mr. R. HOFMAN (United Nations Educational Social  
and Cultural Organization)  
Mr. K. STOWMAN (World Health Organization)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEEPER (American Federation of Labor)

Secretariat:

Mr. W. R. LEONARD (Representing the Assistant Secretary-  
General in charge of Economic Affairs)  
Mr. W. J. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission)

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CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 14. OF THE AGENDA - AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR  
EDUCATION IN STATISTICS (Documents E/CN.3/43 and E/CN.3/43 Add.1)

Mr. RICE (United States of America) drew the Commission's attention to a cablegram which had been received from UNESCO concerning the prospect of support by that Organization for the proposed programme for education in statistics, which read as follows:

"UNESCO WILLING IF REQUESTED CONSIDER SUPERVISE WITH COLLABORATION  
INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE PROGRAMME STATISTICAL EDUCATION.  
CONSIDER TOTAL COST SHOULD BE DIVIDED PROPORTIONATELY BETWEEN  
UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERESTED ORGANI-  
ZATIONS. UNESCO PARTICIPATION CONTINGENT APPROVAL NEXT GENERAL  
CONFERENCE."

In his opinion, it was a very satisfactory reply and a hopeful augury that a constructive programme involving UNESCO participation could be developed.

The only issue about which there had been no general agreement in the Commission had been the sponsorship of the programme. The original proposal put forward by the International Statistical Institute had called for a programme to be arranged by the United Nations through action of the Economic and Social Council. The alternative later submitted by the United States delegation had suggested that the arrangements and sponsorship should be made by UNESCO at the request of the Council.

In the light of the cablegram from UNESCO, Mr. Rice wished to suggest an alternative action by the Commission which, in accordance with the proposal of UNESCO, would leave open the question of the precise arrangements to be made. The proposed amended resolution would read as follows:

"THE ECONOMIC

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Recognizing that a world-wide shortage of adequately trained statisticians is impeding the development of statistics throughout the world and is adversely affecting the ability of many national governments to supply <sup>information</sup> to the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, required by them to further the economic and social objectives of the United Nations Charter, and believing that an international programme for education and training in statistics should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible,

"RECOMMENDS:

- (1) That the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other interested Specialized Agencies, the International Statistical Institute, and other appropriate organizations, arrange for preparation of a plan to formulate and implement an international programme for education and training in statistics.
- (2) That such a plan take into account the views expressed by the Statistical Commission and those contained in a communication on this subject addressed to the Commission by the International Statistical Institute through its President (E/CN.3/43).
- "(3) That the Secretary-General submit as early as possible a report to the Economic and Social Council which shall include definite proposals with respect to the organization of the programme."

Should the resolution be adopted, Mr. Rice hoped that a report by the Secretary-General, if called for by the Council at its meeting in July 1948, might be made directly to the Council at its meeting early in 1949, without the necessity of its being referred again to the Statistical Commission.

The CHAIRMAN drew the Commission's attention to the following telegram which had been received from Mr. Taeuber of FAO:

"WE SUPPORT NEED FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION AS OUTLINED  
IN MR. RICE'S MEMORANDUM. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH TRAINING  
PROGRAMMES SO FAR EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR SUCH BASIC  
TRAINING ON THE OBJECTIVES SET FORTH."

With regard to the resolution put forward by the United States representative, Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the first section asked for an exploration of the technical plan. The second part took into account the views which had been expressed by the Commission. The third suggestion was that the Secretary-General should submit to the Economic and Social Council in January 1949, concrete proposals for action by the Council without reference back to the Commission. He was anxious to know whether that would mean that the exploration of the work to be done would cover the whole programme for education and training in statistics for a number of years.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that his proposal could mean that, though it did not necessarily do so. The original proposal had contemplated a preliminary survey which would develop into a plan which might have as its result a more permanent programme. If it were possible to speed up the time-schedule, as a result of a report by the Secretary-General to the Council, a more permanent programme might be initiated at an earlier period.

/Should the

Should conditions prove to be too complicated, it might be wiser to revert to the proposal calling for further exploration by ISI, but in that respect, he was prepared to defer to the judgment of the Secretary-General.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands): pointed out that the new United States resolution no longer contained the idea that ISI was the appropriate body to be assigned to undertake the proposed programme. He asked if it was the intention to defer recommendation as to the central body to execute the plan, or could definite suggestions be included in the present draft.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that he had had no thought of either minimizing the role of ISI or of deferring unnecessarily a concrete recommendation. However, many organizations were interested in the programme and should in some way be associated with the project.

Paragraph 2 of the proposed resolution included a statement to the effect that the views of the Statistical Commission and those contained in the communication on the subject from ISI, would be taken into consideration.

~~The Commission was now in the process of expressing its views.~~

Mr. DARMOIS (France) agreed that the question before the Commission was an urgent one, but felt that it would be dangerous to attempt to carry out such important work in too great haste. Organizations did exist which could provide statisticians at the present time. In his opinion, it would be to the advantage of the Commission to scrutinize the general structure of the plan very carefully.

Mr. BILKUR (Turkey) emphasized the necessity to improve national statistics, without which it would be impossible to further the economic and social objectives of the United Nations Charter. The United Nations Statistical Office had been given the function of collecting data from all countries, but in respect of the less developed countries that was particularly difficult.

/The adoption



The adoption of the United States resolution would lead to long-term benefits, but something further was needed which would provide a more direct solution to the problem. He suggested the creation of a pool of ten or fifteen professional statisticians with an administrative as well as a technical background, to whom could be assigned for study, the various geographical areas of the world. The countries of the Middle East would greatly appreciate such a suggestion being transmitted to the Secretary-General. It would have the effect of increasing and improving the statistical information at headquarters and also would encourage governments to make larger expenditures for statistical work.

Mr. STOWMAN (World Health Organization) expressed the view that the question of the expenses of the proposed programme should be carefully studied before the various Specialized Agencies were approached on the subject. A large item of the WHO budget had been assigned to fellowships, but during the past year, of two hundred and forty-five fellows, only four had specialized in statistical work. It was not that the Organization did not consider public health statistics of importance, but that the question of preliminary training was not its specific function. Until the expenses of the proposed programme had been carefully calculated, therefore, he would have to restrict himself to stating what the policy of WHO had been hitherto.

Mr. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the remarks of the WHO representative. It would be necessary to have information on the financial aspect of the proposed programme before an adequate solution to the problem could be worked out.

In reply to the CHAIRMAN, Mr. DARMOIS (France) repeated that he had no new proposal to make, but that the United States resolution contemplated a too hasty procedure.

