STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth session - 8 May 1950
Lake Success, New York
Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda

HOUSING STATISTICS

Consideration of the development of housing statistics as a part of the integrated programmes in the field of Housing and Town and Country Planning.

1. The Economic and Social Council, at its ninth session, adopted resolution 243 D (IX), which requested the Secretary-General to transmit the report on Housing and Town and Country Planning (document E/1343) "to the fifth session of the Social Commission, to the other interested commissions of the Council and to Member Governments".

2. In accordance with the resolution, the report of the Secretary-General on this subject is being transmitted to the Statistical Commission. The attention of members of the Commission is called to part one, section III A 1 (pages 13-15) which presents the problem of the need for information on available housing and its condition.

3. On page 57 in the summary "Outline of International Action Contemplated under the Proposals for an Integrated Programme", the report states: Housing Statistics:

"It is recommended that the Statistical Commission continue to review the methods for improving housing census and statistics, and that the implementation of the general programme for the improvement of such statistics, undertaken by the United Nations, or, as regard statistics of rent by the ILO, be continued." (E/1343, Part Two A III 1)

4. In the Population Census Handbook in Chapter XV the recommendations of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts on Housing Statistics are given in detail for the guidance of those planning a census. The Statistical

/Office has been
E/CN.3/105
Office has been notified that thirty-two of the forty-three countries taking a census during 1950-1951 will collect housing data.

5. The Statistical Commission is invited to formulate suggestions for research which would lead to recommendations for greater comparability in housing statistics. It is suggested that the Secretariat study the data available from the recent and current census and housing surveys considering such factors, as

(a) Definitions and the uses of housing statistics by national Governments and international agencies

(b) The adequacy of the data as a measure of available housing and housing conditions; including health and sanitation problems.

Such studies would enable recommendations to be formulated on definitions, methods of collecting and tabulating housing statistics for consideration at future sessions of the Statistical Commission.