STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-THIRD MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Monday, 6 May 1950, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:
Draft resolution on the representation of China submitted by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Election of officers
Adoption of agenda (E/CN.3/67)

Acting Chairman: Mr. IDENBURG, Netherlands
Later Chairman: Mr. ARIAS, Argentina

Members:
Mr. LIEU, China
Mr. NOSEK, Czechoslovakia
Mr. DAMOIS, France
Mr. JAHN, Norway
Mr. BILKUR, Turkey
Mr. CHERNYSHOV, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. CAMPION, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. RICE, United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

- Mr. WOODBURY: International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Mr. TAEUBER: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Mr. LESTER: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- Mr. LIU: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Mr. POL'K: International Monetary Fund

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

**Category A**

- Mr. TEPER: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- Mr. RIDGEWAY: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

**Category B**

- Mr. GOUDSWAARD: International Statistical Institute

Secretariat:

- Mr. LEONARD: Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs
- Mr. LOFTUS: United Nations Statistical Office
- Mr. BRUCE: Secretary of the Commission

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE REPRESENTATION OF CHINA SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

1. The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared open the Commission's fifth session and welcomed the representatives.

2. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, recalled that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China had already notified the United Nations that it did not recognize the Kuomintang group as the lawful government of China. He therefore requested that that group's representative should be excluded from the United Nations. The USSR delegation and its representative on the Statistical Commission also considered that the representative of the Kuomintang group did not represent the people of China, and therefore asked that he should be excluded from the Commission.

/ 3. The USSR
3. The USSR representative accordingly submitted the following draft resolution to the Statistical Commission for consideration: "The Statistical Commission resolves to exclude the representative appointed by the Kuomintang group".

4. He had been authorized to announce that his delegation would not take part in the Commission’s debates as long as the representative of the Kuomintang group remained on the Commission.

5. The ACTING CHAIRMAN said that the USSR representative’s draft resolution was not acceptable and that it could not, therefore, be put to the vote. The question of the representation of Member States of the United Nations was within the jurisdiction of the Economic and Social Council and not the Statistical Commission.

6. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) reminded the Commission that his delegation had already announced that it considered that the Kuomintang group did not represent the people of China. That group no longer exercised any power in China and did not, therefore, fulfil the requirements necessary for representation in the United Nations. He wholeheartedly supported the USSR draft resolution and said that his delegation would not take part in the Commission’s work until the representative of the Kuomintang group had been excluded.

7. The ACTING CHAIRMAN repeated that the USSR draft resolution was not acceptable.

8. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the decision of the Chair be put to the vote.

The decision of the Chair was sustained by 6 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

9. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) announced that as his draft resolution had been rejected his delegation would be forced to withdraw from the conference room.

10. He further announced that the USSR would regard as illegal any decisions which the Statistical Commission might take with the participation of the representative of the Kuomintang group.

/11. Mr. NOSEK
11. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) said that in view of the decision just taken by the Commission his delegation would not be able to take part in its work. He would therefore leave the conference room.

Mr. Chernyshev and Mr. Nosek left the conference room.

13. Mr. RICE (United States of America) regretted the withdrawal of the USSR and Czechoslovak representatives, but pointed out that neither the Charter nor common sense prevented the Statistical Commission from continuing its work in the absence of those representatives.

14. He therefore suggested that the Commission should continue its work.

15. Mr. LIEU (China) supported the United States representative's proposal.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

16. The Acting Chairman invited the Commission to elect its officers. According to rule 62 of the rules of procedure, they were to be elected by secret ballot.

17. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed Mr. Idenburg (Netherlands), Chairman of the previous session, as Chairman.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of voting papers: 8
Blank papers: 1
Absolute majority: 4

Number of votes obtained: Mr. Idenburg (Netherlands): 7

Having obtained the required majority of the votes cast, Mr. Idenburg (Netherlands) was elected Chairman.

18. The Chairman thanked the members of the Commission for the confidence they had shown in him. He invited the Commission to elect the Vice-Chairman.

19. Mr. CAMPIGN (United Kingdom) proposed Mr. Darmois (France) as Vice-Chairman.
20. Mr. RICE (United States of America) seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

| Number of voting papers: | 8 |
| Blank papers:            | 1 |
| Votes cast:              | 7 |
| Absolute majority:       | 4 |

Number of votes obtained: Mr. Darmois (France): 7

Having obtained the required majority of the votes cast, Mr. Darmois (France) was elected Vice-Chairman.

21. Mr. DARMOIS (France) thanked the members of the Commission for the honour done to him and for their friendly spirit.

22. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to elect the Rapporteur.

23. Mr. BILKUR (Turkey) proposed Mr. Campion (United Kingdom) as Rapporteur.

24. Mr. DARMOS (France) and Mr. JAHN (Norway) seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

| Number of voting papers: | 8 |
| Blank papers:            | 1 |
| Votes cast:              | 7 |
| Absolute majority:       | 4 |

Number of votes obtained: Mr. Campion (United Kingdom): 7

Having obtained the required majority of the votes cast, Mr. Campion (United Kingdom) was elected Rapporteur.

25. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) thanked the members of the Commission for the confidence they had placed in him.

/ ADOPTION
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

26. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to adopt the agenda of the session,

27. Mr. DARMIOS (France) thought that it would be preferable to await the arrival of Mr. Mahalanobis, Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, before discussing item 3 of the agenda (report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling).

28. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that the adoption of the agenda raised no difficulty and that if it was adopted, the Chairman would always be able to alter the order of the items.

29. The CHAIRMAN replied that that was understood.

The agenda was adopted.

30. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the question raised by Mr. Darmois, said that it was obviously advisable to await the arrival of Mr. Mahalanobis, Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, before discussing the Sub-Commission's report.

31. With regard to item 4, the report of the Committee on Statistical Classification was not yet ready. The Commission could therefore proceed to the examination of item 5 (Research in Statistical Methods and Standards). It could begin immediately on item 5(a), or it could adjourn until the afternoon in order to enable Mr. Mahalanobis, who was due to arrive that day, to take part in the discussion.

32. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the Commission should adjourn until the afternoon.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

15/5 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Monday, 8 May 1950, at 2 P.M.

CONTENTS:

Chairman: Mr. LEMBURG Netherlands
Members: Mr. RODRIGUEZ ARIAS Argentina
Mr. LILU China
Mr. BAKOIS France
Mr. MAHAJANOBIS India
Mr. JAIN Norway
Mr. RILGRIM Turkey
Mr. CAMPION United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. RICO United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. WOOLBURY  International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. TAKEBÖR  Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. LIU  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. LESTER  International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. POLAK  International Monetary Fund

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Category B:

Mr. GOWSDAARD  International Statistical Institute (ISI)
Miss GOLDBERG  National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

Secretariat:

Mr. LEONARD  Director, Statistical Office
Mr. D RICKEN  Statistical Office
Mr. BRUCE  Secretary of the Commission


1. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), Chairman of the Sub-Commission, introduced the report (E/CN.3/53). He drew attention to the list of statisticians in
paragraph 3 of the introduction who had attended the Sub-Commission's meetings and had contributed substantially to the discussions. It was encouraging to note the large number of statisticians who had attended the meetings and the Sub-Commission was very grateful for their collaboration.

2. Some of the recommendations contained in the report were already being put into practice in various parts of the world. For example, in India action was being taken on the recommendations in chapter III of the report, which dealt with the use of sampling in preparing national income estimates.

3. There seemed to be an increasing interest in the Sub-Commission's work as was shown by the fact that the Universal Postal Union had, on its own initiative, sought the advice of the Sub-Commission on the use of sampling methods to determine the volume of postal traffic.

4. In the future, the Sub-Commission hoped to extend its work to cover other fields where sampling methods might be employed. Thus, the general trend for the future seemed to be that interest in the Sub-Commission's work would continue to increase and that the scope of the work would be gradually enlarged.

5. Mr. JAIK (Norway) congratulated the Sub-Commission on its report but felt that greater stress should have been laid on the need for common sense in using sampling methods. There were many dangers involved in using random sampling methods. For example, if a random sample was taken of farms for the purpose of finding out the number of pigs reared, the result would be inaccurate since pigs were often reared outside the farms. Thus the statistician should always keep in touch with reality and should examine the conditions in the country concerned closely before deciding what his sampling unit should be.

6. Mr. RODRIGUZ ARIAS (Argentina) congratulated the Sub-Commission on the valuable recommendations it had made and referred in particular to the chapter on methods of crop estimating and forecasting. He agreed with the recommendation in
paragraph 31 that acreage returns obtained either directly from farmers or collected by local officials or investigators appointed for the purpose should not be accepted without some system of independent checks. In his opinion, it would have been useful if the Sub-Commission had made a specific recommendation on the need to take into account all the elements connected with agricultural production when making crop estimates and forecasts. That was particularly important for under-developed countries where statistical techniques were still in their early stages.

7. Mr. KHALID (India), referring to the point raised by the representative from Norway, felt that the necessary information could be obtained by the area sampling method.

8. Mr. CAMERON (United Kingdom) felt that the Sub-Commission had done very valuable work which would be of great interest to governments as well as to the specialized agencies. The Sub-Commission had been able to carry out its work most successfully in cases when specific problems had been submitted to it. He noted, however, that many of the problems referred to in the report and in the plan for future work were so broad in scope that they would require a great deal of analysis before the Sub-Commission could set about making definite recommendations. He wondered what could be done to overcome that difficulty.

9. Mr. RICE (United States of America) recalled that when the Sub-Commission had first been established one of its functions had been to persuade governments of the advantages of sampling. Since then sampling had become a generally recognized method and that part of the Sub-Commission's work had thus been accomplished.

10. The representative from the United Kingdom had raised an important point. There was indeed a growing tendency to refer problems to the Sub-Commission which involved an intimate knowledge of specific subjects as well as a knowledge of statistical sampling. Thus it seemed that the co-operation of experts in other subjects was necessary to enable the Sub-Commission to carry out its work effectively. He recalled that the Sub-Commission was authorized to have a membership of nine while as yet it had only five members. It might perhaps be advisable to choose four additional members if a decision could be reached on the type of experts needed.

/11. Mr. LIEU
22. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Sub-Commission's field of work had not yet been clearly defined. He therefore suggested that, at its session in September 1950, the Sub-Commission should give closer consideration to the problems it proposed to deal with in its following session. It could then request the Secretariat to approach Governments for information on those problems, while the Governments could, in their turn, arrange for experts to attend the session. The Sub-Commission's work would thus be of greater value to individual countries.

24. He did not consider that any additional expenditure should be incurred at the 1950 session of the Sub-Commission, which might, however, be asked to consider the recommendations it wished to make regarding its future composition.

25. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should express its final views on the matter when drawing up its report.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 4 of Secretariat paper on the Sub-Commission's report (E/CN.3/94)

26. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) drew attention to paragraph 4 of the Secretariat paper on the Sub-Commission's report (E/CN.3/94), which seemed to him to raise the question of the respective functions of the Sub-Commission and the International Statistical Institute.

27. The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Mahalanobis, Chairman of the Sub-Commission, to explain the reasons which had led the Sub-Commission to consider the questions dealt with in paragraph 4.

28. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) explained that the Sub-Commission had prepared syllabuses in response to a specific request from the Food and Agriculture Organization, which had been concerned at the inadequacy of statistical training facilities. The need for training had become urgent in view of the imminence of the 1950-1951 censuses and the Sub-Commission had considered that it should do whatever it could to meet the emergency.

29. As regards the bibliography on sampling, the action of the Sub-Commission had been limited to stating the desirability of keeping up-to-date the bibliography prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization. In view of the fact that existing systems of classification failed to place statistical
experiments, which might form the basis of a report by the Universal Postal Union. Another method might be for Member Governments to undertake experiments and transmit the results to the Sub-Commission.

17. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) did not agree with the view that the Sub-Commission should obtain the services of expert consultants for every subject it might be discussing. If the Sub-Commission was provided with adequate documentation, it seemed to him that consultation with experts would not normally be required.

18. Mr. RICE (United States of America) felt that a clear distinction should be drawn between the functions of the Sub-Commission and those of the Secretariat. Functions requiring work over a considerable period of time were, in his opinion, more appropriate to the Secretariat. The necessary liaison between the Sub-Commission and experts in individual fields might, therefore, perhaps, be attained by expanding the staff of the Statistical Office.

19. Mr. MAHALCHOBIS (India) entirely agreed with the representative from the United Kingdom regarding the need for full documentation, and pointed out that the Sub-Commission had requested the Secretariat to prepare special reports on a number of occasions. In addition, the Sub-Commission had found it helpful to have representatives of the specialized agencies present at its meetings, and such assistance involved no additional expenditure. Subject to financial considerations, he felt it would also be useful if the Sub-Commission could have some latitude in inviting ad hoc experts to advise it in particular fields.

20. Mr. LEONARD (Secretary) said that, under existing budgetary provisions, it would only be possible to arrange such consultations on a very limited scale.

21. Mr. JAHN (Norway) suggested that national statistical offices could provide the Sub-Commission with valuable assistance at no charge to the United Nations budget.

22. Mr. MAHALCHOBIS (India) said that the Statistical Office was now attempting to maintain contact with national statistical offices, which were being asked for reports on their sampling work.

/23. Mr. CAMPION
11. Mr. LIU (China) suggested that expert consultants might be engaged whenever a problem requiring specific knowledge was referred to the Sub-Commission.