/Mr. MAHALANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) supported the point of view expressed by the French representative. During the many years in which he had been associated with efforts to organize projects for statistical training, he had come to the conclusion that time was needed to organize such work, even within the boundaries of one country. In this connection, he drew attention to the attempts of the Royal Statistical Society to arrange examinations, diplomas and training for statistical work.

The wording of the first paragraph of the resolution implied that it was a plan for a programme for education in statistics. With the French representative, he felt that there was danger in devising a plan without first knowing what work was being carried out in the various countries of the world. Such information could not be gathered from national statistical office only; non-governmental organizations would have to be consulted. On the whole, it would be desirable for the Statistical Commission to have an opportunity to study the plan for the proposed programme.

To meet the views of the Indian representative, Mr. RICE (United States of America) suggested that the phrase "to formulate and imploment" should be deleted and the words "for<sup>the</sup>/formulation and implementation" should be substituted in the first paragraph of his resolution. He explained that the plan would be the machinery by way of which the proposed programme could be carried out.

In his opinion, the views of the French and USSR representatives were antithetical. It would not be possible to calculate the exact cost of such a programme and yet at the same time, to proceed with the work slowly and cautiously. One could not allocate expenses until one knew the exact details of the plan to be developed. The work was now in its preliminary stages and unlike the representative of France, he felt that it would be profitable not to refer the Secretary-General's report back to the Statistical Commission before it was considered by the Economic and Social Council.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that the resolution, if adopted, would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its next session in July, the latter referring it to the Secretary-General with a request that he should report back to the Council. The suggestion was that the report should go to the Council without being referred back to the Statistical Commission.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) thought that the proposal that the Secretary-General should report back directly to the Economic and Social Council was, in the opinion of the Secretariat, unlikely to be accepted by the Council. The latter would consider that the proposed programme should be evaluated by the technicians rather than by the Council itself, and would therefore probably recommend that the report should be referred back to the Statistical Commission.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that there was nothing in his resolution which determined whether it should go to the Council directly or through the Statistical Commission. He had thought that the plan might be submitted to the Economic and Social Council during its January session.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that the question of the financial arrangements for the proposed plan was an important point which required consideration. The representative of the United States had not only included the question of education, but also of training.

Mr. Campion wished to know whether the intention was that the whole scheme of FAO training should be transferred to the proposed programme. The third part of Mr. Rice's resolution left the question open as to when the proposal should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. Mr. Rice had suggested that it should be done at the January session of the Council, but in Mr. Campion's opinion it would be inadvisable for

/the proposal

the proposal to be submitted to the Council without having been referred back to the Statistical Commission for study. Neither the method of implementation nor the financial arrangements were as much the concern of the Commission as the programme itself. Without the expert advice of the members of the Statistical Commission, the Economic and Social Council might adopt a resolution which had not been formulated in detail and did not fully cover the needs of the proposed programme.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that he did not object to including in point 3 of his resolution a definite statement to the effect that the report should be submitted to the Statistical Commission, or to the Economic and Social Council, /through the Statistical Commission.

Mr. LIEU (China) supported the view that the plan should be submitted through the Commission. He also considered it necessary that the Secretary-General should get in touch with the corresponding authorities in different countries to ascertain what plans they had already put into practice, particularly countries which needed statistical training, and where different conditions and degrees of education existed. He supported the proposal submitted by the United States representative, but wished to raise a few points which particularly concerned his country.

In China, as in a great many countries, the statistical education had not reached a high degree of development. There were a number of colleges giving courses in statistical training, but the problem in his country was that not enough people were taking up those special studies. If any educational plan was to be carried out by the United Nations, UNESCO, or any other international body, the question of language difficulties would have to be taken into consideration. Foreign experts sent  
/to China

to China to give training in statistics, would be faced with the language barrier, and they would have to work through interpreters. To simplify matters, he suggested that pamphlets should be printed in Chinese summarizing the latest developments in statistical training.

With regard to the taking of population censuses, Chinese experts would have to be trained in the technique of collecting census statistics, and in that connexion, the foreign experts would also be faced with the fact that Chinese people as a whole were unaccustomed to supplying data for statistical purposes. Mr. Lieu suggested that any proposed international organization should take into consideration the points he had raised. Reference could be made to them in the proposed resolution, or the Secretary-General might be asked to take note of the views he had expressed.

Mr. LEONARD (Representing the Secretary-General) wished to know whether the Commission agreed that the two questions raised in the UNESCO telegram, if approved, could be regarded by the Secretariat as the terms of reference for the report.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) wished to clarify that his proposal was merely a plan for a programme and not the programme itself. The Secretary-General was not being asked to develop a plan for an educational programme, but merely to make arrangements in order that some organization might undertake the development of such a plan. He had hoped that the International Statistical Institute would be given that responsibility. The plan that the Secretary-General would present in his report to the Council, would be administrative in character. The Statistical Commission could review, with other organizations, the administrative arrangements which the Secretary-General proposed.

/There was

There was a plan before the Commission in the first document but the Secretary-General should also consider other factors, including the suggestions from UNESCO, and submit his own ideas on the subject.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that if the question was simply one of machinery for the formulation of the plan, the matter should be left entirely in the hands of the Secretary-General, with a request that he should recommend action which should be taken.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that the United States resolution should cover as fully as possible the question of the educational programme, and should also determine the procedure by which the question would come before the Commission at its next meeting. The Secretary-General's report, after consulting the Specialized Agencies and other bodies concerned, should specify how the programme was to be carried out.

The question of the financing of the proposed programme had also to be considered. If the expenditure involved was large, national governments should generally be expected to bear the cost. Before requesting the Secretary-General to take up the question of implementation, the members of the Commission should have a clear understanding as to the exact purpose of the programme.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that the United States proposal could be divided into two stages;

- 1) preparation of a programme for educational training;
- 2) implementation of that programme.

The first stage required clarification, and a suggestion had been made to form a group whose duty would be the preparation of the machinery to deal with the question. The Secretary-General should be requested to make a preliminary survey in order to inform the Statistical Commission,  
/or the Economic

or the Economic and Social Council, how such a programme could best be formulated. With regard to the programme itself, Mr. Mahalanobis agreed with the United Kingdom representative, that the matter should be dealt with by the Statistical Commission.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that the original proposal contained a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council to request the International Statistical Institute, in collaboration with UNESCO and other agencies, to formulate and organize an international programme for education and training in statistics. The new proposal recommended that the Economic and Social Council should receive the advice of the Statistical Commission before taking any action. Apart from the fact that it did not have the necessary resources, the Institute could not develop a full programme because it had not been invited by the United Nations to do so, and could not volunteer its services without receiving such an invitation. Mr. Rice thought that the Institute would undertake to carry out the task if it had to bear only part of the cost.

After an exchange of views, the Commission agreed that guidance would be sought from the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council on the nature of the organization that would probably have to be established.

