I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its third session the Population Commission noted the imperfections and lack of comparability of international migration statistics and endorsed "the recommendation of the Statistical Commission that the Secretariat should look further into the question of improving existing migration statistics and should present a report on this question at the next session". 1/ In particular, the Population Commission urged "that the Secretariat examine the possibility of producing meaningful and internationally acceptable definitions in this field. Further, in connection with any development of the present system of international migration statistics, consideration should be given to the provision of statistics most relevant to the study of demographic trends and their relation to economic and social factors, including statistics on the age, sex, marital condition, family size, occupation and wages of migrants". 2/

During its eighth session the Economic and Social Council, in considering the reports of its Social 3/ and Population Commissions, expressed in resolution 156 (VII)-B of 10 August 1948 the wish "that international arrangements in matters of migration include as soon as possible means for the improvement of statistics on international migration so as to increase their adequacy and comparability".

2/ Report of the Population Commission, third session (E/805, paragraph 12 (i)).
2. The present document is presented in agreement with the International Labour Office. For its preparation, the publications of the Office have been freely used. A survey was also undertaken of the methods of collection, types of classification and forms of tabulation of migration statistics published by seventy-one countries. Analyses were made of the problems arising in international comparisons of migration statistics and of the international recommendations concerning them.

3. These surveys and analyses, prepared by the Secretariat after consultation with the International Labour Office, are presented in a background document, where the text of the resolutions of the International Conference of Migration Statisticians of 1932 can also be found. This document will shortly be made available.

4. The draft recommendations presented here are not intended to supersede the resolutions of 1932. These draft recommendations were prepared with a view to the need for:

- Measures designed to promote and facilitate the implementation of the 1932 resolutions by the Governments.
- Additional precision in the definition of migrants.
- Recommendations concerning the collection, classification, tabulation and publication of co-ordinated statistics of the various categories of international travellers.

These points will be considered more in detail.

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5/ The Conference was attended by statisticians from twenty-six nations and by a representative from the League of Nations. The countries which accepted the invitation were: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia. (International Labour Review, Vol. XXVII, No. 1, January 1933).

6/ The resolutions are published in The International Standardization of Labour Statistics, Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics), No. 25, International Labour Office, Montreal, 1943.
5. It is generally recognized that the resolutions of 1932 have met with little response. The small volume of migration at the time when they were formulated, coupled with the expense of changing methods and adding new tabulations, probably account in part for that situation. The Commission may wish to recommend that the attention of the Governments be called to these resolutions.

6. There is a distinct advantage, from the point of view of economy for the Governments, in having detailed standards worked out as far as possible at the international level. This may also be more effective for attaining international comparability. The draft recommendations presented here are designed to implement the principles laid down by the Conference of Migration Statisticians of 1932, although they do not refer to all the points dealt with in the resolutions of the Conference. Their aim is to describe in some detail the first steps that should be taken to improve migration statistics.

7. The 1932 resolutions define migrations a contrario as including all international population movements except tourist traffic, while the definition of temporary migration excludes frontier traffic. During the last ten years however, the numerically more important international movements of population in the world have been transfers and displacements of populations, and repatriation and resettlement of refugees. These are categories which the 1932 Conference could hardly have taken into consideration. In view of their importance and relevance to demographic studies, the draft recommendations provide that refugees and transferred populations should be regarded as special classes of migrants.

8. The draft recommendations also contain proposals for the collection, classification and tabulation of statistics for the different categories of travellers. From the point of view of statistical reliability and comparability, there would be great advantage in having total figures of travellers with a breakdown into principal categories. Good statistics can hardly be obtained for one category only of a classification. The interpretation of the figures for a given country becomes clearer at once when figures for different categories of travellers can be compared over a number of years. Estimates for groups of persons not classified uniformly in the different countries may become possible and thus a certain degree of international comparability attained at a minimum cost.

1/ Frontier traffic is the movement of persons residing in the frontier areas, moving frequently across the border and often authorized to use simplified travel documents (frontier cards).

8/ As an example, the repatriation of Italian settlers in Libya after the second world war may be cited.
Utilization of the statistics in conjunction with other demographic data (census and vital statistics) is also much facilitated.

9. No systematic attempt has been made to recommend abstract definitions. It has been considered more effective to delineate the scope of the different concepts by detailed recommendations on the collection and classification of the data. These show the basic concepts to which the figures correspond; these concepts do not conflict with the definitions given in the resolutions of 1932.

10. The detailed classifications and cross-classifications of the data are needed only for the more permanent types of movements. It is realized that the tabulations recommended do not include many valuable classifications. But the first objective in time should be the reliability of the statistics and their comparability, which, since they concern an international phenomenon, largely condition their usefulness.

II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation of the 1932 resolutions

11. Considering the continued state of imperfection of migration statistics, their unreliability in many countries and their lack of international comparability, and referring to resolution 156 (VII)-B of the Economic and Social Council, it is recommended that the attention of the Governments be called by the Council to the resolutions of the International Conference of Migration Statisticians of 1932 and that the Council express the wish that efforts be made by the Governments for the implementation of these resolutions with the following recommendations.