12. Mr. MAHALOBIS (India) said that the Sub-Commission had never discussed the question of its composition. He fully agreed that at times it was necessary to have the co-operation of experts with a knowledge of the subjects under consideration. That was why he had emphasized how encouraging it was that so many experts had actually attended the meetings of the Sub-Commission as observers. Because of the great variety of problems which came before the Sub-Commission, it would be difficult to solve completely the problem simply by increasing the membership. If it were administratively possible, the best solution would be for the Sub-Commission to be made up of experts in statistical sampling and for the Secretariat to be authorized to request additional specialists to attend the meetings whenever the need arose.

13. In reply to a question by the CHAIRMAN, Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that both suggestions would involve expenditure for which the Sub-Commission's existing budget made no provision.

14. Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) drew attention to a field in which the need for consultation with experts was likely to arise in the near future. At the request of the Universal Postal Union the Sub-Commission had expressed preliminary views on the methods to be applied in the collection of statistics on postal traffic (E/CN.3/63, Chapter I). If the Sub-Commission was to give any further advice on the subject, it would find it necessary to study the details of postal procedures in co-operation with the postal officials of individual countries.

15. In view of the expenditure which such consultation would involve, it might perhaps be preferable for the Secretariats of the United Nations and of the Universal Postal Union to undertake the necessary work, if necessary with the help of expert consultants. Any points of special difficulty could be referred to the Sub-Commission for advice.

16. Mr. MAHALOBIS (India) felt that the suggestion made by the representative of ITU was a sound one. He understood from the Universal Postal Union that an effort would be made to persuade Member Governments to undertake sampling experiments,
literature in a single category, the Sub-Commission had similarly drawn attention to the need for a standardized classification. It had not itself taken any action in the matter but had referred it to the Statistical Commission as being outside the scope of its own terms of reference.

30. Mr. LAHUBER (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that the advice his Organization had received from the Sub-Commission on the subject of training had been of very great value.

31. The FAO bibliography had been developed in 1947 in response to a specific need, and it was not intended to continue it. The FAO hoped, however, that the work would be undertaken by another agency.

32. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the International Statistical Institute was to undertake the preparation of an up-to-date bibliography on sampling in co-operation with the Statistical Office. The need to which the Sub-Commission had drawn attention had thus been met.

33. Mr. RICE (United States of America) considered that, while the Sub-Commission was to be commended for the action it had taken in meeting an emergency need, the preparation of syllabuses should not form a normal part of its work.

34. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) did not think that governments should properly be asked for their views on university courses. The appropriate body to consider an ideal statistical curriculum was a professional organization such as the International Statistical Institute.

35. Mr. MAHALOKOBIS (India) did not disagree with Mr. Campion's view, and said that the Sub-Commission would welcome any action by the International Statistical Institute in that field. He personally considered, however, that the Sub-Commission should be allowed some latitude in undertaking particular items of work where they appeared to be urgently needed.

36. Mr. RODRIGUEZ ARIAS (Argentina) considered that the Sub-Commission had adopted a positive approach to the problem of training and strongly supported the suggestions made in chapter V of its report.

/37. Mr. RICE
37. Mr. RICE (United States of America) reminded the Commission that it had begun to discuss education and training in statistics as early as its second session as the result of work done by FAO in that field. There had subsequently been a number of reports and recommendations on the subject and the Economic and Social Council had commended the International Statistical Institute and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on their statistical education programmes.

38. He was grateful to the Sub-Commission for acting promptly in the emergency but felt that in future it should distinguish between the appraisal of needs, which was part of its responsibility, and actual operations such as the drawing up of syllabuses, which went beyond the normal scope of its activities.

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested that a paragraph to that effect should be included in the draft report.

   It was so decided.

40. In regard to the question of a standard classification of statistical subjects, Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), was not clear as to what was required and pointed out that a classified list of publications was already contained in the ISI Journal.

41. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) explained that libraries using the universal decimal classification found that statistical books were scattered under a number of headings. A single general classification would be very useful, for example, in the preparation of standard index numbers. At the moment there was no standard internationally accepted index; the universal decimal classification had the widest circulation.

42. Mr. JANH (Norway) felt that it was a question for librarians rather than statisticians.
43. Mr. RICE (United States of America) recalled that the subject had been discussed at the International Statistical Conference in Washington in 1947 at the request of the Inter-American Statistical Institute which had proposed a standard classification. Such efforts might be co-ordinated by the Committee of Statistical Education of ISI.

44. Mr. GOEDSWAARD (International Statistical Institute) explained that three classifications had been considered at the meeting in Washington in 1947: first, the universal decimal classification which had been proposed by Mr. Mahalanobis; secondly, the classification proposed by the Inter-American Statistical Institute and thirdly, the classification used in the ISI bibliography. None of those classifications had been considered adequate and a resolution had been adopted referring the question to the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling.

45. Mr. LECHIARD (Secretary) stated that the resolution has not been received or transmitted to the Sub-Commission.

46. Mr. RICE (United States of America) suggested that the Secretariat, in consultation with the International Statistical Institute, should prepare a report on the question to be submitted to the next session of the Commission.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 5

47. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) explained that operational research was a very wide and nebulous term for which there was no agreed definition. Many people, including himself, felt that operational research was primarily a branch of statistics based on sampling; statistical methods in an applied form were often involved; moreover, professional statistical work often developed into operational research; there was no clear-cut line between the two.

48. The reference to operational research had been included in paragraph 5 at the suggestion of one of the members of the Sub-Commission who had felt that
the Sub-Commission might usefully attempt to crystallize the concepts underlying operational research and that such a crystallization would be of particular assistance to operational researchers in the fields of agriculture and industry.

49. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the term "operational research" was normally taken to mean the application of scientific methods to particular operations, and covered a very wide field. There was a large school of operational researchers in England, most of whom did not regard themselves as statisticians, though they used one branch of statistical methodology.

50. If the Sub-Commission were to consider problems of operational research, that would expand its work to types of questions which it had not previously considered and before that was done, he felt that the subject should be very carefully considered. Nevertheless, the Sub-Commission could well hold a preliminary discussion on the matter at its next session, and decide what aspects of the question should be considered in detail.

51. Mr. DARMois (France) pointed out that the words "l'analyse des travaux effectués" did not adequately translate the broader meaning of the term "operational research".

52. Mr. Rice (United States of America) felt that the Commission should not sanction work on such a vaguely defined subject. He therefore suggested that the Sub-Commission should be asked to report further on what action it would find appropriate to undertake in that field.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 6

53. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Commission would be considering housing statistics as a separate subject under Item 6 (e) of the agenda. He therefore suggested that any further discussion of the proposals in paragraph 6 should be postponed until the discussion on Item 6 (e).

It was so decided.

/Paragraph 7
Paragraph 7
54. Mr. DRAGSEN (Secretary) pointed out that the subject of income distribution had appeared on the agenda of previous sessions of the Commission and that problems in the field of sampling were naturally involved.
55. When income tax records were used as a basis, the application of sampling procedures might make it possible to reduce the cost and publish the results much quicker than if all the tax returns had to be processed and tabulated. Sampling procedures could also be used to obtain information on the incomes of people below the tax exemption limit, which was very important if a complete picture of income distribution was to be obtained. From detailed small-scale sample surveys it might be possible to obtain information on family incomes including their financial assets and any changes therein and large-scale investigations of income distribution might be carried out in combination with a population census.
56. The Secretariat realized that a large number of problems were involved. It would be prepared to submit a more detailed statement, including reference to those problems and factual information, and it would attempt to restrict the field as much as possible.

57. Mr. CAMPBELL (United Kingdom) felt that in view of the complexity of the question it was important that the Sub-Commission should have the necessary documentation. He doubted, however, whether it would even then be in a position to make any useful recommendations.
58. He drew attention to some of the difficulties. If the figures were taken from tax returns, the whole question of evasion would arise; moreover the figures were usually obtained from individuals and not from families and it was very difficult to merge the data to obtain information on families. He felt that the Sub-Commission could not do much useful work unless it had some information on the tax system involved; on the period of assessment for instance. It must have a clear idea of such difficulties if it was to take into account the various purposes for which the statistics might be used.
59. Mr. MahaLanobis (India) agreed. The Sub-Commission's success would depend largely on the documentation placed before it.

60. In sampling family budgets in India, mainly in the lower income bracket, it had been found better to concentrate on expenditure and neglect income with regard to which it was extremely difficult to get any statistics.

61. Mr. Jahn (Norway) recalled that the International Statistical Institute had already discussed sampling in connexion with income distribution before the First World War.

62. He pointed out that income statistics were not reliable in view of the vast amount of tax evasion resulting from high rates. He also drew attention to the problem of assessing the family income of people like peasants who received part of their income in kind.

63. If statistics on the distribution of income were to be of any value, a true sample of the population must be taken; that was not the case in most countries where family budget samples were only taken from the working classes and traders, while the professional and upper classes were not covered.

64. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Commission was prepared to agree to the suggestions made in paragraph 7 on the understanding that the Secretariat would provide the Sub-Commission with the necessary factual information.

It was so decided.

65. Mr. Jahn (Norway) doubted whether the saving in time and money accomplished by applying sampling procedures would be as large as the Sub-Commission seemed to indicate in chapter VII of its report. He pointed out that with the new machinery available the tabulation of census results could be accomplished fairly speedily whereas it was the preparatory work, such as the revising of data on the schedules which took time and that had to be done even if sampling procedures were applied.

66. Mr. MahaLanobis (India) pointed out that with a population as large as that of India, where few tabulating machines were available, sampling would be a much quicker and less costly method.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Monday, 9 May 1950, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Statement by Mr. Lieu (China)

Research in statistical methods and standards
   (a) Transport statistics (E/CN.2/7, E/186.3/5, E/186.3/6)
   (b) Index numbers of industrial production (E/186.3/6).

Chairman: Mr. MENGFANG Netherlands
Members: Mr. ARLE Argentine
         Mr. LIEU China
         Mr. MARCONI France
         Mr. MAHAPATRA India
         Mr. JALI Norway
         Mr. DIILKUR Turkey
         Mr. CAMPION United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
         Mr. FISH United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. WOODBURY  International Labour Organization (ILO)
Mr. STRAUSS   Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. LIU       United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. LESTER    International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. FOLAK     International Monetary Fund (IMF)

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Secretariat:

Mr. LEONARD   Director, Statistical Office
Mr. LOFTUS    Statistical Office
Mr. FLEXNER   Statistical Office
Mr. BRUCE     Secretary of the Commission

STATEMENT BY MR. LIU (China)

1. Mr. LIU (China) thanked the Chairman for the ruling he had made the previous day, as well as all the members of the Commission who had supported that ruling.

2. He explained that for a few days he would not be able to attend the meetings of the Commission regularly because he was also attending the meetings of the Sub-Commission on Economic Development, which dealt primarily with under-developed countries. In the Commission he believed that the countries, where statistical systems, classifications and methodology had developed to a high degree, should set the standards for the statistically under-developed countries to follow.
3. If, however, the Statistical Commission wanted to simplify its requirements in order to secure wider coverage, as had apparently been, for instance, the case with the occupational classification recommended by the ILO, it might then wish to know the difficulties confronting the underdeveloped countries in their statistical work.

4. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of China that the members of the Commission fully appreciated his position.

5. He then drew the Commission's attention to the latest issue of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics which for the first time gave statistics on public finances. He congratulated the Secretariat on their work.

RESEARCH IN STATISTICAL METHODS AND STANDARDS

(a) Transport statistics (E/CN.3/2/75, E/CN.3/85, E/CN.3/96)

6. Mr. LEONARD (Secretary) explained that document E/CN.3/85 contained an annex I, in which the Secretary proposed certain definitions for the basic transport statistical series which had been considered for the first time a year ago on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission and the Transport and Communications Commission. These definitions could be used to ascertain if national series were internationally comparable. The definitions had been drawn up in order to facilitate comparison of national statistics and the comparison of statistics on the various forms of transport. The definitions had been prepared in such a way as to deviate from current national practices as little as possible. The figures published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics had been compiled in accordance with those definitions.

7. The Transport and Communications Commission had examined document E/CN.3/85 during its fourth session and had adopted a resolution which was reproduced in paragraph 2 of document E/CN.3/96. The Commission had also prepared for submission to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution which was reproduced in paragraph 3.
8. The Transport and Communications Commission had stated in its resolution that the definitions would be transmitted to Governments "so that they may examine the possibility of producing, for purposes of international comparability, series in substantial agreement with the definitions set forth in annex I to document E/CN.2/75 -- E/CN.3/75." The resolution also provided that "the experience of Governments in making this examination is to be used by the Secretary-General in order to propose to the Transport and Communications Commission and the Statistical Commission at subsequent sessions changes in the definitions where necessary." He hoped that the Statistical Commission would be able to adopt a resolution similar to the one adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission, and that it would make the same recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.

9. Mr. Linder (International Civil Aviation Organization) thought that the document prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.3/35) was useful because it drew attention to the various questions on which a decision should be taken. It should not, however, be considered as setting forth any final conclusions.