The CHAIRMAN invited comments as to what would be the next step for the Commission to take, on the assumption that the Economic and Social Council would give a favourable decision on the organization to be set up.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) considered that the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, after the latter had studied the question with various interested bodies

bodies, would adopt a resolution making certain requests for their participation in the programme. When an understanding had been reached on the financial arrangements to be made, the International Statistical Institute could be requested ~~to proceed with the development of~~ the programme. As an indication of the kind of procedure which might appropriately be adopted, the original resolution had suggested that the International Statistical Institute should create a commission of its own, made up of competent scholars in the field. That commission would ascertain the definite requirements of the programme, and collect information about educational facilities and financial resources in different countries. That programme would be referred back to the Statistical Commission for review.

The redrafted text of the United States resolution was introduced on the motion of the UNITED KINGDOM representative, and was seconded by the representative of the UNITED STATES. The revised text read as follows:

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

"recognizing that a world-wide shortage of adequately educated and trained statisticians is impeding the development of statistics throughout the world and is adversely affecting the ability of many national governments to supply information to the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies, and other inter-governmental organizations, required by them to further the economic and social objectives of the United Nations Charter; and

"believing that an international programme for education and training in statistics should be formulated and implemented as soon as possible;

"RECOMMENDS



"RECOMMENDS

"(i) that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other interested Specialized Agencies, the International Statistical Institute, and other appropriate international organizations, arrange (a) for a survey of the needs for education and training in statistics and for the formulation of an international programme to meet those needs; (b) for a report on the means by which such a programme may be put into effect.

"(ii) in such consultation the Secretary-General should take into account the views expressed by the Statistical Commission and those contained in a communication on this subject addressed to the Commission by the President of the International Statistical Institute (E/CN.3/43).

"(iii) that the Secretary-General should submit to the Fourth Session of the Statistical Commission a survey and report recommended in paragraph (i) above, prior to further recommendations by the Commission to the Council on this matter."

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. LEONARD (Representing the Assistant Secretary-General) said that the financial implications of the proposed programme would appear in an annex prepared by the Secretariat, which would be circulated among the members together with the report, at the next meeting of the Commission.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) referred to the question of field service staff in the United Nations, which required further discussion. In the report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, there was a specific request that those services should be furnished as soon as

/possible.

possible. Arrangements should be made for occasional visits by competent professional statisticians to the various countries which were in need of expert advice.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that on the basis of the report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, which the Commission had approved, the draft which would be submitted to the Statistical Commission supported the idea of furnishing field services.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) stated that two points in the recommendations of the Sub-Commission's report dealing with the question of a permanent staff of experts would take time to develop and would entail considerable expenditure. The Sub-Commission considered that it should be possible to arrange for occasional visits of experts, which did not necessarily have to be financed by the United Nations. The suggestion of the Sub-Commission was that the United Nations should act as a "clearing house" and give the necessary facilities.

The CHAIRMAN thought that if a government needed the services of an expert, and was willing to defray the expense of his visit to the country, he felt sure that the Secretariat would be able to make those services available.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that he doubted whether the Commission was at a stage when it could anticipate any further action, apart from that which had been envisaged in the draft.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

**United Nations**

**Nations Unies**

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.33  
14 May 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
5 May 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. H. MARSHALL	(Canada)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. P. C. MAHALANOBIS	(India)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. S. A. RICE	(United States of America)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. D. K. LIEU	China
	Mr. G. DARMOIS	France
	Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE	Mexico
	Mr. P. J. IDENBURG	Netherlands
	Mr. E. PETERSEN	Norway
	Mr. S. BILKUR	Turkey
	MR. V. A. RABICHKO	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mr. T. RYABUSHKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. H. CAMPION	United Kingdom
<u>Representative of a Specialized Agency:</u>		
	Mr. R. WOODBURY	International Labour Organization
<u>Representative of an Inter-Governmental Organization:</u>		
	Mr. K. STOWMAN	World Health Organization
<u>Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:</u>		
	Mr. L. TEEFER	American Federation of Labor
	Mr. G. RIDGEWAY	International Chamber of Commerce
<u>Secretariat:</u>		
	Mr. W. R. LEONARD	Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs
	Mr. W. J. BRUCE	Secretary of the Commission

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (DOCUMENT E/CN.3/W.7)

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that decisions already taken would not be re-opened. Errors, if any, could be corrected. He suggested that the report be considered section by section.

Explanatory Note

Approved without comment.

Introduction

Approved without comment.

The Commission in Full Stride

Approved without comment.

The Goals Restated

Mr. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) felt that as the section dealt with general objectives of the Commission, there should be incorporated in the section wording to the effect that the Commission was establishing uniform methodology and uniform standards in statistics.

He agreed, at the request of the Rapporteur, to submit a draft of wording which he considered adequate for the expression of his idea.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) asked the Rapporteur in what light he viewed the report as a whole.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, noted that the report contained an explanatory part indicating it was the channel which the Commission had for making recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and to the Secretary-General. The report was also an historical document which would be read by many persons in the world. The idea was to separate, by placing in the annex, the specific recommendations which

/the Council

the Council might wish to consider. Chapter I was an attempt to summarize and restate the place which the Commission had reached in a long-term and continuing programme. There was need for continuity in the Commission's work. Detailed discussion and action were included, not in Chapter I, but in the latter part of the report.

The section was approved, subject to the change suggested by the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Role of the Commission within the System.

Approved.

Statistical Commission and Statistical Office

Approved with minor drafting changes.

Statistical Interests of Other Functional Commissions

Mr. LIEU (China) felt that the last paragraph did not express clearly the idea that the Commission had contacts with all Commissions, not only with the Population Commission.

At Mr. Lieu's suggestion, the clause reading "otherwise its inter-commission contacts have been entirely through the Secretary-General" was amended to read: "otherwise its contacts with that Commission and other commissions have been entirely through the Secretary-General."

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur accepted a suggestion made by the representative of the United Kingdom to stress in the last paragraph of the section the fact that the irregularity of meeting dates was to a large extent responsible for the difficulty of the relationship of the Statistical Commission with other commissions.

Mr. RYABUSKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the section should indicate that specific recommendations with regard to the Commission's relationship with other commissions would be elaborated upon later on in the report.

/In pursuance

In pursuance of that suggestion, the last sentence of the section was amended to read: "Believing that this latter channel requires further development, the Commission, in later pages, is recommending and elaborating a procedure to meet this need."

The section, as amended, was approved.

Regional Statistical Interests and Responsibility

Approved with slight drafting changes.

