FUTURE ISSUES OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat

1. The first issue of the Demographic Yearbook was published in September 1949. Work is under way for the second annual (1949) issue, and preliminary plans have been made for future issues. The following statement summarizes these present and future plans for the Demographic Yearbook, in the light of various recommendations and suggestions of the Population Commission and the Statistical Commission with regard for the experience obtained in the preparation and publication of the Demographic Yearbook 1948.

   Time of issue

2. Experience has shown that publication of the Yearbook in September is too early for inclusion of annual figures for the immediately prior year and unnecessarily late for figures for the second year back. Optimum time of publication would seem to be about December of each year. Plans for the second issue provide for publication in December 1950. With this release date, the second issue should include complete geographic coverage for 1949 population estimates and fairly extensive coverage for 1949 vital statistics data.

   Geographic coverage

3. In accordance with the objective that the geographic coverage should be as extensive as possible, the questionnaire for the first issue of the Demographic Yearbook was sent to approximately 250 sovereign countries, dependencies, Non-Self-Governing Territories, Trust Territories, condominiums, and international administrations.
administrations, comprising practically all populated areas of the world. A total of 177 questionnaires were returned, from which all pertinent data were extracted for inclusion in the Yearbook, except in the case of a small number of questionnaires which were returned too late for their use in compiling detailed tables. For these late questionnaires only the total figures were taken for inclusion in the first issue.

4. The number of areas covered in each of the tables of the Demographic Yearbook 1943 is shown on pages 10-11 (French: pages 41-42) of the Yearbook. These range from 245 areas in table 1, "Population, area and density for each area of the world," to twelve areas in table 38, "Emigrants by age and sex." It is planned that the territorial coverage of the Yearbook will be progressively extended with future issues, with the objective of including under each category of data all the countries for which official and adequate data exist.

Subject coverage and rotation of topics

5. As anticipated, it was not feasible to include all the topics of the Population Commission list in the first issue. Major topics omitted from this issue are listed on page 9 (French: p.39) of the Yearbook. Plans for the extension of the subject coverage to these topics and others are included below in the proposed general scheme for rotation of subject emphasis and in the more specific plans outlined for the second issue.

6. In accordance with the recommendation of the Population Commission that "a scheme for the rotation of the topics for which annual data are not necessary" be prepared (E/571, paragraph 13), the following scheme for subject emphasis in future issues of the Yearbook has been tentatively adopted, beginning with the second (1949) issue:

A. Topics related to fertility (1949 issue);
B. Topics related to mortality (1950 issue);
C. Topics related to size and distribution of population (1951 issue);
D. Topics related to social and economic characteristics of the population (1952 issue);
E. Topics related to migration and population movements (1953 issue)

7. The tentative plan to give special emphasis in each issue of the Yearbook to a group of special topics, does not imply that basic demographic material on other topics...
other topics will be omitted. It is anticipated that every issue will contain
the most recent data available for all demographic data of general interest and
utility. The topics omitted from the first issue will be considered for inclusion
in detail in the appropriate volume under the tentative rotation scheme.
3. In framing the above rotation scheme the fact has been taken into
consideration that many countries are planning to take population censuses in
1950 or 1951, and it is therefore expected that many new figures on the size,
distribution and characteristics of the population will become available for
inclusion in the 1951 and 1952 issues. Meanwhile for the 1949 and 1950 issues,
emphasis can be given to a more detailed presentation of the existing data regarding
fertility and mortality. Detailed treatment of data on migration and population
movements can profitably await the establishment of standards and the further
development of regular and comparable statistics in this field.

Consideration of subjects of special interest

9. Concurrent with the collection and publication of demographic data of the
more routine types, consideration has been given to a number of subjects of special
interest. The status of each of these is indicated in the paragraphs below.

(a) Unemployment. Current statistics on total unemployment are collected
by the International Labour Office and published monthly in its International
In addition, the ILO publishes in its Year Book of Labour Statistics data on
unemployment by industry (occupation).

Perhaps of greater interest from a demographic standpoint would be the
classification of the unemployed by sex and age. The ILO is, this year,
attempting to collect data on the unemployed by age and sex and has included
a request to this effect in its annual questionnaire. The unemployment figures
to be given in the second issue of the Demographic Yearbook will be determined
after an analysis of the returns of these questionnaires. The same analysis will
also determine the extent to which countries are able to provide classifications
of the unemployed by such factors as native and foreign born (or nationality) and
marital status.