10. With regard to the statistics on civil aviation, ICAO which assembled the various statistical studies made by its member countries, reserved the right to revise the proposed definitions. The Secretariat's proposals should therefore be considered as preliminary and they should be reviewed in the light of the comments made by Governments. In that connexion, he pointed out that it would be difficult for the Commission to take any final decision on its own. It would be better for the Secretariat to draw conclusions on the basis of the comments it was continually receiving from Governments and from the specialized agencies with which it was always in touch.

11. He hoped that, if the Statistical Commission endorsed the resolution adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission, it would be on the understanding that the Secretariat could make new proposals soon enough to enable Governments to consider them and to make their comments.

12. It would be advisable for the Commission to include its interpretation of the resolution adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission in its report.

/13. Mr. Flexner
13. Mr. FLEXNER (Secretariat) praised ICAO for the help it had given the Secretariat in preparing its report. He fully agreed with all the points put forward by Mr. Lester.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission would explain its interpretation of the resolution in its report.

15. Mr. RICH (United States of America) was satisfied with the progress achieved in the field of transport statistics, and said he would support the resolution prepared by the Transport and Communications Commission. Nevertheless, with regard to transport statistics, he drew attention to the fact that there were certain differences of opinion on questions of detail between himself and the Secretariat. For example, pipelines and conveyor-belts should be added to the list of forms of transport as had already been done by the Transport and Communications Commission.

16. In that connection, he drew attention to the comments made by the United States Government (E/CON.2/37).

17. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt some anxiety about the terms used in the first paragraph of the resolution adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission. It seemed from that paragraph that the proposed definitions were to be adopted immediately. There was, moreover, some contradiction between the first paragraph and the remainder of the resolution, which referred to the amendments which might be made to the proposed definitions.

18. It was, of course, obvious that Governments could not undertake to adopt those definitions without first studying them thoroughly.

19. Mr. FLEXNER (Secretariat) explained that the various Governments would receive copies of the definitions proposed by the Secretariat and would be asked whether they would find it very difficult to adopt those definitions. It was clearly stated in the first paragraph of the resolution that the definitions were intended to be used only in so far as was possible and in so far as was compatible with the general policy of the country concerned. There was no intention of asking Governments to change the methods they had adopted for preparing their statistics.

/20. Mr. CAMPION
20. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the definitions did not seem to be suitable for studies of the transport problem on an international plane, as they followed too closely the classification adopted in national statistics. There was, moreover, a lack of balance between the data concerning the various forms of transport, particularly with regard to road transport and the movement of passengers.

21. Mr. FAJNBERG (Secretariat) explained that if there seemed to be a gap in the section on road transport it was because one of the committees of the Economic Commission for Europe was considering that question and the Secretariat had therefore wished to avoid any duplication of work. Moreover, the Secretariat had tried to establish a common standard for the measurement of all forms of goods transport. It seemed that that standard should be the weight of the goods loaded and unloaded.

22. There was a real gap in the information on passenger transport owing to the difficulty of collecting the necessary statistics from the various countries.

23. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) drew attention to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 14 which seemed in one place to recommend the use of gross weight as the basic unit and in another place the use of net weight for the same purpose. He pointed out that the packing often caused differences of from 10 to 20 per cent in the figures. Moreover, the packing necessary for inland transport was not the same as that used for international transport. The data obtained by the customs authorities was based on the net weight.

24. Mr. JAEHN (Norway) thought that transport statistics should be based on gross weight.

25. Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) emphasized the importance of sub-dividing the statistics into groups such as inland transport and international transport, commercial transport and non-commercial transport,
public carriers and private carriers and, for civil aviation, regular and irregular services. Those divisions were essential and at the same time extremely difficult to establish, both from the legal and the statistical point of view. If a precedent could be established in the field of civil aviation, there was some possibility that the precedent would be used for other forms of transport. That would be an advantage, but there would be yet another advantage owing to the fact that statistical data often helped the judicial organs to establish better legal definitions. The United Nations was intrinsically the place where that type of study should be carried out.

24. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) pointed out that, in the Spanish translation, the first line of the resolution adopted by the Transport and Communications Commission might give rise to misunderstanding. The first paragraph should refer not only to general policy but also to provisions of an administrative nature. It would not be possible to carry out the proposed study unless it was consistent with those provisions.

25. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in English the expression "general policy" covered provisions of an administrative nature.

26. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) and Mr. DARROIS (France) said that that was not the case in Spanish or in French.

27. Mr. KID (United States of America) drew attention to paragraphs 10 and 13 of document E/1934/15. It should be emphasized that it was important to try to define the relationship between statistics on the transport of goods and those on international trade. He took it for granted that the Secretariat would continue to study that subject.

30. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) proposed that the Commission should adopt a resolution approving the text submitted by the Transport and Communications Commission but stating that the first paragraph should take administrative provisions into account.

/After having
After having noted the explanations given by the Secretariat, the Commission decided to approve the resolution of the Transport and Communications Commission, on the understanding that the words "general policy" in the first paragraph of that resolution included administrative provisions. The Commission furthermore decided to approve the draft resolution on transport statistics, submitted by the Transport and Communications Commission to the Economic and Social Council for consideration.

(b) Index numbers of industrial production (E/CN.3/86)

31. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) recalled that in the preparation of its memorandum on item 5 of the provisional agenda, the Secretariat had been assisted by Professor Allen. Certain technical points of detail regarding the construction of the index numbers would be explained in a document to be published later. He invited the Statistical Commission to examine particularly the scope and grouping of the index numbers, the formula, base and compilation of those numbers, and the general conclusions.

32. Mr. JAHN (Norway) wished to make three comments with regard to the scope and grouping of the index numbers and on the question of seasonal adjustment.

33. In the first place, he did not think that the groups suggested in paragraph 3 of document E/CN.3/86 could serve as a basis for comparison on the international scale nor that they would make it possible to study the fluctuations of industrial production. For example, by combining glass and the cement industries in the same group, there was a risk of concealing the fluctuations undergone by the latter. In addition, by creating the group "paper and printing", for example, there would be a risk of comparing two absolutely different productions if one country simply produced paper while another had large printing works, without itself producing the necessary paper.

34. He thought therefore that it would be much wiser to divide all industrial production into (a) production of the means of production and (b) production of consumer goods, and to make comparisons on the basis of those two major divisions. At all events it was essential to modify the basic principle of the grouping explained in paragraph 3.

/35. Secondly,
35. Secondly, turning to paragraph 9, he considered that it would be unwise to exclude handicraft production from the index numbers. In effect, the distinction between a handicraft undertaking and a manufacturing undertaking was often merely legal. In many countries, handicraft undertakings supplied a very large proportion of the industrial production and it would be a mistake to try to exclude them from the total figure. Lastly, by failing to apply the index numbers to handicrafts, there would be the risk of excluding from industrial production a very large part of the building industry, which was often classified as a handicraft.

36. He also thought that the relative size of undertakings played a decisive part in the compilation of index numbers. Although it was possible to obtain the necessary information from small industries as part of the annual or five yearly censuses, they could not be asked to supply monthly returns. He thought that instead of making a distinction between handicrafts and industries, it would be much more useful to classify undertakings according to the size of their staff, business turnover, etc., and thus to constitute two separate groups, one of which would include large-scale industry and the other small industry.

37. Finally, he was grateful to the Secretariat for not insisting on the need to have indices from which the influence of seasonal fluctuations had been eliminated. It was true that those fluctuations varied from one country to another, but it was better to have original figures since any adaptation of that kind ran the risk of leading to false conclusions.

38. Mr. LEWIS (Secretariat) replied that in establishing the grouping explained in paragraph 8, the Secretariat had tried to formulate a minimum recommendation which would enable the various countries to adapt their existing statistics to the requirements of international comparability, with the least possible effort. The Secretariat hoped that in time they would succeed in having index numbers for all the principal groups of the international standard classification.

39. He recognised that it was extremely difficult to make a distinction between a handicraft undertaking and an industrial undertaking, because there
was no uniform criterion in that respect. However, he thought that by retaining handicrafts among industrial industries, there would be a risk of applying those indices to countries where industrial production was practically nil.

40. Lastly, with regard to the principle laid down by the Secretariat that "there should be no limitation according to size of establishment", he stated that it should make it possible to compile indices for industrial production as a whole and not simply for large-scale industry.

41. Mr. BANALANOBIS (India) agreed with Mr. Jahn that handicraft production ought not to be excluded from the index numbers.

42. With regard to the difficulty of obtaining information from industrial establishments, he thought that that could be overcome by compiling two different indices: one for large scale industry and industry using power-driven machinery and the other for small industry. The latter index could be established on the basis of sampling, as was currently being done in India.

43. Mr. TRADE (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) shared that point of view.

44. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that in order to answer that question of whether or not to include handicrafts in the index numbers, it was necessary to find an exact definition of the aim in view. If it was a matter of surveying the progressive industrialization of a particular country, it would be necessary to exclude handicrafts from the total figure for industrial production; on the other hand, if it was a question of studying the production of commodities as a whole, it was obvious that the contribution made by handicrafts would have to be taken into account.

45. For his part, he considered that the collection of statistics on handicrafts would be more akin to the collection of statistics on agricultural production than to industrial production.

46. Mr. BILKIR (Turkey) observed, in connexion with paragraph 41, that the under-developed countries would want to obtain indications from the Statistical Office which would enable them to improve their industrial statistics. It was not enough, therefore, to recommend them to concentrate on the improvement of statistics of agricultural production.

47. Mr. LOFTUS
47. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that, in making that recommendation, the Secretariat had wanted to prevent the under-developed countries from compiling industrial statistics while their agricultural statistics, which were for the time being more important, still left much to be desired.

48. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) did not agree, because it was precisely the industrial development of the under-developed countries which was of most interest. Those countries already possessed certain rudimentary industries, and it was important to give them instructions on the compilation of industrial indices.

49. He suggested therefore that paragraph 11 of the report should be modified.

50. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) was also opposed to the fundamental idea of paragraph 11 and thought it was necessary to help the under-developed countries to compile indices of industrial production immediately.

51. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that the report E/CN.3/86 would not be circulated to countries, and that only the recommendations adopted by the Commission would be sent. That point would be modified. It was therefore not necessary to amend paragraph 11.

52. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that he was ready to support the recommendations set out on pages 16 and 17 of the report, but thought that there were many points of detail which still needed to be cleared up. For example, the report did not attach sufficient importance to the practical difficulties in the way of compiling monthly indices, the question of weighting coefficients and so on.

53. He also pointed out that the numbers of series suggested as minima and maxima in paragraph 21 related to the accuracy of the total index and the question of group indexes raised other issues. With regard to speed of compilation, it was sometimes dangerous to accept substitute series merely because they were readily available, e.g. employment series, the use of which frequently had misleading results. He referred also to the difficulty of forecasting whether a particular year would be suitable for a change of weights.

/54. Mr. LOFTUS
54. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) repeated that the memorandum under discussion was simply a summary of the problems which would have to be settled. All these problems would be examined in greater detail in the technical document to be published later.

55. Mr. JAIN (Norway) remarked that no paper prepared by the Secretariat could deal with all the practical points which would be encountered by countries and which could be solved only in the light of the material available.

56. Mr. TEPER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that the grouping recommended in paragraph 10, far from facilitating the compilation of comparable statistics, on the contrary ran the risk of concealing dissimilarities. That was why more stress should be laid on the second sentence which advocated the compilation of separate series for important industries. Mr. Teper also declared that it was difficult, even in an industrial country like the United States of America, to draw a line of demarcation between handicrafts and industry.

57. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) also thought that the grouping detracted from the principle of international comparability, which was, however, of essential importance. For example, by grouping textiles, footwear and apparel in a single class, they risked making that series less comparable than a series devoted simply to textiles. The question should therefore be examined in more detail. The International Labour Organisation, which had industrial committees for various branches of industry, would have preferred some more homogeneous series.

58. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) thought that such wide categories were of no use from the point of view of international comparison.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

12/5 a.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Tuesday, 9 May 1950, at 2.30 p.m.

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   (c) Form and scope of censuses of industrial production
       (E/CH.3/110, E/CH.3/110/Add.1)

Chairman: Mr. IDELBURG Netherlands
Rapporteur: Mr. CAMPION United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Members:
Mr. ARIAS Argentina
Mr. LI ZHU China
Mr. APFLOIS France
Mr. MRAMADIS India
Mr. JACOB Norway
Mr. MILIKUR Turkey
Mr. HICHE United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

- Mr. Woodbury
- Mr. Straus
- Mr. Liut
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Polak

International Labour Organization (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Representative of a non-governmental organization:

Category A: Mr. Teiser
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICTU)

Secretariat:

- Mr. Loftus
- Mr. Bruce

Statistical Office
Secretary of the Commission

RESEARCH IN STATISTICAL METHODS AND STANDARDS

(b) Indices of industrial production (E/CN.3/36) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN stated that the Commission would continue the discussion of paragraph 29 (a) of document E/CN.3/36.

2. Mr. Loftus (Secretariat) explained that he had reconsidered the question of handicrafts in the light of the discussion at the previous meeting and had come to the conclusion that the distinction between handicrafts and other production should be abolished and that annual and less than annual figures should therefore be based on the size of the establishment. A statement to that effect would be included in the technical paper.

3. The second sentence of paragraph 29 (a) should be redrafted to read as follows:

"It is desirable that separate indices be prepared for each of these major groups. Where this is not practical or not warranted by the importance of production in particular major groups, it is recommended that separate indices be compiled for the divisions:

- mining and quarrying
- manufacturing
- construction
- electricity and gas

and that these divisions be further sub-divided on the basis of the International Standard Industrial Classification to distinguish such major groups as are important in the country concerned."