Co-ordination between United Nations and Specialized Agencies

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), referring to the last paragraph of the section, expressed the view that there was no conflict between a specialized agency protecting the interest of his organization and a group consciousness; therefore, the second sentence of the last paragraph stating that at the Commission's First Session the representatives of specialized agencies appeared to regard themselves as ambassadors charged with protecting the special interests of their organizations should be deleted.

The Commission agreed to the proposed deletion.

Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization), referring to the third paragraph of the section, felt that the beginning of the paragraph should be amended so as to retain only the essential idea of co-operation and to omit any mention of an authority, as the latter was unnecessary.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, commented that the question often was asked as to why there was not the exercise of authority for co-ordination. Co-ordination was a process of negotiation and compromise and not the exercise of authority, and it was desirable to bring that idea of co-operation to the attention of governments.

/Mr. MAHALANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed in principle with the view expressed by the Rapporteur. The principle should be made clear that authority in that sense should never be created or exercised.

The Commission agreed to leave the third paragraph of the section unchanged.

Technical Advice of the Commission

In accordance with suggestions made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and India, the first sentence of the section was amended to read:

"The Statistical Commission believes that not all of its recommendations at each session call for specific resolutions by the Economic and Social Council."

The last sentence of the paragraph was omitted, as proposed by the representative of India and supported by the representative of the Netherlands.

The section, as amended, was approved.

LIQUIDATION OF STATISTICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

At the suggestion of Mr. STOWMAN (World Health Organization) it was decided that the accuracy of the opening statement should be verified.

Mr. CAMERON (United Kingdom) felt that the section was not in keeping with the tone of the preceding texts. The statement that the Statistical Commission had merely taken over and liquidated the statistical functions of the League of Nations could hardly be interpreted as a positive indication of the constructive work of the Statistical Commission. While it was true that the Commission had taken note of the League's work in the field of statistics and continued certain publications which it considered valuable, the Commission had also developed  
/new approaches.

new approaches. A chapter designed to clarify the status of the Commission's work and its future programme should not be written entirely in terms of taking over the functions of the League of Nations.

Mr. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) agreed that the substance of the opening paragraphs was misleading and should be changed. It was incorrect to consider the Statistical Commission as the heir of the League's statistical function just as it was unacceptable to take the view that the United Nations was a continuation of the League of Nations.

Mr. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed the fact that the Soviet Union had consistently objected to the interpretation that the Statistical Commission was merely a continuation of the League's statistical activities. It must be remembered that the scope of the Statistical Commission's work was considerably wider than that of the League.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, pointed out that he had always assumed that one of the important functions of the Statistical Commission was to take over the work of the League of Nations in the field of statistics. While he appreciated the point of view expressed by the United Kingdom and the USSR he felt that the report should contain some account of the disposition of the League's activities by the Commission.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) believed that there was no fundamental difference between the position of the United States or the United Kingdom and the USSR. There was no disagreement on the fact that the Statistical Commission had continued certain functions previously exercised by the League. It was also generally accepted that the continuation  
/of those



of those functions was one of many tasks being performed by the Statistical Commission. The point at issue seemed to be how much emphasis should be given to the transfer of the League's functions. The difficulty might be resolved if the role of the League were not highlighted in the Commission's report.

It was decided that the Rapporteur should redraft the section in the light of the views expressed and present a new text for approval by the Commission.

#### SUB-COMMISSION ON STATISTICAL SAMPLING

Approved with a minor drafting change.

#### WORLD STATISTICAL CONGRESS

Approved with a minor drafting change.

#### MOBILIZATION AND AUGMENTATION OF STATISTICAL RESOURCES

Approved with slight drafting changes.

In reply to a comment by Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) that the introductory chapter seemed overlong especially in its section on Goals Restated, Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, stressed the fact that the chapter was not intended for the members of the Economic and Social Council or the Statistical Commission but for the general public. The task of exposition was important in view of the general lack of information and understanding with regard to the goals and scope of the work of United Nations.

Chapter I was approved in substance subject to the changes indicated.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) stated that the pagination of the draft report did not correspond to the order in which the sections would ultimately appear. As soon as possible, the complete report would be collated and distributed.

/CO-ORDINATION

#### CO-ORDINATION OF PLANS FOR 1950 CENSUSES

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt that the title of the section should be 1950 Population Censuses.

Following to the end of the last paragraph of the section, he assumed that the expert advice provided would be paid for by the national governments involved.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) stated that the Economic and Social Council had not formulated a decision on the question of rendering expert advice. An estimate of the financial implications of such a project was being prepared by the Secretariat and would be distributed to the Commission in due course. It was assumed that the United Nations would pay the cost of providing expert advice.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) indicated that in view of the general obscurity at the current stage, the Commission might wish to deal with the entire question when the Secretariat's paper on financial implications had been distributed.

The Commission agreed to approve the section with the understanding that the financial implications of the last paragraph would be reviewed later.

#### STATISTICAL SAMPLING

It was pointed out that sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 needed clarification to indicate that the first reference to the United Nations meant the Member Governments rather than the Organization.

/The section

The section was approved subject to minor drafting changes and  
to modification of paragraph 1 (a) by the Rapporteur.

CO-ORDINATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE  
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The section was approved in substance.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

**United Nations**

**Nations Unies**

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.34  
10 May 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Thursday, 6 May 1948, at 10:45 a.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. H. MARSHALL	(Canada)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. P. C. MAHAJANOBIS	(India)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. S. A. RICE	(United States of America)
	Mr. D. K. LIEU	(China)
	Mr. G. TARMOIS	(France)
	* Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE	(Mexico)
	Mr. Ph. J. IDENBURG	(Netherlands)
	Mr. E. PETERSEN	(Norway)
	Mr. S. BILKUR	(Turkey)
	Mr. V. A. RABICHKO	(Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)
	Mr. T. RYABUSHKIN	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. H. CAMPION	(United Kingdom)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R. M. WOODBURY	(International Labour Office)
Mr. R. HOFMAN	(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations:

Mr. L. TEPER	(American Federation of Labor)
Mr. G. RIDGEWAY	(International Chamber of Commerce)

\* Observer

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Secretariat:

Mr. W. R. LEONARD

(Representing the  
Assistant Secretary-  
General in charge of  
Economic Affairs)  
(Secretary of the Commis-  
sion)

Mr. W. J. BRUCE

CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL  
COMMISSION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (document E/CN.3/W.7)

Beginning on page 20 of the draft report, the CHAIRMAN invited the comments of the Commission on the section "Regional Statistical Activities".

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, asked that the word "could" on page 21, line 4, be changed to "should".

At the suggestion of Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), the last sentence of page 20 was revised to read: "The creation of a new organization not brought into relation with the Statistical Commission might jeopardize".

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) felt that there was a conflict between the ideas expressed in the second paragraph regarding infrequency of sessions of the Commission and need for more rapid progress, and the assumption in the last paragraph that "any proposed actions must be referred to the Commission". He asked for a less stringent wording of the first sentence of the last paragraph.

