STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Fourth session

Geneva

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat for consideration under item 10 of the Agenda.

The following paragraphs refer to items considered by the Population Commission in its fourth session and the actions in the Commission's report (E/1313).

1. Methods of defining and enumerating industrial or social status groups (E/1313, para. 14).

"The Commission requests the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the suggestions of the Committee on Population Statistics, a revised version of the document on this subject submitted by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/C.2/3) (revised document E/CN.9/C.2/3 Rev.1); to call it to the attention of the Statistical Commission and of the interested Specialized Agencies for their comments; and to circulate it to governments with a request for their comments and for information on the difficulties which they may encounter in applying the proposed methods in their forthcoming censuses."

The Population Commission expressed its wish to consider this subject at a later session after the views of the various agencies have been ascertained.

2. Industrial Classification (E/1313, para. 15).

"The Commission requests the Secretary-General to call the attention of the Statistical Commission to the proposals for the
classification of persons not economically active, contained in Annex 2, paragraph 41, to the present report. The Commission hopes that consideration may be given to these proposals during the deliberations of the Statistical Commission on the proposed revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities. In this connection, particular reference should also be made to the recommendations contained in paragraph 4 of E/CN.3/63 which is to be submitted to the Statistical Commission."

3. **Terminology relating to the economically active population** (E/1313, para. 17).

"The Commission requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the interested Specialized Agencies and taking into account the views of the Population and Statistical Commissions, to develop a proposed standard terminology for statistics relating to the economically active population."

4. **Migration Statistics** (E/1313, para. 23).

"The Commission requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the Statistical Commission, at its fourth session, to these draft recommendations." (E/1313, Annex 3).

"The Commission also requests the Secretary-General:

(a) to call the attention of the various governments to these draft recommendations together with such views as are expressed by the Statistical Commission."

II Other actions of the Population Commission closely relating to the work of the Statistical Commission

1. **Demographic Year Book** (E/1313, page 3).

The summary records of the Population Commission meetings express the views of some members of the Commission that the contents of the Demographic Year Book should be extended to include various types of economic
economic and social statistics. The final report of the Commission states (E/1313, para. 6):

"Now that the first issue of the Demographic Year Book is about to appear, the Commission feels that the Secretariat should pay particular attention to the need for:

(a) regular and current publication of future issues of the Year Book;

(b) the inclusion, beginning with the second issue of data on unemployment with special reference to aspects of demographic interest and, as far as possible, of data on occupational diseases, stillbirths, and a detailed classification of infant mortality by principal causes and by age;

(c) the inclusion of statistics on margin categories of arrivals and departures for each country;

(d) extension of the territorial coverage of the data with the objective of including under each category of data all the countries for which such official data exists."

2. Censuses of Population to be Taken in or about 1950 (E/1313, paras. 10-12).

The Population Commission Report contains an annex "Tabulations of Data from Population Censuses to be Taken in or about 1950" (Annex 2).

In reference to population census tabulations the report states in part:

"The Commission wishes to emphasise the desirability of adequate and internationally comparable tabulations of data from population censuses to be taken in or about 1950. Each country will naturally wish to consider the questions of tabulation from the point of view of practicability in relation to its own census experience and to its own requirements."
own requirements. It may well be that countries with little previous census experience will wish to limit these tabulations to simple counts in the case of some of the items listed in their censuses. Even in such cases, however, it is clearly desirable that the tabulations should be so planned as to maximise international comparability. In the case of countries contemplating a wider range of data and prepared to undertake more detailed tabulations, the Commission draws attention to Annex 2 of the present report. This Annex which is based on the work of the Commission's Committee on Population Statistics lists a number of desirable tabulations on each of the topics recommended by the Commission for inclusion in census schedules, and indicates in some detail the groupings which might usefully be applied in these tabulations. The Annex is not a series of recommendations but rather a list of useful tabulations designed to facilitate the international comparability of census results."

3. Other Census Items (E/1313, paras. 13-21).

(a) Occupational Classification (para. 16)

The Commission expressed an interest in the international standard classification of occupations and expressed a hope that it would have an opportunity to express its views on these aspects of the classification which have special demographic implications.

(b) Definition of urban and rural populations (para. 18)

The Commission intends to consider this problem further after receiving further documentation on the subject.

(c) Statistics on level of education (paras. 19 and 20)

"The Commission recommends to the Secretary-General that consultations be undertaken with UNESCO and with other interested organizations on the possibility of defining equivalent levels of education in the national educational systems of different countries, with a view to attaining a greater degree of international comparability in the statistics..."
in the statistics on educational level of the population.

"The Commission also requests the Secretary-General to study further the problems of definition and enumeration of data and school attendance in population censuses and to publish the results of these studies so as to facilitate the development of a greater degree of international comparability in such data."


In connection with its consideration of Infant Mortality the Commission stated "It is especially desired that attention be given to the problems of improving the completeness of registration of vital statistics and of obtaining the data needed for the application of improved methods of constructing infant mortality rates."