The text suggested by Mr. Loftus was adopted.

Sub-paragraphs
Sub-paragraphs (b) and (c)

Sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) were adopted without comment.

Sub-paragraph (d)

4. Mr. MAHLANOBIS (India) admitted that it was desirable that the same year should be taken as the weight base all over the world but he doubted whether that would always be feasible. India intended to take a population census in 1951 and he hoped that the Secretariat's recommendation would not preclude his country from holding a production census at the same time.

5. Mr. RICE (United States of America) hoped that countries would not combine population and production censuses. The two involved quite different data, organization and methods. Legislation had been passed in the United States providing that industrial censuses should be taken at five yearly intervals midway between the population and agricultural censuses. That procedure did away with violent changes in employment in the Census Bureau. In formulating the recommendations in sub-paragraph (d), the Secretariat had probably had in mind considerations of that nature.

6. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) presumed that the first paragraph was intended to exhort all countries to adopt a post-war weight base. That base could be adopted before 1952 if the material was already available e.g. from a post-war census already taken.

7. He asked the Secretariat whether they intended a complete census or something less, if a sample were to be taken in 1952, and pointed out that the data on net output obtained from a sample census could be sufficient for weighting the industrial indices.

8. He also wished to ask the Secretariat whether they wished to establish 1952 as a comparison base for production indices independently of the question of weighting the indices.

9. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) replied that even if countries revised their weights to bring them up to date, there would still be a variety of weight bases in the index numbers and the Secretariat had therefore suggested 1952 as a means to bring the weighting bases closer together. While it was also desirable that countries should adopt a standard comparison base, this was less necessary than a standard weight base as the Secretariat could always divide through to a standard comparison base.

10. Mr. CAMPION
10. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that if the 1952 census were to be a complete one, countries would not be able to wait until 1952 before deciding on that year as the date for the census and starting to plan their operations.

11. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) indicated that though his country intended to take a complete population count in 1951, it did not intend to make more than a sample industrial survey; anything further, in fact, would be almost impossible. An annual census of manufacturers was taken, but that only covered the large organized industries.

12. Mr. RICH (United States of America) assumed that in India some data on handicrafts and home industries would be obtained in the population census.

13. Mr. LEFEVRE (Secretariat) explained that the census should be sufficiently complete to provide the weights for the indices. That would mean sufficient coverage and questions but not necessarily the inclusion of every production unit.

It was decided that sub-paragraph (d) should be reworded to cover these points.

Sub-paragraph (e)

14. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the series was often changed at the same time as the weights. He wondered whether two sets of figures would have to be compiled for the overlap period.

15. Mr. LEFEVRE (Secretariat) explained that following a change of series the new series could be produced with both the new and old weights. If the annual coverage were different from the monthly coverage, an adjustment would have to be made over the whole twelve-month period and both systems would be required.

16. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt that in that case the series would probably be worked backwards for two or three years. He pointed out, however, that the Secretariat's intentions were not quite clear from the text.

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested that a revised text of sub-paragraph (e) should be included in the report.

It was so decided.
Sub-paragraph (f)

18. Mr. MAHALANGUS (India) felt that the meaning of the term "down to the level of industries" was not very clear.

19. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretary) explained that from the census results of the country it should be possible to obtain the weights used in the indices. If sub-indices were available for individual industries, the weights for these should be obtainable from the census data. If, however, sub-indices were available only for groups of industries it would not be necessary to specify weights for the component industries.

20. Mr. DAMOIS (France) did not think the text could be interpreted in that way. He understood it to mean that individual weights were required and not those of total groupings.

21. The CHAIRMAN suggested that sub-paragraph (f) should be redrafted to clarify the point and that the Commission should reconsider it when it discussed its draft report.

It was so decided.

Sub-paragraph (g)

Sub-paragraph (g) was adopted without comment.

Sub-paragraph (h)

22. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that sub-paragraph (h) would have to be revised in the light of the new text of sub-paragraph (f), and suggested that consideration of sub-paragraph (h) should be postponed.

It was so decided.

Sub-paragraph (i)

It was decided to replace the words "on a broader base" by the words "with fuller coverage" and to delete the words "or extensive surveys."

Sub-paragraph (i) as amended was adopted.

Paragraph 30

Paragraph 30 was adopted without comment.
Paragraph 31

23. In reply to a question from Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), Mr. LOFTUS (Secretary) explained that the technical paper would follow the general pattern of document E/CN.3/86 but would be more detailed and would involve a discussion of some of the practical problems which might arise in the collection of data.

24. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) congratulated the Secretary on the concrete way in which its recommendations had been placed before the Commission.

Paragraph 31 was adopted.

(c) Form and scope of censuses of industrial production (E/CN.3/110 and E/CN.3/110/Add.1)

25. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretary) introduced document E/CN.3/110 and summarized the information contained in paragraphs 1 to 5. He pointed out that those paragraphs were introductory and that only the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 were intended for inclusion in the Commission's report.

26. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that, as the document had only been circulated a few days before, he had not had time to study it fully. His general impression was, however, that it took a rather narrow view of the purposes of industrial censuses.

27. Mr. JAHN (Norway) and Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) supported Mr. Campion's view.

28. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretary) explained that in the course of its survey on the form and scope of industrial censuses, the Secretary had reached the conclusion that censuses to be taken in the near future would obtain improved results if the points outlined in paragraph 6 were covered. It was intended to submit recommendations on the field of industrial censuses as a whole to the Commission at its next session.
Paragraph 6
Sub-paragraph (a)

29. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) felt that the phrase "make similar data available by other means" was rather ambiguous; did that mean additional surveys or were the data available from other sources?

30. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that the data on certain branches of industrial activity might be available without taking a census if those activities were administratively covered; he cited power commissions and national railway boards as examples. Sub-paragraph (a) might be redrafted to make that more clear.

31. Mr. DARMOIS (France) pointed out that it would be difficult for some undertakings in France to separate industrial data from commercial data when they were engaged in both activities.

32. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should be asked to redraft sub-paragraph (a).

It was so decided.

Sub-paragraph (b)

33. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) emphasized the value of the recommendation that countries should adopt the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, or one which could be translated into that classification.

Sub-paragraph (b) was adopted without change.

Sub-paragraph (c)

34. After some discussion on the rival merits of the expressions "net output" and "value added", the CHAIRMAN suggested that both expressions should be used so that the sentence would read: "collect data to enable net output or value added to be computed... "

It was so decided.

/35. Mr. CAMPION
35. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the division of net output into its individual components, if carried too far, would eventually make it possible to ascertain the profits. It might then be difficult to obtain satisfactory figures, since the manufacturers might be reluctant to provide them. The recommendation in the second sentence of the sub-paragraph should not therefore be taken too literally.

Sub-paragraph (c), as amended, was adopted.

Sub-paragraph (d)

36. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) queried the statement in paragraph 2 of document E/CN.3/110/Add.1 that a productive unit had to occupy separate premises in order to be accessible for an industrial census.

37. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that, although establishments which did not occupy separate premises might be accessible for sample surveys, they were not accessible for a complete industrial census of the normal type.

38. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed with that statement. He did not think, however, that the type of census referred to in paragraph 6 of document E/CN.3/110 was necessarily a complete count. He personally interpreted it to cover sample surveys as well. Since the two documents were closely related to one another he had thought it important to point out that it was not essential for an establishment to occupy separate premises in order to be accessible for a sample survey.

39. Mr. ARIS (Argentina) asked what exactly was meant by the second sentence of the sub-paragraph which read: "Data on enterprises should also be collected in countries where financial inter-relations between establishments are important".

40. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that several establishments might be owned and controlled by a single enterprise. That aspect of industrial production would not appear from the results of the census if the establishment was taken as the basic unit and no additional information was sought. The second sentence had therefore been inserted into sub-paragraph (d) in order to give countries the option of seeking information on enterprises as well as on establishments if it was important for them to ascertain the organizational pattern of industry as well as the actual production.

/41. Mr. RICE
41. Mr. RICE (United States of America) asked whether the additional information was intended to form part of the actual census and to be used in computing the total figures or whether it was intended to be the object of a separate inquiry. He agreed that it was impossible to obtain a complete picture of industrial production without taking into account the work carried out in the administrative offices as well as that done in the workshops themselves. If that was the type of information referred to it should be obtained through the census itself, but if additional financial data about the various enterprises was required it should be obtained through a separate inquiry.

42. Mr. JAHN (Norway) agreed that it would be helpful to obtain information on the enterprises controlling the establishments as well as upon the establishments themselves. It would however be impossible to obtain any financial data from a general industrial census. It should always be borne in mind that the Commission's recommendations were intended to help countries to obtain the information most valuable to them and not only to ensure the provision of internationally comparable statistics.

43. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that the additional information was intended to form an integral part of the census. Thus, by inserting additional questions, it might be elicited not only that there were ten thousand establishments in the country, but also that those establishments were grouped under the control of one thousand enterprises. That was the only purpose of the second sentence in sub-paragraph (a) and it was not intended to refer to the collection of purely financial data about enterprises. He agreed that the sentence might be better worded in order to express its meaning more clearly.

44. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested the following wording: "Data for enterprises with more than one establishment can often be obtained by supplementary questions in the census."

45. In reply to a question by Mr. DEWOLS (France), the CHAIRMAN explained that the information to be obtained was intended to cover only the number and location of the establishments controlled by an enterprise and not the variety of activities in which those establishments might be engaged.
The wording suggested by the representative from the United Kingdom was adopted.

Sub-paragraph (d), as amended, was adopted.

Sub-paragraph (e)

46. Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that the subjects covered by sub-paragraph (e) were liable to give rise to a variety of statistical difficulties.

47. Mr. TEPER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) agreed with Mr. Rice. In particular, the maintenance of figures on man hours worked and on age groups did not form a normal part of the records kept by industrial establishments and it was therefore unlikely that accurate figures would be obtained.

48. In reply to a question by Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organization), the CHAIRMAN said that the phrase "wages paid" was intended to cover both wages and salaries.

49. Mr. JAHN (Norway) thought that sub-paragraph (e) was much more detailed than the preceding sub-paragraphs. It should, in his opinion, be confined to the numbers employed, wages paid and man hours worked. If the subject of age groups was included, he considered that the inquiry should be limited to apprentices.

50. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) supported Mr. Jahn's view that sub-paragraph (e) was much more specific than the preceding sub-paragraphs and wondered whether its inclusion was really necessary.

51. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that the advantage of comparable data on physical production and on the labour force engaged in that production would be obtained by asking for both at the same enquiry. He therefore felt that something on the lines of sub-paragraph (e) should be included in the list of points.

/52. The CHAIRMAN
59. Mr. RICE (United States of America) asked whether it was intended to circulate to Governments the list of points outlined in paragraph 7, the inclusion or deletion of which would be more useful to Governments than the list alone.

Paragraph 7, as amended, was adopted.
59. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) said that the addendum was primarily intended for the Commission's own information. The manual was not yet ready and the points outlined in paragraph 6 were matters to which the Secretariat had thought that the attention of Governments might be drawn pending its completion.

60. The CHAIRMAN felt that there would be no objection to circulating copies of the addendum for the information of Governments in addition to a letter covering the points outlined in paragraph 6.

61. Mr. RICE (United States of America) considered that the introductory sentence of paragraph 6 should clearly indicate that the points listed were intended as a preliminary to the publication of the manual. He accordingly suggested that the sentence should be redrafted to read as follows: "Topics which should be favourably considered by each country for inclusion in such a census may include the following, bearing in mind that each conception or item here suggested is susceptible of various interpretations and definitions. Preparation of a manual recommending appropriate definitions is contemplated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Meanwhile each country taking an industrial census should: --"

The text proposed by Mr. Rice was adopted.

62. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the recommendations contained in document E/CN.3/110 should be endorsed.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

12/5 a.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Wednesday, 10 May 1959, at 10:30 a.m.

CONTENTS:
Research in statistical methods and standards:
Indices of prices (E/CN.3/107,E/CN.3/107/Add.1)
Progress report on the programme of work on statistics, of national
income and social accounting, including capital formation and other
related subjects (E/CN.3/89).

Chairman: Mr. P. IDENBURG Netherlands
Members:
Mr. ARRIAS Argentina
Mr. LIEU China
Mr. DALHAUS France
Mr. MAHALAKSHIS India
Mr. JOHN Norway
Mr. BLIKUY Turkey
Mr. CALPTON United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. RICE United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:
- Mr. WOODBURY: International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Mr. STRAUSS: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Mr. LESTER: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- Mr. PCIANK: International Monetary Fund

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:
Category A:
- Mr. TIPPER: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- Mr. RIDGEWAY: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Category B:
- Mr. GOUDEWAARD: International Statistical Institute

Secretariat:
- Mr. LLEONARD: Representative of the Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of the Department of Economic Affairs
- Mr. LOFTUS: Statistical Office
- Mr. DERKSEN: Statistical Office
- Mr. BRUGL: Secretary of the Commission

1. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Commission wished to attend a meeting of the Commission on Education of the International Statistical Institute on the following afternoon. All members and all representatives of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations were invited.

   It was so decided.