After some discussion the Commission agreed on the following version: "...the report of the consultation together with any proposed actions of a general character affecting the Statistical Commission's responsibilities must be referred to that Commission..."

/Mr. RABICHKO

Mr. RABICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) asked why the report contained no reflection of the Commission's position on the proposal regarding the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. The report seemed to deal only with statistical matters affecting the Economic Commission for Europe; it should also cover statistical activities of the other regional commissions.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, had understood that there was to be no reference made in the report to the action the Commission had taken regarding the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, since that action had been informal and was to be incorporated in a letter from the Secretariat to the Executive Secretary of ECAFE. In any case, however, the report was so worded that it could refer to any of the regional economic commissions.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) observed that the Commission's policy had been to treat each particular case separately as it presented itself. It was preferable for the other regional commissions to make their own proposals, rather than for the Statistical Commission to offer proposals without knowledge of their particular needs.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought it might be well to add a sentence at the end of the section indicating that the Statistical Commission assumed the same principles would be applicable in the case of the other regional commissions.

The report in its present form might be considered ambiguous, since its recommendations were of a general nature. He was not sure what procedure the Secretariat could follow in case proposals should be presented by the regional commissions at a time when the Statistical Commission was not in session.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, drew attention to page 6 of the report, the section of Chapter I entitled "Regional Statistical Interests and Responsibility", which had been discussed the previous day. That section was devoted to the general aspects of the question applicable to all regions; he felt the Secretariat could turn to it for guidance in case of need.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) did not wish to press his suggestion for an added sentence if the Secretariat and the Commission thought it unnecessary. He wished only to clear up any ambiguity and lighten the burden of the Secretariat's work. He saw no need for a specific reference to ECAFE.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) observed that the Commission had stated, in the chapter under consideration and in Chapter I, its general views on the relation between regional activities and the general functions of the Statistical Commission. The Commission had as yet received no official requests for action from the other regional commissions. Certain views had been expressed to the Secretary of ECAFE: if that commission so desired, it could present a request for action which would be treated as a special case, in the same manner as the case of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that on the question of regional consultations the Secretariat would have to assume that the operative part of the report was the section now under consideration, not the general statements made in Chapter I.

In the event that ECAFE should make a request of this nature, he assumed that the ultimate action would be a recommendation by the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council, similar to  
/the recommendation

the recommendation now being made concerning the Economic Commission for Europe.

Regarding the other regional commissions, the Statistical Commission had adopted general principles, which would serve as a guide in preparatory discussions with the regional organs. Proposals could then be prepared for the next session of the Commission, in which those principles would be incorporated.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, referred to the last two sentences of the section on regional statistical interests in Chapter I, in which the Commission had stated its intention that during intervals between sessions of the Commission, the Secretary-General should have full control over regional statistical activities. The Commission's desire was to lay down general principles to guide the Secretary-General in his relationships with regional commissions, until the Statistical Commission should receive further requests for action.

He asked whether it was Mr. Leonard's feeling that the Commission's informal action concerning ECAFE should be formalized by a report to the Council that such action had been taken.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) did not think this could be done, since no formal request had been received from ECAFE. If a request were received, it should be dealt with in the manner he had described, at the next session of the Commission.

The section on "Regional Statistical Activities" was approved as amended.

In connexion with the discussion of Chapter VI, Transport Statistics, Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that the paper just circulated to the Commission was the official text of the Transport and

/Communications



Communications Commission's resolution, and was different in certain details of arrangement from the cabled text considered earlier. The Secretariat had tried to make the drafting committee's report conform to the final text.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) objected to the wording of the sentence "The Statistical Commission is generally in favour of central rather than regional collection of statistics." The sentence was clear as it stood in the report, but if lifted from its context it would be open to misinterpretation.

At the suggestion of Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, the sentence was revised to read: "In respect to international statistics, the Statistical Commission is generally in favour of central rather than regional collection."

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) observed that the Commission's first recommendation to the Council in this chapter raised a point of substance. Since the Commission had just expressed itself as generally in favour of central rather than regional collection of statistics, it could hardly ask that such collection become "a primary concern" of the regional commissions' staffs. He thought this recommendation should be omitted entirely from the report.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, explained that the paragraph in question had been drafted on the basis of an incomplete record of the Transport and Communications Commission's action and did not convey exactly the views of the Statistical Commission. He considered redrafting was necessary, since the Commission could not ask the Council to amend a premise adopted by another Commission.

/Mr. MAHALANOBIS

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) supported the opinion of Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) that omission of the paragraph would imply the Commission's endorsement of the principle of entrusting collection of statistics to the regional economic commissions. The paragraph in question had been the core of the Commission's earlier decision.

The representative of the United Kingdom and the Secretary of the Commission were asked to re-draft the paragraph.

#### CHAPTER VII - WORK PROGRAMME: IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) drew attention to a draft he had circulated which contained financial estimates for the various proposals in Chapter VII.

Mr. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the question of expenses should be considered very carefully at the present time, when the United Nations was exercising every possible economy. He would suggest that more time should be allowed for consideration of the financial implications before a decision was taken upon the programme. For his part, he would not be able to give his final opinion until the following day.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) asked the Secretary if he was correct in assuming that the Commission was not required to take a decision with regard to the expenses involved; the estimates were merely collateral information for the guidance of the Commission.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) confirmed that that was the case. When any proposal which had financial implications was under consideration, it was the responsibility of the Secretary-General to draw the attention

/of the appropriate

of the appropriate Commission and of the Economic and Social Council to the expenses involved. Neither the Commission nor the Council was required to pass judgment on the financial estimates.

Mr. RABICHEKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) considered that it was not possible to examine the programme without considering the means of implementing it, which could not be separated from the question of finance.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) drew attention to the short time remaining for the Commission to complete its schedule; if the financial question as such was to be considered, it would be impossible to finish the report in time. Moreover, it was not within the competence of the Commission to approve specific figures.

The CHAIRMAN read rule 24 of the rules of procedure of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, under which the Secretary-General had the duty of communicating to the members of the Commission, for information purposes, an estimate of the costs involved in any recommendation the Commission proposed to make.

He suggested that the Commission should first consider the proposals in Chapter VII without reference to the estimated cost, and then go through the chapter once again, noting against each project the amount involved. The Commission might then decide to mention in the report that certain items did not involve any expenditure in the current year.

#### Indices of Industrial Production

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) proposed the deletion of the words "and methods" at the end of the second sentence of the first paragraph.

The Commission approved the section on indices of industrial production, as thus amended.

/Statistics

Statistics of Prices

The Commission approved the section on statistics of prices, with a small drafting change in the fourth sentence.