Recommended major categories of arrivals and departures

12. In order to implement the resolutions of the 1932 Conference, it is recommended that statistics be obtained on all arrivals and, if possible, departures of international travellers (with the exception of frontier traffic\(^2/\)) classified in such a way as to show which are migrants.

13. Collection. In formulating its recommendations, the Commission may wish to take into consideration the development of air travel and the desirability of keeping travel formalities to a minimum.\(^10/\)

\(^2/\) An explanation of the term "frontier traffic" is given in paragraph 7.

\(^10/\) In its resolution 147 (VII)-G of 26 August 1948, the Economic and Social Council instructed the Secretary-General "to bring to the attention of all Member Governments the Council's view that it is desirable to reduce, simplify and unify passport and frontier formalities to the extent consistent with national security".
14. It is recommended that statistics of the totals of the various categories of arrivals and departures be collected, at the occasion of frontier control. The method of collection recommended is a simple count, on the basis of oral answers.

15. **Classification and tabulation.** It is recommended that statistics be classified and tabulated for each calendar year according to the classification below. Since the categories listed are mutually exclusive, no person should be counted in two or more of them. The categories preceded by (S) are those for which it is recommended, hereafter, that more detailed information be obtained on the basis of an individual statistical slip:

**Arrivals**

1. Travellers in transit.
2. Visitors (for instance, for business, education, holiday).
3. Residents returning (after one year at most abroad).
4. Temporary immigrants:
   a. Persons intending to exercise temporarily\(^{11}\) an occupation, and their dependents.
   b. (At times and places where applicable) refugees not intending permanent\(^{11}\) residence.
5. Permanent immigrants (i.e., persons intending permanent\(^{11}\) residence, including nationals and former residents returning after more than one year abroad):
   a. Immigrants under normal circumstances (that is excepting persons classified under (b) or (c)).
   b. (At times and places where applicable) refugees intending permanent\(^{11}\) residence.
   c. (At times and places where applicable) transferred populations.

**Departures**

1. Travellers in transit.
2. Visitors (for instance, for business, education, holiday) departing on completion of visit.
3. Residents departing for one year at most.
4. Temporary\(^{11}\) immigrants departing\(^{12}\):
   a. Persons departing after temporary exercise of an

\(^{11}\) A temporary move is defined here in accordance with the resolutions of the 1932 Conference as one having lasted or, as the case may be, intended to last one year at most; a permanent move is one having lasted or, as the case may be, intended to last more than one year.

\(^{12}\) This category corresponds to departures of persons who were entered in category 4 of arrivals.
occupation, and their dependents.
(b) (At times and places where applicable) refugees, non-resident.
(S). 5. Emigrants (i.e. residents departing for more than one year\textsuperscript{13}/:
(a) Emigrants under normal circumstances (that is excepting persons classified under (b) or (c)).
(b) (At times and places where applicable) persons departed.
(c) (At times and places where applicable) transferred populations.

16. It is recommended that the volume of frontier movements of workers be estimated separately and given, if possible, for each month.

**Recommended detailed statistics**

17. **Collection.** Taking here also into account the development of air travel and the desirability of keeping travel formalities to a minimum, it is recommended that statistics on persons in categories 4 and 5 of arrivals or departures be collected either at the occasion of frontier control or of entries on population registers in countries where they have been established.

18. It is recommended that these statistics be based on an individual statistical slip completed and collected at the frontier. The slips may be made part of forms having to be completed under existing regulations (such as landing or embarkation cards; forms for the notification of change of residence to population register office etc.). Where travel documents with detachable coupons are used, these coupons may be adapted to serve the purpose of the slips. It is not considered practicable to recommend universally that a slip be completed for travellers in categories other than 4 and 5.

19. It is envisaged that the statistical slip will be in the language of the country issuing it, with translations to other languages as convenient. It is recommended that the statistical slip be completed normally by the person concerned. In case of families travelling together, it is recommended that a statistical slip be completed for each member of the family except children under 15 years and that, in addition the family members be listed on the slip of the head of the family.

20. It is recommended that documents or other evidence should not be required for the sole purpose of supporting the declarations made on the statistical slips.

\textsuperscript{13}/ See footnote 11.
21. It is not considered practicable that the statistical slips should be identical in all countries. But it is recommended that the slips used in all countries should contain at least the questions indicated on the model given in the Annex. Since the aim is to attain comparability of the answers rather than uniformity in the wording of the questions, which may conceal differences in their interpretation, the exact formulation of each question should be left to the statisticians of the different countries. It is recommended that extreme care be taken to put only very simple questions, that can be answered objectively by persons of various nationalities and limited education. It is recommended that the models of the statistical slips be published from time to time with the statistics, and that specimens be communicated to the Secretariat and to the International Labour Office, so that they may be analyzed and compared with a view to rendering the migration statistics published by the international organizations more reliable and easier to interpret.