RESEARCH IN STATISTICAL METHODS AND STANDARDS: INDICES OF PRICES (E/CN.3/107, E/CN.3/107/Add.1)

2. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) read out paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (a) of document E/CN.3/107, setting forth the instructions given to the Secretariat by the Statistical Commission at its fourth session.

3. The Secretariat had found a sufficient degree of uniformity in the methods adopted by the various countries to enable it to say that a typical index of wholesale prices could be defined. On the other hand, there seemed to be no such uniformity regarding the purpose for which these price indices were calculated; the Statistical Office therefore proposed to group together indices drawn up
for a definite purpose in order to provide a basis for the creation of a rational system of price indices. It was hoped that the Statistical Office would soon receive expert assistance; the members of the Commission should be able to study the Secretariat reports and make their comments before those reports were sent to Member Governments. The Secretariat’s recommendations in paragraph 14, page 7 of document E/CH.3/107 were made with that in mind.

4. Mr. MAHATANGODI (India) noted that the Secretariat had confined itself for the time being to a study which established certain facts, but that it had not made recommendations on the substance of the question. The Government of India was undertaking a revision of indices of prices; it was desirable that that revision should be based on valid and internationally recognized standards. He wondered whether the statement in the first line of paragraph 5 could be accepted as such a basis. He would like to have the opinion of the Secretariat or of any authorized person.

5. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that everything depended upon the purpose for which the indices of prices were drawn up. That factor would determine whether, in the case of commodities such as wheat, the calculation should be based on the actual weight of the quantities bought and sold, or on the exchange value etc. of the whole group, wheat being considered merely as a typical cereal. His personal opinion was that the concept of indices of wholesale prices might have to be abandoned.

6. Mr. MAHATANGODI (India) said it would be regrettable if the revision of indices being undertaken in India were not in line with international thought. There should at least be some statement on the tendencies noted in countries carrying out similar reviews.

7. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) replied that the tendency was, very clearly, to adopt arithmetical indices of the Laspeyres type.
8. Mr. DARMAK (France) drew attention to the end of paragraph 1, sub-para graph (d). He asked whether the Secretariat had made a study of the inter-relationship of price indices.

9. Mr. DORIS (Secretariat) replied that some preliminary work on that subject had already been done, but that it had not yet reached a stage where studies could be submitted to the Commission.

10. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) complimented the Secretariat on its attempt to demonstrate the vagueness of the concept of indices of prices. He hoped that the Secretariat would make a more thorough study of that question with the aid of experts, and that it would also study the question of weighting. He also drew attention to the last sentence of paragraph 12, where reference was made to prices received by exporters and importers. There seemed to be some confusion for the prices received by exporters were not the same as those paid by importers.

11. Indices of wholesale prices for exported and imported products should form part of the studies contemplated in the first part of the report.

12. Mr. LOITUS (Secretariat) said that the question raised by Mr. Polak had not escaped the Secretariat's attention. Wholesale prices of imports and exports would be studied within the framework of Part I of the report.

13. Replying to Mr. Polak's remarks regarding the last sentence of paragraph 12, Mr. Loitus said that the Secretariat had tried to estimate the prices received by the importer for goods sold on the domestic market. Those prices were of primary importance for the proposed study, since that was the only method for establishing a valid comparison with the expenses incurred by the exporter.

14. Mr. RICE (United States of America) praised the Secretariat for its careful deliberation in coming to conclusions. The Federal Government was at present revise the principles on which certain price indices were based, and he did not wish to express an opinion before learning the results of current studies.
15. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Commission was called upon only to take note of the work carried out by the Secretariat, the slowness of which he, for his part, regretted. A large number of countries would revise certain price indices within the next twelve or eighteen months, and they would like to know what conclusions had been reached by the Secretariat and the experts who had assisted it. Very difficult questions arose in determining real prices in countries with controlled economies; as far as concerned consumer goods it was possible to find a relatively simple answer, but in connexion with producer's goods, subject to a contractual price, it was more difficult to find a method of calculating indices.

16. The various Member States would therefore await with great interest the recommendations of the Secretariat on the subject.

17. Not only should the various methods now in use be reconciled, but the problem should be thoroughly analyzed with a view to proposing an authoritative solution which did not err on the side of caution -- on the contrary, a spirit of initiative would be welcomed.

18. The CHAIRMAN remarked that although Mr. Rice and Mr. Campion were in agreement regarding the slowness of the Secretariat's work, the former thought it was an advantage while the latter criticized it.

19. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) said that a study of the questions raised by Mr. Campion was being made. The Secretariat hoped to publish the results of its work in three or four months.

20. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that boldness should be shown in advocating the adoption of new concepts. In the field of statistics there were all too many detailed data. Conceptions must now be revised. The time was appropriate inasmuch as a number of countries, including India, were engaged in revising the method of calculating price indices. Mr. Mahalanobis was therefore gratified that the Secretariat's study would be published in the fairly near future.

21. Mr. JAHN (Norway) emphasized that the collection of data was of use only if the data were obtained by means of sound criteria. It was above all in the choice of basic data that the various countries needed expert advice.
22. Mr. LINU (China) referred to the question of export and import prices mentioned at the end of paragraph 12. He wondered whether export prices were calculated FOB and import prices CIF.

23. Mr. T.W.E.M. (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) wondered whether the Statistical Office ought to undertake a study of the effect of investment on price fluctuations, particularly when certain products were substituted for others or disappeared from the market, as was the case in time of war. It would be interesting to know what influence those changes had on price indices.

24. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) pointed out that there could be two indices for imports, first the index for the import price CIF, and then the index corresponding to the sale price on the internal market.

The Commission decided to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 14 (E/CN.3/107, page 7) and to insert in the first line of sub-paragraph (b), after "Commission members", the words "and to representatives of the specialized agencies".

25. The CHAIRMAN declared open the discussion of Part II of the report on price indices.

26. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) pointed out that sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 18 was unnecessary, since it had been agreed that a study of wholesale export and import prices would be made in Part I.

The Commission adopted paragraph 18, subject to the deletion of sub-paragraph (b).

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON STATISTICS OF NATIONAL INCOME AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTING INCLUDING CAPITAL FORMATION AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS (E/CN.3/80)

27. Mr. DREWSDEN (Secretariat) stated that in preparing the memorandum (E/CN.3/80) the Secretariat had endeavoured, above all, to give a clear
indication of the work accomplished during the year by the Statistical Office in the field of methodology and definition. He would outline briefly the
stage reached in the task of compiling national income statistics.

28. He was very happy to be able to say that the number of countries publishing national income statistics in periodical series form was increasing. While, in the previous year, only fourteen countries had supplied figures of national income for the preceding twelve months, in the current year there were already twenty, without taking into account non-Member States and Non-Self-Governing Territories. On the other hand, it was important to note that an ever-increasing number of countries were compiling their national statistics in accordance with the recommendations of the Statistical Office. Thus, in the preceding year, six countries had adopted the plan drawn up by the Statistical Office; six had changed the basis of their statistics to bring them into line with the plan, and many others had asked the Office for advice which had enabled them to revise and improve their basic figures. Furthermore, the Statistical Office had requested certain countries not applying the recommended definitions to submit their figures in a form which would facilitate regrouping, and had received satisfaction on that point.

29. The following was the situation with regard to the publication of national income statistics. The second volume of "National Income Statistics" was in the hands of the printer, and he hoped that it would be distributed before the end of the week. It would give information with regard to thirty-two countries, but would not repeat the statistics which had already appeared in the first volume. It would contain, also, the social accounting of twelve countries, tables showing real income on a per capita basis, and a draft classification of national income by industrial origin, groups of final expenditure, and distributive shares. The Appendix would give synoptic tables comprising series of national income figures relating to the second half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century.

30. In addition, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics would, in future, contain estimates of per capita national income in constant prices as well as data on capital formation. The June issue would contain figures relating to real per capita income.

31. In conclusion,
31. In conclusion, Mr. Dorksen drew attention to General Assembly resolution 238 (III), which demonstrated the interest of the Assembly in national income statistics which could provide the Committee on Contributions with the necessary data for determining the scale of contributions to the United Nations.

32. In view of the rapid development of national income statistics, the necessity for Governments to have reliable information at their disposal, and the needs of the United Nations, the Secretariat felt that the time had come to ask the Economic and Social Council to undertake measures in that field. The members of the Commission would find at the end of document E/CM.3/39 a draft resolution for submission to the Council.

33. The CHAIRMAN asked the members of the Commission to state their views on document E/CM.3/39.

34. Mr. MAINLACHTIS (India) acknowledged the importance of compiling internationally comparable statistics. Nevertheless, comparability was not the principal object in producing national revenue statistics. Countries compiled social accounts primarily in order to be able to take practical decisions.

35. He wished that the Secretariat would study more thoroughly the problems relating to subsistence economy, where goods and services were not involved in commercial transactions. Such a study would be in the interests of comparability, since the existing system -- which imputed a certain value to goods which were not in fact the objects of commercial exchange -- made comparisons more difficult instead of facilitating them. He therefore requested the Secretariat to provide the countries concerned with more detailed information on the subject.

36. Mr. DENGesen (Secretariat) thanked Mr. Mahalanobis for his suggestion and stated that the Secretariat had already taken steps in that direction by drawing up a simplified formula for social accounts. It was that formula, incidentally, which he intended to propose to the three countries which had approached him within the framework of the technical assistance programme.
37. International comparability was only one aspect of the problem. It was, nevertheless, an important aspect because it was useful to be able to compare the real per capita income of different countries. The problem was to find the best means of establishing comparisons between the consumption of under-developed countries and that of other countries.

38. Mr. MAKLARIS (India) reported that the manual to be published by the Secretariat should give information on the compiling of both social accounts and statistical data.

39. Mr. DIKRIM (Secretary) replied that the Secretariat had in mind the publication of a series of documents, of which one would in fact deal with the compiling of statistical data and another with estimates of national income.

40. Mr. STATLE (Secretary) felt that international comparability was of primary importance. It was true that in countries with a non-monetary economy the task of compiling internationally comparable figures would entail much preliminary work. Nevertheless, it should be undertaken from the outset.

41. In that connection he returned to the subject of price indices and stated that in compiling them it would be necessary to ensure that certain elements of national income were comparable as to physical volume.

42. The Committee opened the discussion on the various sections of document E/537/89.

Publication of national income statistics

The section was adopted without discussion.

Availability of national income statistics

43. Mr. CurWaN (United Kingdom) was grateful to the Secretariat for encouraging countries to provide national income statistics. Nevertheless, those countries should also recognise the need for creating the statistical machinery required for the compiling of basic data. It would be extremely unfortunate if, in the tables recommended by the manual, they were to include figures regardless of the manner in which they had been obtained.

/14. Mr. MAKLARIS
44. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) also expressed the view that it was essential, above all, to safeguard the quality of the basic figures.

45. He then reverted to paragraph 2 (b) of document E/CN.3/89, and said that it was not enough to estimate national income in constant prices since, for many countries, such prices could be meaningless. Hence it might be expected that in some cases national income would be estimated on the basis of the volume of goods and material services.

46. Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) reminded the Commission that the International Institute of Statistics, during its 1949 session, had requested that the quality of national income estimates should be examined. The Statistical Office had devoted one whole section of the second volume of National Income Statistics to that question.

47. He agreed that use could also be made of quantitative figures in connexion with constant prices, but stated that the problem was dealt with in greater detail on page 13 of the report.

48. Mr. RICE (United States of America) recalled that the Inter American Statistical Institute had also sought to improve the quality of national income estimates. The best method of bringing about such improvement was to encourage the development of statistics in that field.

49. The CHAIRMAN added that in industrialized countries the publication of information on national income often tended to improve the quality of the different basic series.

The section relating to the availability of national income statistics was adopted.

Adjustments for international comparability.

50. Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) felt that it would be well to contemplate adjustments in connexion with consumer needs, which varied from one country to another, in particular with the climate.
51. Mr. DERKSEN (Secretary) replied that that matter should be examined in relation to per capita income. The Secretariat had already consulted FAO and UNESCO, which were concerned, respectively, with the position of agriculture and with the portion of national income devoted to education.

The section relating to adjustments for international comparability was adopted.

Capital Formation.

52. Mr. CAMPLIN (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Secretariat was still in the experimental stage of its work on capital formation, and that the matter certainly ought to be studied more thoroughly.

53. On page 6 of the memorandum it was stated that the components of gross capital formation were approached from the "physical" side. That question really presented two different aspects: production of capital goods, and actual expenditure incurred in obtaining such goods. Both aspects called for study, particularly as a number of European countries desired information on the subject.

54. Turning to paragraph 13, Mr. Campion asked whether the depreciation allowances to which reference was made were real allowances or allowances of a fiscal nature. Finally, the matter of accidental damages also ought to be defined. In a number of western European countries the problem was of immediate importance, a fact of which the Secretariat should endeavour to take advantage by preparing a report on the matter.

55. Mr. DERKSEN (Secretary) stated that that was an entirely new field. Among the various ways of estimating capital formation, the Secretariat had studied the method of questionnaires used in Sweden and Norway. It had, however, so little information available that it would be able to publish only a very preliminary report on the subject. That report would probably be issued in the autumn.

56. The information contained in paragraph 18 had been acquired entirely unofficially. Information on gross and net capital formation was indispensable, but, of course, the problem entailed many difficulties. The method suggested in paragraph 18 was not the only possible one.