Revision of the Minimum List

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the correct title in the first sentence was "Minimum List of Commodities for International Trade Statistics".

The Commission approved the section on revision of the minimum list, with that amendment.

Statistics of National Income and related subjects

The Commission approved the section on statistics of national income and related subjects.

Plans for 1950 Population Censuses

Mr. RICE (United States of America), recalling his earlier remarks regarding the competence of the Commission concerning expenditure, proposed the deletion of the words "in the 1949 budget of the United Nations".

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that the same question had arisen at the previous meeting, in connection with the last paragraph of Chapter III. The same phrase would have to be deleted in that paragraph.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) asked to be allowed to make some general observations with regard to Chapter III, since it was again under discussion.

He was under the impression that in the report of its previous

/session,

session, the Commission had invited the Population Commission to deal with the matter of the 1950 censuses, and that certain papers had been submitted to the Commission in the name of the Population Commission. He thought, therefore, that it would be appropriate to make some reference to the interest of the Population Commission in the subject.

After a short exchange of views, the Commission agreed to redraft paragraph 1 of Chapter III as follows:

"The Statistical Commission has studied.....planned by a number of governments (document E/CN.9/W.9). The recommended definitions were prepared for submission to the Population Commission and the Statistical Commission and refer to the tentative list of items previously approved by the Population Commission, given general endorsement by the Statistical Commission, and noted by the Economic and Social Council. The Statistical Commission wishes to record its views respecting these items, the proposed definitions and related matters."

The Commission approved the deletion of the words "in the 1949 budget of the United Nations" from the last paragraph of Chapter III and from the paragraph on plans for 1950 population censuses in Chapter VII and from the paragraph on plans for 1950 population censuses in Chapter VII

#### Housing Statistics

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) proposed the substitution of the words "Insufficient attention has been given" for the words "inadequate use has been made" in the first paragraph.

The Commission approved the section on housing statistics, as thus amended.

#### Statistical Sampling

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) proposed to change the words "additional staff" to "necessary staff" in the last paragraph.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America) suggested that, in view of the action that had been taken, the words "current sampling projects" in the second paragraph should be changed to "sampling projects having current interest".

The Commission approved the section on statistical sampling, with those two amendments.

Other Subjects

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) proposed the substitution of the word "revenues" for "income", and "public debt" for "national debt" in sub-paragraph (d).

Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed the substitution of the word "projects" for "series" in the first paragraph.

The Commission approved the section on page 30 entitled "Other Subjects", with those amendments.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) drew attention to a further section on page 36 under the same title, "Other Subjects". He proposed that the last paragraph of that section, which dealt with the need for co-ordination between the various Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, should be put under a separate heading.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) read paragraph 18 of the report of the second session of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council (document E/577), in which the Commission asked the Council to devise procedures by which Commissions might consult each other on appropriate occasions. The Council had taken no decision on the matter, but had referred consideration of it to the seventh session, when it would be treated as one aspect of the general problem of co-ordination.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America) agreed that the last paragraph on page 36 should be placed under a separate heading. He suggested "Statistical Work of Other Commissions".

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested that the last three lines should be redrafted as follows: "...the statistical requirements of the other functional and regional commissions and the technical and statistical problems arising from their programmes of work."

Mr. LIEU (China) proposed the substitution of "the Commission" for "the Committee on Future Work".

The Commission approved the third paragraph on page 36, as amended, to be entitled "Statistical Work of Other Commissions".

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary) proposed the addition of the words "the statistical aspects of" before the words "the Provisional Questionnaire" in the second paragraph of the section "Other Subjects" on page 36.

The Commission approved the first two paragraphs of page 36, as amended.

#### Statistical Classification

In reply to a question by Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands), Mr. RICE (United States of America) explained that the order of presentation in the report was not definitive, and, as Rapporteur, he intended to change it in the final draft.

Mr. RYABUSEKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for a short note to be included, stating the views he had expressed with regard to standard classification. He stressed that such a note would not give the impression that there had been divergencies of views in the Commission, since the question was purely methodological.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America) agreed to draft such a paragraph.

In reply to an observation by Mr. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) that there appeared to be some duplication, the subject of classification being treated in two different parts of the report, Mr. RICE explained that the one or two cases of apparent duplication were intentional, the form of presentation throughout being that of elaboration and summary.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.



**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.35  
13 May 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

Lake Success, New York  
Thursday, 6 May 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. H. MARSHALL	Canada
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. P.C. MAHALANOBIS	India
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. S.A. RICE	United States of America
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. D.K. LIEU	China
	Mr. G. LARMOIS	France
	*Mr. A. CASTRO VALLE	Mexico
	Mr. P.J. TIENBURG	Netherlands
	Mr. E. PETERSEN	Norway
	Mr. S. BILKUR	Turkey
	Mr. V.A. RABICHKO	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mr. T. RYABUSHKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. H. CAMPION	United Kingdom

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. F.M. WOOLBURY	(International Labour Organization)
Mr. R. HOFMAN	(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Representative of Non-Governmental Organization:

Mr. C. RIDGEWAY	(International Chamber of Commerce)
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Expert Consultant: Mr. N.L. MCKELLAR

Secretariat:

Mr. W.R. LEONARD	(Acting Assistant Secretary- General in charge of Economic Affairs)
Mr. W. J. BRUCE	(Secretary to the Commission)

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CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
(document E/CN.3/W.7)

Statistical Classification.

Mr. NICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, proposed, on behalf of the USSR representative and himself, the following paragraph, to be inserted after sub-paragraph (b) on page 32:

"The recommended classification takes into account the comments and suggestions of 27 countries which responded to the request of the Secretary-General when the preliminary draft was circulated. The technical views of the USSR, not having been previously received, were presented during the Commission's Session by its representative and were referred to the group of expert consultants. The technical views of the Soviet representative and the comments thereon by the expert consultants will be found in Summary Records of the Commission's Session.

"The Commission believes that the classification as adopted reflects the best possible synthesis of national viewpoints that can be made at the present time. It was pointed out, however, that continual improvements in the classification may be expected as a result of experience gained in its use by Member Governments."

The Commission approved the insertion of the proposed text.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the word "tabulation" should be substituted for "coding" in the sixth line of the paragraph headed "Alphabetical Index".

On the suggestion of Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), the final sentence of that paragraph was redrafted to read "The preparation of such an index, which will be a difficult and drawn out task, should be undertaken when opportunity permits."

/Mr. PETERSEN

Mr. PETERSEN (Norway) proposed that the second sub-paragraph of item 7 on page 33, should read as follows: "The Commission recommends that supplementary classifications be developed especially (a) by stage of production, (b) by use and (c) by categories of economic activity..." In his opinion, the main classification outlined in the preceding passage of the report, might not provide all the necessary information concerning classification by stage of production and therefore the reference to stage of production should be maintained in item 7. It also might be possible to collect information through a classification by use and therefore, a separate reference to that category also should be included.