(b) Occupational diseases. Several lines of investigation are now being
pursued in order to determine the kinds of data available on occupational diseases.

/A preliminary
A preliminary statement of the difficulties in the way of comparable international tables of sickness and death rates from occupational diseases and an appraisal of the status of these statistics has been prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.3/93; E/CN.9/45). The Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians recommended that this topic be placed on the agenda of the next conference. In addition, the ILO questionnaire for the forthcoming edition of the Yearbook of Labour Statistics included a request for data on occupational diseases.

The United Nations questionnaire for the Demographic Yearbook 1949 will include a request to countries for whatever official statistics that are available on general mortality by occupation.

(c) Deaths by cause of death. The compilation of data by cause of death has been initiated in 1950, although it may not be possible to publish these data this year. Collection of these data is being planned in collaboration with the World Health Organization, in order to avoid duplicating or inconsistent requests to countries. The cause of death statistics for years prior to 1950 will be based on the "Abridged International List of Causes of Death, Fifth Revision, 1934". When data become available according to the Sixth Revision of the International List, the collection programme will be reassessed.

(d) Premature births. In collaboration with WHO the Secretariat is undertaking a detailed study of infant mortality, stillbirths and prematurity (see E/CN.9/44; E/CN.3/38). This study includes an investigation of the problems of compiling comparable national and international statistics on these subjects, a review of the definitions and classifications upon which national tabulations are based, and an analysis of existing available figures. This detailed study will be published as a separate monograph, but certain of the basic statistical compilations will also be available for publication in the Yearbook.

(e) Major categories of arrivals and departures. The International Labour Office in collaboration with the United Nations is sending to each country in connexion with its annual Yearbook questionnaire, a request for information on arrivals and departures specifying the major categories. The request for this information in the form tentatively suggested by the Commission will tend to suggest to the different countries the desirability of collecting information on migration in this form. Formulation of definitive international recommendations will
will tend to encourage countries to compile these data in a standard form (see E/CN.9/47; E/CN.3/90 and E/CN.9/48; E/CN.3/91). Certain countries already publish data on this topic, for example, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. These data could be utilized as a nucleus for a table on this subject to include as many countries as can furnish the appropriate data.

Specific items under consideration for the Demographic Yearbook 1949

10. The following list of items are being considered for inclusion in the second (1949) issue of the Yearbook. The inclusion of some of the less routine items will depend upon the results of the present data collection efforts, such as those described above and those embodied in the current Demographic Yearbook questionnaire. It is believed, however, that acceptable compilation can be made for most of the topics listed.

Population

2. Enumerated population and intercensal rates of increase.
3. Annual estimates of total population.
5. Population by age, sex and marital status.
6. Female population by number of children ever born.
7. Female population by number of children living.
8. Ratio of children under 5 years to women aged 15-49.
9. Economically active population, by sex.
10. Percentage of economically active population in each age-sex group.
11. Economically active population by industrial status and by (a) industrial or (b) occupational group.
12. Unemployed population - age and sex (see paragraph 9 (a) above).

Births

13. Number of live births, by sex.
15. Live births by month.
16. Live births by age of mother.
17. Birth rates specific for age of mother.
18. Live births
(18) Live births by age of father.
(19) Birth rates specific for age of father.
(20) Live births by 1st order.
(21) Live births by age of mother and by birth order.
(22) Live births by legitimacy.
(23) Live births by duration of marriage.
(24) Stillbirths and stillbirth ratio—(see paragraph 9 (d) above).
(25) Gross and net reproduction rates.

Deaths

(26) Total deaths.
(27) Crude death rates.
(28) Deaths by age and sex.
(29) Death rates by age and sex.
(30) Infant deaths.
(31) Infant mortality rates.
(32) Life table death rates.
(33) Survivors.
(34) Expectation of life.

Marriages

(35) Total marriages.
(36) Crude marriage rates.
(37) Marriages by age of participants.
(38) Marriage rates by sex and age.
(39) Marriages by previous marital status.

Divorces

(40) Total divorces, annulments, separations.
(41) Crude divorce rates.
(42) Divorces by duration of marriage.
(43) Divorces by number of children living.

Migration

(44) Major categories of arrivals and departures (see paragraph 9 (e) above).
(45) Emigrants by country of intended residence.
(46) Immigrants by country of last residence.
(47) Emigrants by age and sex.
(48) Immigrants by age and sex.