/57. With regard
57. With regard to accidental damages, the methods used varied from country to country. In the United States, actual losses were deducted from capital; in the smaller countries it would be far better simply to deduct insurance premiums.

58. There were also two different theories in respect of depreciation allowances, which corresponded to capital consumption at current prices. Whereas in some countries these allowances appeared in income tax declarations, in others they were based on economic considerations.

59. Mr. John (Norway) observed that the questionnaires used in Norway did not yield reliable figures, since entrepreneurs who were asked to specify the amount of their present and future investments were often unwilling to furnish exact figures to their Government.

60. The Chairman stated that similar questionnaires were sent to entrepreneurs in the Netherlands, not by the Government services, but by the Statistical Office, which guaranteed secrecy. Reliable figures could thus be obtained.

61. Mr. Mahalanobis (India) drew the Commission’s attention to the importance of capital formation in agriculture and rural industry.

62. The Secretariat should work out methods for studying that process.

63. Mr. Derksen (Secretariat) replied that the Secretariat had already had occasion to study that question in connexion with Latin America.

64. Mr. Darbois (France) thought that the expression "capital formation" had very wide implications and should be more precisely defined.

65. Moreover, it might be well for the Secretariat to take note of the experience acquired by various countries in compiling relevant data.

The section on capital formation was adopted.
Consumers' expenditure

66. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) stated that efforts were being made in India to improve the compilation of statistical data. The Secretariat should furnish the countries concerned with a logical standard classification for studying consumers' expenditure.

The section on consumers' expenditure was adopted.

Measurement of national income in constant prices.

Social accounts.

The above two sections were adopted without discussion.

Distribution of family and individual incomes by size.

67. Mr. SNEILE (Secretariat) felt that, in order to obtain an exact idea of the living standards of various classes of the population, the number of persons in each family ought to be taken into account.

68. Mr. JAHN (Norway) thought that in studying the distribution of individual income, consideration should also be given to age groupings.

69. Mr. BERKSEN (Secretariat) said that the definition of the family was a difficult problem, but agreed that families must be classified according to size.

70. The question raised by Mr. Jahn was an entirely new one and deserved the attention of qualified statisticians. However, the manner in which statistics on national income should be presented often depended upon the purpose for which they were collected.

71. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) thought that from the point of view of international comparability, the problem of the distribution of national income was one of the most difficult. In order to obtain comparable data it was essential first to find a uniform solution of the question of direct and indirect taxes, tariffs, subsidies etc.

72. The Secretariat should continue to study the problem.

/73. Mr. MAHALANOBIS
73. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that to obtain information on the distribution of income it would be necessary to take samplings, as in a number of countries the greater part of the population did not pay taxes and it was thus impossible to obtain relevant figures by computing revenue.

74. He therefore proposed that the Secretariat should furnish a report on that subject to the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling which was to meet the following autumn.

The section on distribution of family and individual incomes by size was adopted.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Statistical Office

The section was adopted.

Conclusions

75. In reply to a question by Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) stated that the Manual on Compiling and Reporting National Income Statistics, mentioned in paragraph 26, would probably be issued before the end of the current year.

76. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) wondered whether it was necessary to give the Secretariat instructions with respect to the projects outlined under "Conclusions"; the work was actually being carried on by virtue of a directive already received by the Secretariat.

77. Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) explained that it was better for the work programme to be specified each year.

78. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) added that the Economic and Social Council had requested the Statistical Commission to establish at each of its sessions the priority to be given to the implementation of the various resolutions.

Paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 of the section on conclusions were adopted, the Commission reserving the right to take a decision at a later stage as to the financial implications of the recommendations contained therein.

/79. Mr. CAMPION
79. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested that the words "social accounts" should be substituted for the words "national accounts" in paragraph 31, sub-paragraph (1), line 3, and sub-paragraph (2), line 2.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 31, thus amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12:45 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Wednesday, 10 May 1950, at 2.30 p.m.

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   (b) International trade statistics (E/CN.3/109, E/CN.3/L.2)
Report of the Committee on Statistical Classification (E/CN.3/111,
Progress reports (continued):
   (a) International standard industrial classification of all
       economic activities (E/CN.3/103)

Chairmen:
   Mr. IDENBURG
   Mr. CAMPION

Rapporteur:
   Mr. CAMPION

Members:
   Mr. ARIAS
   Mr. LIU
   Mr. DARMOSIS
   Mr. MAHALANOBIS
   Mr. JAHN
   Mr. BILKUR
   Mr. RICE

Netherlands
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Argentina
China
France
India
Norway
Turkey
United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

- Mr. WOODBURY: International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Mr. STRAUS: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Mr. LEISTER: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- Mr. POLAK: International Monetary Fund

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

**Category A:**
- Mr. TAPER: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- Mr. RIDGEWAY: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

**Category B:**
- Mr. GOUDEWAARD: International Statistical Institute (ISI)

**Secretariat:**
- Mr. LEONARD: Director, Statistical Office
- Mr. LOFTUS: Statistical Office
- Mr. KOLESNIKOFF: Expert Consultant
- Mr. BRUCE: Secretary of the Commission

PROGRESS REPORTS

(b) International trade statistics (E/CN.3/109, E/CN.3/L.2)

1. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should discuss item 6(b) of its agenda, international trade statistics, on which it had two documents to consider: a paper by the Secretariat (E/CN.3/109) and a paper by the International Monetary Fund (E/CN.3/L.2). The Secretariat's suggestions regarding the recommendation to be made by the Commission were contained in paragraph 3 of the Secretariat paper.
2. Mr. RICE (United States of America) considered that the fields of investigation outlined in paragraph 5 of the Secretariat paper were typical examples of fields in which fuller agreement on international practice was required. As such, he regarded them as particularly appropriate for study by the Statistical Commission and by the Statistical Office. He therefore warmly supported the proposed recommendation.

3. Mr. MAHALANGUS (India) agreed with Mr. Rice’s view. On a point of detail, he inquired how gold, silver and paper currency would be classified in the proposed draft standard classification.

4. Mr. LOKOS (Secretariat) said that gold had purposely been omitted from the draft standard classification in accordance with an internationally accepted recommendation by the IMF that gold of all kinds should be treated under the heading of a monetary transaction and dealt with in the balance of payments.

5. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund), in introducing the paper submitted by his organization (E/CN.3/CR.2), said that, although a measure of international agreement had been reached in the proposed field of investigation, further research into the practice of individual countries was very desirable and the IMF therefore welcomed the Statistical Office’s proposal. Since, however, the IMF had undertaken the preliminary work in the field, it considered that the investigation should be a joint undertaking by the Statistical Office and the Fund. He therefore wished to suggest that the following additional clause should be added to the recommendation in paragraph 8 of the Secretariat paper: “that members of the staff of the International Monetary Fund be invited to participate fully in the direction of the investigations, the development of any questionnaire and the preparation of recommendations”.

6. Mr. RICE (United States of America) entirely agreed that the staff of the IMF should participate in the project. He felt, however, that the Commission should be departing from its usual practice if it singled out a specific agency.
agency. It was also possible that the IMF would not be the only specialized agency concerned; if, for example, an international trade organization should be established, it would certainly be interested in the project. He therefore considered that the phrase "appropriate specialized agencies" should be substituted for the words "International Monetary Fund" in the additional clause.

7. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested that the phrase "in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies" should be inserted after the word "Secretary-General" in the second line of paragraph 8. No additional clause would then be necessary.

8. Mr. POLAK (International Monetary Fund) could not agree with the wording proposed. The case was, in his opinion, an exceptional one in that the Statistical Office would be carrying out work in a field with which the Fund was primarily concerned and in which it had carried out the preliminary work.

9. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) said that, although the investigation would be on a somewhat smaller scale than the IMF paper appeared to indicate, the help of every interested international agency would be required. The Statistical Office had envisaged that full agreement would be reached with the IMF at every stage of the investigation and the actual form of its direction therefore appeared to be immaterial. He could, however, give the representative of the IMF an assurance that the project would be regarded as a joint one.

10. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) did not feel that the arrangements for consultation between two United Nations organs were a matter on which the Commission should express a view. He suggested, however, that the insertion of the phrase "in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund and other interested specialized agencies" after "Secretary-General" in the second line of paragraph 8 (E/CN.3/109) might be acceptable to the Fund.

11. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the phrase suggested by Mr. Campion should be adopted.

It was so decided.
13. In reply to a question by Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) regarding the meaning of the phrase "direct investigation", Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) explained that inquiries carried out by the Statistical Office had shown that it was difficult to obtain full information by means of questionnaires alone. It was therefore the intention that direct field investigations should be carried out in national statistical offices and customs departments in a small number of countries.

14. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) asked whether the recommendations ultimately made would be confined to the limited number of countries which had signed the International Convention relating to Economic Statistics.

15. Mr. LOFTUS (Secretariat) said that the Convention was as yet the only international standard in the field and would thus be affected by any changes which the Commission might recommend. It was hoped that a revised convention would commend itself to a larger number of countries than had signed the Geneva Convention.

16. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the recommendations contained in paragraph 8 should be adopted, as amended.

It was so decided.


Chapter I: Classification of commodities for international trade statistics

17. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should consider the report of the Committee on Statistical Classification chapter by chapter. The Committee's recommendations on the first chapter of the report were given in paragraph 12. The symbol number of the document setting out the classification was E/CN.3/L.1 and not E/C.1/119/Add.2 as stated in the Committee's report.

18. Mr. MAHALANGUS (India) suggested that as section 9 of the draft classification related to miscellaneous transactions, it might be useful to reserve the figure -09 and not -10 in the five-digit nomenclature for items which were of a miscellaneous nature.

/19. Mr. KOLESNIKOFF
19. Mr. KOLESNIKOFF (Secretariat) replied that the numbering of the draft standard classification in its existing form was of a provisional character and was intended as a guide to the Commission. When the numbering was being revised the suggestion made by Mr. Mahalanobis could be taken into account. Sub-paragraphs 12 (a), (b), (c) and (d) were adopted with minor drafting changes.

20. Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that since the Committee on Statistical Classification had met, considerable work on the question raised in sub-paragraph (e) had been done by members of the Commission and the Secretariat as a result of which a draft resolution had been prepared. That resolution read as follows:

"The Commission, recognizing the importance of having the new classification established and used for international purposes at the earliest possible date, and recognizing the difficulties countries may have in providing statistics under the full detail of the classification, advises:

that the reporting of statistics to the United Nations Statistical Office in terms of the new classification should be started at the earliest possible date preferably starting with data for the year 1949 at least in summary form;

that the United Nations Statistical Office limit the amount of commodity detail requested from member countries in terms of the new classification to that which may be reported by member countries without undue effort and to that required to meet the needs of international organizations or for publication; in particular in those cases where countries are to supply country segregation of the import or export figures, the commodity detail requested should normally be limited to the summary groupings in the new classifications and to selected items."

/21 Mr. CAMPION
21. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested that sub-paragraph (e) should be deleted and that the resolution presented by Mr. Rice should be considered separately from sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) which the Commission had just adopted.

It was so decided.

22. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) stated that he would support the resolution though it was weaker than what he had originally had in mind. He stressed the heavy burden that statistical reporting to international bodies placed on governments, particularly those of the smaller countries. The introduction of the standard classification with the request for segregation of the import or export figures would increase that burden and, if restraint were not exercised, the information required would not be forthcoming. At its next session, the Commission should consider how for the resolution had been implemented.

23. Mr. AMIAS (Argentina) strongly supported Mr. Campion. The Commission must take into account the capacity of Member Governments to comply with the Secretariat's requests.

The resolution was adopted.

24. The CHAIRMAN explained that in the Commission's report the Rapporteur would summarize paragraphs 5 to 11 of chapter I as background material to its recommendations.

25. The adoption of the standard classification represented the successful culmination of three years' work on which all concerned were to be congratulated. He hoped that it would be widely followed and that it would lead to better statistical reporting.

Chapter I was adopted.

Chapter II: Alphabetical index of commodities entering international trade

26. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the term "alphabetical index" should be replaced by the term "coding manual" which would be more clearly understood by the Economic and Social Council.

It was so decided.

/27. Mr. LESTER
27. Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) suggested that it would be of great assistance to Governments if an alphabetical index were appended to the standard list itself.

28. The CHAIRMAN stated that the Secretariat would try to prepare such an index.

29. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) asked what decision had been reached regarding the multi-lingual alphabetical list referred to in paragraph 13. Such a list would be very expensive to prepare.

30. Mr. RICE (United States of America) explained that the Committee had felt that it would be impossible to prepare such a multi-lingual list immediately. The proposals now put forward were more modest and were within the Secretariat's possibilities. The Committee had agreed that a multi-lingual list was the ultimate objective. In the meantime, however, the United Nations should coordinate any preparatory work carried out by other organs such as the Inter-American Statistical Institute which had agreed to develop a coding manual in Spanish. It would be useful to publish that manual and any similar ones in other languages as soon as they were ready.

Chapter II was adopted.

Chapter III: Classification of commodities for general economic analysis
Chapter III was adopted without comment.

Chapter IV: Occupational classification
Chapter IV was adopted without comment.