After an exchange of views, the Norwegian proposal was accepted by the Commission.

On the suggestion of Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), sub-paragraph 1. was deleted; the Commission having noted that the suggestions contained therein were included in the report.

Programme of Statistical Education and Training.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, pointed out certain drafting changes which would have to be made, which he had already brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

On the suggestion of Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), the first sentence of the final paragraph on page 37 was deleted.

The Commission approved Chapter VIII and authorized the Rapporteur to include a reference to statistical education in the list of "OTHER SUBJECTS" on page 30.

/ITEMS

ITEMS NEEDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION

The Goals Restated.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, proposed the following text, to be substituted for the second sentence, in which he had attempted to meet the views of the Ukrainian representative:

"It can be said that the goal of the Commission is to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to organize the world for peace by furthering the creation of a world statistical system which shall provide the most efficient means for supplying essential statistical information and shall include the establishment of international standards respecting statistical methodology and comparability."

The Commission approved the Rapporteur's proposal.

Statistical Interests of Other Functional Commissions

On the suggestion of Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), the following sentence was added to the second paragraph: "The difficulties have increased as the sessions of the Commission have become less frequent and have been more often scheduled at different times and places."

Liquidation of Statistical Functions of League of Nations.

The Commission agreed to delete the section and to substitute for it the following text:

"Consideration of Future Work

"The report of the Second Session of the Statistical Commission observes that 'an effective international statistical system for the United Nations' must develop 'such a standardization of statistical definition and classifications as will result in comparability among the statistics of national governments and inter-governmental agencies'. At its first session the Commission had already decided to view the preparation of a standard classification of industries, or economic activities, as having a first priority in this area of work.

/"The appropriate

"The appropriate starting point for this project was found to be the classification of the gainfully occupied population developed in the League of Nations. The Secretariat, aided by a group of technical experts assembled from different countries, has converted that classification into an up-to-date and more general industrial classification for international statistical comparisons of economic activities.

"The Commission has requested that work be continued upon several other classifications to which some attention has already been given. Proposed priorities with respect to these and with respect to the possible continuation of certain other studies of the League of Nations are indicated in later pages of this report.

"The United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics has been greatly expanded and improved by the Secretariat. Other statistical periodicals are in process of development. A particular objective of much concern to the Commission respecting which considerable progress has been made by the Secretariat, is the integration of plans for annual statistical publications of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. The Commission feels that together these Year Books should constitute a consistent whole, with no undesirable duplications in content.

"In general the Commission's plans for future work are in conformity with those indicated in its earlier reports. A particularly important addition is contained in Chapter VII of the present report, which recommends steps looking toward the development of an international programme of statistical education and training."

Co-ordination of Statistical Activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

With the insertion of commas after the words "them" and "policy" in the first line of page 19, Chapter III was approved by the Commission.

/Transport

Transport Statistics

The CHAIRMAN recalled that it had been decided to delete the fourth paragraph on page 22 and that the United Kingdom representative had been asked to prepare a text which would clarify Section 2 of the Transport and Communications Commission's report.

A discussion ensued, in which it was agreed to delete the first three sentences of the third paragraph. The paragraph thus would begin with the words "In respect of international statistics, the Statistical Commission is...".

To meet the point of view of the Netherlands representative, Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, suggested the insertion of the following new second sentence: "This is essential to preserve consistency within the Commission's broad programme of statistical co-ordination". To the same end, Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) proposed that the words "subject to the general considerations mentioned above" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

With the deletion of the fourth paragraph, Chapter VI as amended was approved by the Commission.

Statistics of National Income and Related Subjects.

The Commission accepted a Secretariat suggestion to add the following paragraph at the end of the section:

"The Commission also recommends that the Statistical Office continue its analysis of the systems of social accounts now in use in a number of countries, and prepare a report for circulation among interested government agencies and experts. Further, it recommends that the work on statistics of family and individual incomes by size be continued."

/FINANCIAL

FINANCIAL ESTIMATES PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
RULE 24 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, pointed out that no representative would be committed by the financial estimates and that the Commission was not expected to approve them. They were to be considered as relevant information which the Commission might wish to take into account in drawing up its report for the Council.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the view that the total figure put forward by the Secretariat was too large and that certain reductions could be made, in particular, with regard to expert consultants. He suggested that the document be considered, item by item.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, having noted the large sum which had been set aside for the "Alphabetical Index", proposed that that item should not be included in the programme for the following year's work.

Mr. RYABUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) drew attention to the fact that the document was entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission" and therefore appeared to be a product of the Commission's work. To arrive at any financial estimate would involve a careful study of every item and the Commission did not possess the necessary knowledge for passing judgment on such a question.

He supported the Chairman's remarks concerning the large allocation which had been made for expert consultants. The item could be considerably reduced owing to the fact that governments and organizations would not demand financial remuneration for providing the necessary assistance. The adoption of the United States proposal concerning the Alphabetical Index would only mean the postponement and not the rejection of the project.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), Rapporteur, agreed with the USSR representative that the Commission was not competent to pass judgment on the financial estimates. The title of the document was ambiguous; the figures were based on the report of the Commission, but were in no sense a part of that report.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission could study the present document only in so far as the content of the items covered were concerned. The estimates, computed by the Secretariat for the Council, were not to be considered.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt that the Commission should make sure that the scale of its work would be maintained when the Council examined its report in the light of the estimates. He agreed with the United States representative that outside experts were necessary. The text might state that the Secretariat which needed additional staff, might use the funds saved by the Commission's meeting only once a year to recruit statistical experts whose work would be acceptable to governments. The Commission could first decide whether it agreed with the work as outlined in the Secretariat paper, and then determine to what extent it should be carried out by experts in 1949.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) explained that difficulties might arise in connexion with year-by-year estimates; in order not to lose time over yearly appropriations, a lump sum for each of the Commission's projects would be recommended. From the Secretariat point of view, necessary printing costs had to be listed as part of the project.

Mr. LICE (United States of America) pointed out, after some discussion, that the figures had been submitted by the Secretariat as a guide to the Commission in reaching conclusions on substantive proposals, and not for its approval.

The CHAIRMAN agreed, but felt that the total estimate of \$300,000 for the Commission's work would raise objection by the Council; the Commission should therefore seek to present its projects in as acceptable a manner as possible, and show the Council that expenditures for the current year were not exorbitant.