22. In the countries where migration statistics are compiled by authorities other than those responsible for general population statistics (census; births and deaths), it may be desirable that one of the latter authorities should receive a duplicate of the statistical slips.

23. Classifications and tabulations. Attention is called to the desirability for every country to give accurate figures for the total numbers of permanent immigrants and emigrants, including nationals and aliens (category 5 of the classification of travellers given above).

24. It is recommended that the following classifications and tabulations be made by every country for permanent migrants, including nationals and aliens:

   (i) Immigrants (and emigrants) by sex and age; if, for reasons of economy, classifications by the quinquennial groups recommended in 1932 are to be abridged, it is recommended that the following groups be given separately for each sex: under 5; 10 year groups from 5 to 64 years; 65 years and over. The classification should be based on the age in completed years at the last birthday at the time of emigration (or immigration). Persons whose age is not recorded should be tabulated in a separate group.

14/ The resolutions of 1932 read: "When the removal is for one year or more the migration should be regarded as permanent migration."
(ii) Immigrants (and emigrants), distinguishing nationals and aliens, the distinction being based on citizenship (i.e. legal nationality).
a) Immigrants (and emigrants) by country of citizenship (i.e. legal nationality) or by country of birth whichever is the more extensively used in the tabulations of results of the latest population census in the country concerned.\textsuperscript{15/}
The classification by country of birth should be according to national boundaries at the time of the migration or at the time of birth, whichever is the usage followed in the latest population census of the country concerned.\textsuperscript{16/}
The totals of the figures relating to countries of citizenship or birth not shown separately should be given by continents. The number of persons for whom no information is reported should be given in a distinct group. The classification by continents and countries should be based on the "Nomoclaature of Geographic Areas for Statistical Purposes."\textsuperscript{17/}

(iii) Immigrants by country of last permanent residence; emigrants by country of intended permanent residence. The specifications regarding the classification of countries recommended in the preceding paragraph are also applicable here.

(iv) Immigrants and emigrants of each sex separately by usual occupation.\textsuperscript{18/}

25. Attention is drawn to the usefulness of the following tabulations and it is recommended that they be made whenever the number of migrants warrants it\textsuperscript{19/}: 

\textsuperscript{15/} The classifications by country of birth or by citizenship are in a measure alternative means to study national characteristics of the migrants and problems of community relationship.

\textsuperscript{16/} See "Recommendations for Censuses of Population to be taken in or around 1950" in Report of the Population Commission, third session, (E/805, Annex A, part II, paragraph 5).

\textsuperscript{17/} United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 1, Lake Success, 1949.

\textsuperscript{18/} Pending the adoption of an international classification of occupations, which is to be considered by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1949 (see E/CN.3/C.1/12), the classification should be according to the divisions of the International Standard Classification of all Economic Activities, (E/795/Add.1 of 26 May 1948) and should refer to the division to which the migrant usually belonged.

\textsuperscript{19/} It is highly desirable that each of these tabulations be consistent with the practice followed, in each country, for the tabulation of results from population censuses (see Draft Recommendations regarding
Classification by marital status (single; married; widowed and divorced; unknown) and by number of dependant children accompanying or not.
Classification based on literacy or degree of formal education.
Classification by industrial status.
Classification distinguishing migrants travelling at their own expense; with private financial assistance; with financial assistance from a Government or public authority; with a contract of employment or without it, with a distribution according to the wages specified in the contract.

26. Attention is also drawn to the usefulness of tabulations of temporary immigrants of each sex separately by usual occupation.  

Publication of statistics of travellers
by major categories of arrivals and departures

27. The Commission may wish to add major categories of arrivals and departures to the list of items to be considered by the Secretary-General for inclusion in future issues of the Demographic Year-Book.

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20/ Pending the adoption of an international classification of occupations, which is to be considered by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1949 (see E/CN.3/C.1/12), the classification should be according to the divisions of the International Standard Classification of all Economic Activities, (E/795/Add.1 of 26 May 1949) and should refer to the division to which the migrant usually belonged.

21/ See Report of the Population Commission, second session (E/571,
ANNEX

The individual statistical slip referred to in paragraph 18 above should in every case provide the following information:

Date: 
Country of present citizenship:

Intended duration of stay or of absence:
Arrival (Temporary immigrant): 
Departure (Temporary immigrant departing: 
(Permanent immigrant: 
(Emigrant: 

Country of intended permanent residence: 
Country of last permanent residence:

Place of birth: 
Locality: 
Country:

Sex 
Age at last birthday (or date of birth in months and years):
Usual occupation (or Industrial division to which the person usually belonged):

If head of a family travelling together:

Number of accompanying members of the family:
Age of wife travelling with him (if any):
Sex, age, and relationship of each other family member travelling with him (if any):

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22/ In the case of temporary migrants, the answer to both questions will in most cases be the same.

23/ Country in which the locality of birth is situated, or in which that locality was situated at the time of birth, according to the rule laid down by the authorities issuing the statistical slips, (corresponding recommendation is given in paragraph 24 (ii, a).

24/ The corresponding recommendation is given in paragraph 24 (iv).