Chapter V: Industrial or social status groups

31. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) introduced his proposal (E/CN.3/1.4). The classification of social status groups involved many delicate political, social and legal concepts which were still in the process of evolution. Governments should be given time to consider all those questions and also the recent documentation produced by the Secretariat and the Committee. He pointed out /that Governments
that Governments had had very little time to consider and comment on the proposals. It was desirable that any final recommendation should be of a practical nature; on the other hand, provisional standards were needed for immediate use in the population censuses which were planned for 1950 and 1951.

32. He therefore proposed that the Commission should postpone any final decision until its next session. Meanwhile it should recommend that the proposed categories and definitions be adopted as provisional standards and should note with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the matter. It should also recommend the Secretariat and the other specialized agencies to continue their study of the problem and to request Governments to comment on the provisional standards and state their experience in applying them.

33. In reply to a question from Mr. RICE (United States of America), Mr. DURAND (Secretariat) stated that the provisional proposals had been transmitted to Governments in August 1949 and that comments from thirty-five countries had been received, thirty of which were substantive in nature.

34. Mr. RICE (United States of America) felt that the Committee had concurred in the view expressed by Mr. Arias that there had been insufficient time to consider the radical changes in existing procedure and concepts which would result from implementing the proposals. Though it had adopted different means it had, however, sought to achieve the same objective as Mr. Arias' proposal.

35. Mr. JAHN (Norway) emphasized that it was not clear from the words "The Committee, however, did not wish at present to propose definite amendments to these proposals" whether the proposals had, in fact, been rejected or adopted.

36. Mr. MAHALMOOH (India) stated that he did not have the documents cited in paragraphs 19 to 23 at his disposal and was therefore unable to follow the discussion.

37. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the discussion of Chapter V should be postponed.

It was so decided.
Chapter VI: Standard terminology for statistics relating to the economically active population

38. Mr. MAHAINOBIS (India) proposed that the discussion on that chapter should also be postponed until members of the Commission had had a chance to study the documents.

It was so decided.

Chapter VII: Other business

39. Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that there had been considerable discussion in the Committee on the question whether it should be reconstituted and should continue to hold regular sessions. It had been felt that, although the Committee had accomplished the major tasks for which it had been set up, it should nevertheless be reconstituted and held in readiness until its services were required. He therefore suggested that the Commission should decide to reconstitute the Committee but should not settle the date for its next meeting at that stage.

It was so decided.

40. The CHAIRMAN announced that there was one vacancy in the Committee. It was stated in the rules of procedure that members of committees were to be nominated by the Chairman subject to the approval of the Commission, unless the Commission decided otherwise.

It was agreed that the Chairman should nominate a new member for the Committee at a later stage.

PROGRESS REPORTS (continued):

(a) International standard industrial classification of all economic activities (E/CN.3/103)

41. The CHAIRMAN opened discussion on the progress report on the application of the international standard industrial classification (E/CN.3/103). The report had been submitted simply for information and there was no need for the Commission to take any positive action on the subject.

/42. Mr. RICE
42. Mr. RICE (United States of America), referring to paragraph 7 of the report, thought that the ultimate goal should be the preparation of a multi-lingual coding manual rather than the preparation of an alphabetical index. It would therefore be very helpful if the countries applying the international classification were encouraged to report to the Secretariat on the difficulties they encountered and, in particular, on the type of work they were doing on coding. He fully realized that the Statistical Office had a great deal of work before it, but he hoped it would be able to start on the preparation of a coding manual in the near future with the resources at its disposal. Naturally the statistical Office itself should make the final decision on the priority to be given to the various urgent tasks referred to it and he simply wished to emphasize that the classification would remain incomplete until a coding manual to assist countries in its application had finally been compiled.

43. Mr. LEBOWITZ (Secretariat) said that the Secretariat hoped that the countries which did not adopt the international classification as a national standard would prepare a convertibility index by means of which the items of the national classification could be identified in the terms of the international classification. Such convertibility indices would greatly facilitate the final task of compiling a coding manual.

44. Mr. MAHATANOBIS (India) agreed with the representative from the United States that the Statistical Office should remain the ultimate judge of the priority to be given to each item of its own work program. It was emphasized, however, the urgent need for some work to be done on coding if the advantages of adopting the international classification were not to be lost. India, for example, was planning to hold a census in February 1951. It had, in principle, agreed to conform to the international classification, but some difficulties were already becoming apparent. It would, therefore, be very helpful if the Statistical Office could give some preliminary guidance on coding as early as possible for the benefit of the countries where censuses were shortly to be held. He personally would be prepared to recommend the recruitment of extra staff for the purpose, if that was necessary.

45. Mr. CLAYTON
45. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) emphasized the need to pool the experience of the countries applying the international classification. Many countries were still faced with the problem of marginal items and the position they should be given in the classification.

46. Mr. LEWAND (Secretariat) replied that there had been considerable correspondence between the Secretariat and the various countries on the question of marginal items and the Secretariat was gathering a great deal of information on the subject.

47. The CHAIRMAN, referring to paragraph 6 of the document, announced that the results of the 1947 population census in the Netherlands were available, grouped according to the major divisions of the international classification. The progress report contained in document E/CN.3/103 was approved.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Thursday, 11 May 1950, at 10.30 a.m.

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Election of members of Committee on Statistical Classification
Progress reports (continued):
(c) Registration methods and compilation of vital statistics
   (E/CN.3/95);
(d) Population statistics (E/CN.3/86, E/CN.3/92, E/CN.3/93,
    E/CN.3/101, E/CN.3/104);

Chairman: Mr. IDENBURG
Members:
Mr. ARIAS
Mr. LIEU
Mr. D'ARMOIS
Mr. N. HALANOBIS
Mr. JAHN
Mr. BILKUR
Mr. CAMPION
Mr. RICE

Netherlands
Argentina
China
France
India
Norway
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. WOODBURY  International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. STRAUS  Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. LIU  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. LEISTER  International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. POLAK  International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:
Mr. TEPER  International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
Mr. RIDGENAY  International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Category B:
Mr. GOUDESWAARD  International Institute of Statistics (IIS)

Secretariat:
Mr. LEOARD  Director, Statistical Office
Mr. LOFTUS  Statistical Office
Mr. LINDEN  Statistical Office
Mr. DURAND  Population Division, Department of Social Affairs
Mr. BRUCE  Secretary of the Commission

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION

1. The CHAIRMAN stated that in conformity with rule 21 of the rules of procedure he proposed to nominate the following members of the Statistical Commission as members of the Committee on Statistical Classification:

Mr. Arias (Argentina)
Mr. Lieu (China)
Mr. Darmois (France)
Mr. Idenburg (Netherlands)
Mr. Jahn (Norway)
Mr. Campion (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Ryabushkin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Mr. Rice (United States of America)

The Chairman's proposal was adopted.
2. The CHAIRMAN proposed that if any member of the Committee failed to retain membership on the Commission at the time of the next meeting of the Committee, the Chairman be authorized to designate another member of the Commission in his place.

It was so decided.

PROGRESS REPORTS (continued):

(c) Registration methods and compilation of vital statistics (E/CN.3/25)

(item 6. (c) of the agenda)

3. Mr. LINDBERG (Secretariat) stated, after summarizing the instructions given by the Statistical Commission at its fourth session, that some eighty countries had supplied information to the Secretariat on their methods of compiling vital statistics.

4. Turning to the Secretariat's programme of work, he stated that the Statistical Office of the United Nations had set itself the following programme for the immediate future: (a) to complete the comparative studies; (b) to assemble those studies in a handbook similar to the methodological census handbook; (c) to establish, with the assistance of the specialized agencies concerned, training centres in the various countries of the world which would be able to study the documents which had been compiled; (d) on the basis of those documents, to draft suggestions, lay down principles and make recommendations to assist States to develop, establish or revise registration methods for vital statistics.

5. The national committees on vital and health statistics, as well as other appropriate groups, would also be invited to make recommendations.

6. The Secretariat proposed to convene a group of experts next winter to examine and classify those recommendations for presentation to the Statistical Commission at its next session.

7. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that the existence of national committees might be very useful in perfecting vital statistics. Thus, in the United States, the national committees had enlisted the active co-operation of the medical profession, of public health interests and other professional groups in the improvement of vital statistics.

8. Mr. LINDBERG (Secretariat) explained that, in certain countries, vital statistics concerned a number of different institutions. The national committees coordinated the activities of those institutions within the countries. The Statistical Commission could, therefore, fulfil a very useful function by recommending the establishment of such committees.
9. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) thought the problem was a very difficult one. In a number of countries vital statistics, more particularly those of marriage and divorce, were actually the concern of the administrative and judicial authorities, and not of the statistical authorities. Furthermore, the nature of such vital statistics varied from one country to another. In countries having social security programmes, the statistics, for example those on births, had to be linked up in one way or another with those programmes.

10. Mr. Campion thought that the conventional methods employed in the industrialized countries of the West could not automatically be applied to regions such as Africa.

11. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the Commission should bring out in its report the advantages of setting up national committees on vital and health statistics. He also wondered whether it might not be feasible to adopt, on the international level, a system of registration areas such as existed in the United States. Under that system certain qualitative standards were established for the information registered and States whose statistics came up to those standards were admitted to the registration area.

12. The CHAIRMAN supported that proposal.

13. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that there would be no point in setting up national committees in countries where a single administrative body was responsible for collecting all vital statistics.

14. Mr. IEDENBURG (Netherlands) agreed with the statement of the United Kingdom representative.

15. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) noted that the national committees were most active in countries of the Western Hemisphere, though a similar body did exist in the United Kingdom.

16. Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that the quality of vital statistics could not possibly be improved without consulting the professional groups which dealt with questions of births, marriages and deaths. If national committees were established, it should be possible for such groups to help to plan registration procedure. That was not a new idea as it had already been successfully applied by UNESCO in various countries throughout the world.
17. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) supported Mr. Rice's proposal for national committees, which he thought proved extremely useful, particularly in countries with a federal constitution.

18. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission's report should state the form of co-operation and co-ordination which was necessary.

19. Mr. RICE (United States of America) would accept that proposal on condition that the report specified that it was essential to ensure the widest possible participation of all agencies and parties.

20. Mr. CAMERON (United Kingdom) thought it would be sufficient to request the Secretariat to continue its work in that field. It would be necessary to ascertain, if the national committees were set up, what their functions would be and whether the Secretariat would have to submit its suggestions to them.

21. Mr. LINKER (Secretariat) explained that the creation of national committees had first been suggested in 1948 by the International Conference for the Sixth Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death. It had later been approved by the World Health Congress, supported by a number of statistical organizations and the Inter-American Statistical Congress held at Bogota. The national committees were primarily intended to co-ordinate statistical activity within each country but they could be asked to give their reaction to ideas and concepts. They should not, however, usurp the position of governments in their relations with the United Nations. Any communications from the Statistical Commission, for example, would continue to be transmitted to the governments concerned.

22. Mr. JÅHN (Norway) admitted that it might be useful to consult experts when the causes of death were involved. Other vital statistics however were a purely administrative question; in many countries, Norway or the Netherlands for example, the recordings of those statistics were centralized in a statistical office. He did not therefore see any need for consulting national committees on the matter.
23. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought the plan to establish national committees deserved statistical Commission's attention if only because the establishment of those committees had been recommended by various international bodies. He therefore felt that the Secretariat should be requested to give on account of the working of those committees in its next report to the Statistical Commission.

24. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) drew the Commission's attention to the need for integrating records of births, deaths and marriages, as the experience of Canada had shown. The problem was a difficult one, certainly more important and more interesting than some of the others dealt with in the Secretariat's paper. He added that some of the under-developed countries did not think that compulsory registration would help them to secure records of births and deaths and that they were considering the use of the census for that purpose.

25. Mr. LINDBER (Secretariat) recognized the importance of the problem to which Mr. Campion had drawn attention.

26. In some under-developed areas, considerable progress had been made in the development of vital statistics and it would be useful to attempt to improve those statistics with a view to making them internationally comparable. It was, of course, obvious that no useful purpose would be served by trying to apply conventional methods to the most backward countries in their entirety.

Document E/CH.3/95 was adopted.


27. Mr. LINDBER (Secretariat) said that, although the report was addressed to the population Commission, parts of it were of direct interest to the Statistical Commission while others
while others were the subject of separate reports to the Commission to be considered at a later stage. The Commission should also be informed as to the measures which the Secretariat had undertaken in that field. Under Chapter IV, International Census Plans, the following steps had been taken:

28. (a) Copies of the various resolutions adopted by the Statistical and Population Commissions on the subject of the 1950 and 1951 censuses had been circulated to Member Governments of the United Nations. The bulletin "Statistical Notes" gave a list of 45 countries which were to take a census in 1950-1951 and a list of those that had taken one since 1945 and were not planning a further census in the near future.

29. It was still too early to express an opinion on the proposals made by the Statistical Commission and by the Population Commission on the subject of censuses. It was already clear, however, that the census work to be undertaken in 1950-1951 would be on an unprecedented scale and that the Statistical Commission's endeavours to standardize the information thus obtained were of special importance.

30. (b) The Secretariat had undertaken studies of census methods, the results of which would be published separately, and in the Population Census Handbook.

31. (c) It had revised the preliminary studies of census methods and those together with all the recommendations made on the subject by various international agencies and institutions, would be published in a single volume.

32. (d) With the assistance of the FAO, it had organized census training centres in Mexico, Paris, Cairo and New Delhi, where a three-month course was provided. So far two hundred officials, experts and students from 40 different countries had taken part in the work of the centres and had had an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the recommendations of the various United Nations commissions.