Mr. MAILLONBIS (India) stressed that the dimensions of the expenditures should be taken into account. The Commission should only  
/consider



consider the estimates in the light of experts required for a certain project. If it was later decided that the estimates were too large, the Secretary-General would find the most appropriate working arrangement. He stressed that the Commission should not examine the estimates for each item separately.

Mr. RYLBUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the United States representative for his explanations, but he felt that the title was misleading.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) explained that the title had been drafted in accordance with customary practice. It was a financial annex appended by the Secretariat to the Commission's report.

Mr. RICE (United States of America), upon a suggestion by the CHAIRMAN to delete from page 4 the item on the alphabetical index for industrial classification, pointed out that the Commission could merely make such a recommendation to the Secretary-General in the relevant part of its report; the latter would then automatically delete that item from the Secretariat paper.

Mr. Rice's suggestion was accepted.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the following words might be included in the part of the report dealing in alphabetical index: "no expenditures during 1949 are contemplated for this proposal."

Mr. BRUCE (Secretariat) pointed out, with regard to Mr. Rice's remark, that if the Commission desired to include an alphabetical index for industrial classification in its work at any time, the item would have to be retained in the Secretariat memorandum.

Mr. MAHALNOCIS (India) upon some remarks by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Turkey, suggested that the Commission might note in its report that the question of field organizations (Chapter VIII) and the alphabetical index would be reconsidered at one of its future sessions.

/Mr. RICE

Mr. RICE (United States of America), in reply to a question by Mr. RYLBUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) with regard to the international programme for education in statistics, stated that it had been suggested that UNESCO should finance the project; the Secretariat could only make estimates for the cost of preparing a report on the matter.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission), in reply to another question by the USSR representative, explained that an effective programme of technical assistance for 1950 onwards was thought to require a full-time staff. The estimates had been based on that assumption and broken down into salary and travel appropriations for five additional staff members for 1949 and 1950.. He wished to know the Commission's views on the matter.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) noted that recommendation was to be made for the provision of technical assistance to governments at the latter's request; consequently all expenditure beyond the incidental facility of making the experts available should be borne by the respective governments.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) noted that the Secretariat should be in a position to offer expert advice itself. If it had to wait until requests for advice were made, it might not be able to obtain the necessary staff on time. He suggested, therefore, that if the United Kingdom view was accepted, a separate column should be set up for subsequent reimbursement by governments. In view of the general uncertainty of the Council's intentions in the matter, the Commission would have to reach its own conclusion.

/Mr. BRUCE

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) concluded that the Commission was of the opinion that as far as possible the United Nations should be reimbursed by governments for staff travel salary and per diem expenditures. The staff, however, would be attached to the Secretariat.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that the estimates should give the net balance of United Nations expenditures not recovered from governments.

Mr. BILKUR (Turkey) felt that the Statistical Office should be able to recruit staff to carry on the work without special government requests.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) agreed and pointed out that usually countries most in need of technical assistance were least able to pay for it. Since it was most important for the United Nations that the censuses should be carried out in 1950 the Secretary-General should be free to negotiate with the governments for the sharing of expenditures.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) feeling that a \$40,000 estimate for that item was excessive, maintained that countries requiring special experts for special projects should bear the expenditures. If they were unable to do so, they should negotiate with the Secretary-General. In any case, he objected to recommending the recruitment of additional staff whose use would have to await government requests for assistance.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that the United States representative had pointed out the real difficulty of the matter. The 1950 censuses, to be carried out by governments upon a United Nations recommendation, were the responsibility of both the governments concerned and

/the United

the United Nations. He agreed with the United States view and wished to know in what proportion expenditures would be shared. An estimate might be made for a lump sum of 10,000 dollars, the details to be worked out later. He agreed with the United Kingdom representative concerning the financing of specific projects by governments, but noted that many governments might ask for general expert assistance. It would be well, therefore, to have one person on the staff who would do other work during the intervening periods; and whenever necessary, experts could be recruited to work on a temporary basis.

The CHAIRMAN noted a tremendous shortage of qualified statistical experts.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) supported by the CHAIRMAN, thought that the Secretary-General should add explanations to the estimates for the Council's consideration.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed the adoption of the substantive programme in the report. The Secretariat should indicate in its memorandum to the Council the method of computation, the amounts considered necessary for the projects, and the time when the funds would be required.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that the Commission supported all items but the last mentioned in the memorandum. The extent of the recruitment, however, was too large.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Secretariat should give in its memorandum the factors necessitating consultation and the number of experts required.

/Mr. BRUCE

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) upon a suggestion by the United States representative that the Secretariat should give in the appendix all the Commission's recommendations to the Council, explained that the latter had only asked for a list of recommendations for action by the Council; and not recommendations to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary of the Commission then read out a letter received by him from Mr. Polak, (International Monetary Fund), in which the latter thanked the Commission for remarking in its report on the co-operation with specialized agencies, and pointed out that the IMF, contrary to the implication on page 26 of the Commission's report, intended to assume responsibility for a considerable part of the work in price statistics. Mr. Polak therefore suggested that Part (C) might be amended accordingly. Mr. Polak also proposed that on page 36 the specialized agencies' interest in migration statistics and balance of payments statistics should be merged with the three other interests mentioned in the last paragraph of that page which would then refer to the five subjects on equal footing.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) disagreed on the last point with Mr. Polak; balance of payments and migration statistics were of special interest to the United Nations and should not be placed in the same category as the other three subjects.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) noting that the subject balance of payments statistics had been reserved for the fourth session, also felt that they should be mentioned separately.

The CHAIRMAN stated that he had always understood from the summary records that balance of payments statistics were of interest to the United Nations as well as to the specialized agencies, especially to the IMF which was concerned with prices.

/Mr. CAMPION

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt that the Commission had previously considered this suggestion respecting price statistics and had agreed that the Commission could not accept it.

Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) then raised the question of the time and place of the Commission's following session. The Commission should meet before the July 1949 session of the Council.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) supported by Mr. RICE (United States of America) suggested that the Commission should meet in Europe (Geneva) in order to enable representatives to bring staff assistants to the session and thus acquaint them with the views and work of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN noted general agreement with the suggestion.

Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that the time of the next session should be determined by the Secretariat. The Commission might meet at the same time ~~as~~ some regional Commissions in order to become acquainted with the work of those bodies. He also hoped that the successful procedure of preliminary committee meetings would be repeated.

Mr. CASTRO VALIE (Mexico) conveyed to the Commission Mr. G. Loyo's regrets at not having been able to attend the present session.

Upon a question by the USSR representative concerning the final adoption of the report, Mr. RICE (United States of America) supported by Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) proposed the adoption of the report, the Rapporteur to have authority to prepare an additional paragraph for the Chapter on Future Work on the educational programme.

The report was adopted unanimously

After the customary exchange of compliments, the CHAIRMAN declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5:40 p.m.