33. (e) The Secretariat had provided countries which requested it with the necessary assistance for the organization or improvement of population statistics. During the past year the United Nations had lent a number of population census experts to different countries in Asia and Latin America. The programme of assistance would be continued in the current year.
34. Mr. RICE (United States of America) considered that the Commission should note with particular satisfaction the notable achievements of the Secretariat in that field.

35. Mr. MAHAPANOBIS (India) thought that the question of the inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors in specific cases (paragraph 3 of the report) might be of interest to the Statistical Commission or the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, since the technical methods involved were fundamentally statistical.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that all the relevant documents would be made available to the Commission.

Chapters I-IV of document E/CN.2/38 were adopted.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that Chapter V of the document had already been considered and proposed that the Commission should postpone its consideration of Chapter VI until it took up item 6 (f) of its agenda.

38. Mr. LINDAR (Secretariat) said that Chapters VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII and XIV merely gave an account of the work undertaken by the Secretariat in the different fields concerned.

39. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that Chapter XII (Recent Trends in the Birth Rate) was of greater interest to the Population Commission than to the Statistical Commission. He noted, however, that the Secretariat had not yet been able to proceed with the study of that question and expressed the hope that the programme of work in terms of collection of statistical and technical assistance would not prevent the Secretariat from undertaking the analytical studies.

40. Mr. JAHN (Norway) said, in reference to the same chapter, that it would also be useful to study the position in countries where the birthrate had shown a recent decline.

/\1. Mr. DURAND
41. Mr. DURAND (Secretariat) said that it was precisely what the Population Commission had in mind. The study would of course deal not only with countries where the birthrate was rising but also with those where the rate was falling after a temporary rise.

42. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should return to Chapter XIV of document E/CN.3/88 at a later stage of its discussion.

Document E/CN.3/88 was adopted with that reservation.

Future issues of the Demographic Yearbook (E/CN.3/93 note on international statistics of occupational diseases (E/CN.3/43))

43. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat), in introducing document E/CN.3/79, said that the Secretariat was proposing to defer the publication of the Yearbook to the end of the year, so as to permit the inclusion of the figures for the preceding year.

44. Furthermore, it had been decided to expand the geographical coverage and the subject coverage of the Yearbook. In order that the document should not become too bulky, some information would be published under a scheme of rotation of subject emphasis, starting with the second issue. Thus, topics related to fertility would be dealt with in the 1949 issue, those related to mortality in the 1950 issue, those related to size and distribution of population in the 1951 issue, and those related to social and economic characteristics of the population in that of 1952. Lastly, information on topics related to migration and population movements would appear in the 1953 issue. In that way it would be possible to publish the entire material without increasing publications costs. After the 1953 issue, the various topics might again be dealt with in the order indicated above.

45. The remaining part of document E/CN.3/92 was devoted to questions of unemployment, occupational diseases, deaths by cause of death, and premature births. All these questions had been raised either by the Population Commission or by the Statistical Commission.

46. The last paragraphs of the document dealt with items considered for inclusion in the 1949 issue of the Yearbook.
47. The Secretariat was not asking the Commission to take any action, but it hoped that members of the Commission would make some suggestions regarding the various points of document E/CN.3/92.

48. Mr. JAHN (Norway) asked for an explanation of the exact meaning of topic 6 on page 5 of document E/CN.3/92 ("Female population by number of children ever born").

49. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) said that that was a general heading which would cover the various tables to be published on the subject of the female population.

50. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. JAHN (Norway), thought it would be inappropriate to include figures relating to unemployment in the Yearbook, since such figures were published by the International Labour Organisation.

51. He observed further that in the current year the Secretariat had asked for information regarding divorce, and wondered whether that was to be a new topic.

52. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) recalled that the Secretariat had already gathered some information on that subject in the proceeding year; none of it had, however, been published in the first volume of the Yearbook.

53. Mr. JAHN (Norway) asked for an explanation of the meaning of the term "divorce by number of children living" on page 6. The phrase no doubt referred to children living with their parents.

54. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) also thought it would be preferable to leave it to the ILO to collect information relating to unemployment. The Demographic Yearbook should improve its geographic coverage of the more general items.
55. Mr. LINDE (Secretariat) replied that the Secretariat was only too glad to follow the Statistical Commission's instructions. In the preceding year, however, it had been criticized by the Commission for not having included in the Yearbook any figures relating to unemployment. It had therefore decided to include those figures in the new issue of the Yearbook, laying special emphasis on the demographic aspect of the problem.

56. Mr. DAIMOIS (France) recalled that the Statistical Commission had already expressed an unfavourable view on topic 12 relating to unemployment.

57. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that the publications of the various organs and international agencies should be co-ordinated. If the ILO published unemployment statistics, the Secretariat should not do so.

58. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) confirmed that his organisation published unemployment statistics. It had recently attempted to collect information concerning the distribution of unemployment according to age groups and sex. Few countries, however, supplied any data on the subject.

59. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Commission should state in its report that it was superfluous to include unemployment statistics in the demographic Yearbook since such statistics were published by the International Labour Organisation.

60. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) recalled, in connexion with document E/CN.3/53, that at the preceding session the USSR representative had requested that statistics on occupational diseases should be included in the Demographic Yearbook. It was, however, extremely difficult to publish comparable international statistics on that subject, since very little was known about it.

61. The Chemical Industries Committee of the ILO had recently drawn attention to the need for statistics on deaths caused by occupational diseases. The question had been placed on the agenda of the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the ILO.
62. Mr. DARMOIS (France) asked whether the Secretariat intended to publish tables on mortality rates by age groups. Such tables would be more useful than ordinary ones.

63. Mr. LINDE (Secretariat) said that so far only ordinary tables had been included in the Yearbook. When the Secretariat received tables by age groups, it would include them in the Yearbook.

64. The CHAIRMAN thought that the questionnaire to be addressed to Governments should explore the possibility of obtaining statistics on occupational diseases.

65. Mr. CAMPTON (United Kingdom) said that the subject was a very difficult one. The United Kingdom had some experience in that field and would be glad to furnish to the International Labour Organisation all the information at its disposal. As regards the Yearbook, it should contain information on deaths caused by occupational diseases in the form of tables divided according to age groups.

Documents E/CN.3/92 and E/CN.3/93 were adopted.

Suggestion of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in regard to the tabulation of data on urban and rural population in population censuses (E/CN.3/101)

66. Mr. JAHN (Norway) emphasized that it was impossible to decide, from the number of its inhabitants, whether an agglomeration was urban or rural.

67. Agricultural agglomerations might be distinguished from those in which the inhabitants were mostly employed in industry, but there were agglomerations, in Russia, for example, when the population was agricultural but numbered more than 5,000 inhabitants. There were others made up of scattered farms. Lastly, there were agglomerations of scarcely 5,000 inhabitants but which were of the urban type.

68. He wondered what distinction was envisaged when reference was made to a rural and urban analysis based on the number of local inhabitants.

/69. Mr. RICE
69. Mr. RICE (United States of America) noted that the FAO suggested that localities should be divided into three categories, the second of which referred to places comprising from 2,000 to 10,000 inhabitants. The figure generally adopted in the United States of America was 2,500.

70. Mr. DURAND (Secretariat) explained that the document before the Commission condensed the more detailed recommendations previously made by the Population Commission.

71. An effort had been made to set up three groups by choosing them in such a way that they would facilitate an analysis of the population as much as possible, and would correspond as closely as possible to the categories generally used.

72. He added that legal considerations were involved. The Population Commission had wished to classify, in the order of their size, the agglomerations which would appear in the censuses of various countries.

73. The CHAIRMAN observed that the Commission had before it recommendations made by the FAO, and asked the Commission whether it accepted the three categories visualized at the end of the document.

74. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) suggested that no decision should be taken on the FAO proposals.

75. Mr. RICE (United States of America) also believed it would be wise not to come to a decision on that question. It would be advisable, however, to call attention to the difficulties of obtaining comparable classifications of data according to size of locality, and to the doubtful validity of the terms "urban" and "rural" in this context.

It was so decided.

Demographic aspects of employment, unemployment and labour supply (E/CH.3/104)

76. Mr. DURAND (Secretariat) said that the study had been made in accordance with instructions received from the Population Commission. In carrying it out the Secretariat had reached the conclusion that, statistics were /necessary
necessary regarding employment and unemployment, and that statistics should cover demographic characteristics such as sex, age and marital status. It had therefore tried to make definite proposals for submission to the Statistical Commission and to the Population Commission. The latter would have to decide on all the aspects of the question; the former was interested only in the methods of gathering statistics. In that connexion, he drew attention to the statement regarding sources of statistics (page 2) to actions of international agencies aimed at improving the quantity, quality and comparability of statistics (page 4) and to international compilations of statistics (page 5). A request had been made to the ILO to prepare, as soon as possible, statistics on employment and unemployment, bearing in mind sex and age.

77. In part IV, the Secretariat made suggestions regarding the work that might be undertaken in that field, and he drew attention to the steps which might enable the statistics in question to be drawn up (paragraph 23, sub-paragraphs a, b and c). The latter proposals would no doubt interest the Statistical Commission most.

78. The CHAIRMAN invited members to comment on the various parts of the Secretariat's memorandum.

The Commission approved parts I-III of the memorandum without comment.

79. Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that it would be wise, as the Secretariat suggested at the end of paragraph 25, for those countries where the most recent census data on the economically active population were rather old and where new censuses were to be taken in the near future, to postpone the preparation of the estimates for current and future dates until data from new censuses were available.

80. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) observed that the object of those studies was in the first place to obtain statistics which would be comparable on an international plane. In that connexion the international
norms of industrial classification adopted by the Statistical Commission would help the ILO, which would endeavour in its yearbook to follow the classification adopted. Several countries were already trying to make their statistics conform to that classification. The data concerning the occupational status of various levels of the population could seldom be compared. On the one hand some countries made no distinction between employees and employers while others did not register the members of a family who worked for it without remuneration. On the other hand, while it was not difficult to obtain statistics by sex, it was much more difficult to do so by age groups. The tables which the ILO would prepare would be restricted to data of that kind.

81. In the past the League of Nations had recommended the division of the population into persons between 15 and 20 years of age, those of from 20 to 65 years of age, and those over 65. It would doubtless be desirable to have more detailed sub-divisions, but all countries had not the same sub-divisions. The question was, therefore, whether age groups should be defined by trying to estimate the number of inhabitants belonging to them in the countries where those age groups were not used, or whether statistics should be given only for countries using the same age groups.

82. As regards marital status, statistics relating to women were more interesting in view of the fact that the number of women employed varied a great deal according to their status.

83. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that that was a question which should be dealt with by the Population Commission; he thought no action on it need be taken by the Statistical Commission.

84. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat wished to know whether the Commission desired that it should study, jointly with the ILO, the possibility of drawing up and publishing the additional statistics needed for a study to be made of the demographic characteristics of the active population, of employed and unemployed persons.
85. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that proposal was too vague. The Secretariat's memorandum had been distributed so late that he had been unable to study it before the meeting. He therefore reserved the right to submit any comments which he might think useful through the United Kingdom member of the Population Commission.


INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY OF SOCIAL STATISTICS (E/CN.3/100/Rev.1)

86. .. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) introduced the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat summarising the results of the investigations made into the various types of social statistics which might be utilized for a table of international statistics. The Secretariat drew attention to the needs which had made themselves felt in that respect, and which had been expressed in the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of other Commissions. A number of resolutions stated that quantitative statistical data were necessary in several fields; there were in addition specific requests such as those made by the Social Commission in paragraphs 35, 74 and 117 of the draft report of its sixth session (E/CN.5/L.113). Other requests concerned, inter alia, statistics on crime and housing. It was for that reason that the Secretariat had suggested that the Commission should consider whether the programme of statistical work should not be widened so as to cover the needs which had emerged in the various fields indicated. If the Commission agreed, the Secretariat would begin by making a more detailed study of needs, followed by a close investigation of those needs which could be satisfied by utilizing the work done by the specialized agencies or the non-governmental organizations; finally, it would recommend to the Commission an investigation of the availability of data and their comparability.

87. Mr. RICE (United States of America) said the Commission should pay more attention to the development of social statistics. He was in favour of measures which would enable the Commission to give the Social Commission the information it wished to obtain. Otherwise, the Social Commission would be obliged to seek a solution for its statistical problems outside the Commission which was supposed to deal with them.
88. If the Commission decided to comply with the wishes of the Social Commission, it would be well-advised to approve the programme of work suggested by the Secretariat. At the outset, at any rate, that programme should not have any financial consequences necessitating supplementary appropriations.

89. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) replied that the adoption of the programme would involve additional work which the Secretariat would be unable to carry out with its existing staff.

90. Mr. MAKALIAKONIS (India) agreed with Mr. Rice.

91. In connection with the study submitted, he wished to add that while the Secretariat was justified in making a preliminary study of the European countries, where adequate progress would seem to have been made in social statistics, it should not forget that the needs in that field outside Europe were more pressing.

92. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as representative of the Netherlands, pointed out that the items on pages 2 and 3 of the document duplicated the social statistics already being assembled elsewhere. With regard to standards of living, there was no need to regret that the Secretariat had not been able to find any statistics regarding minimum subsistence levels: that was not, properly speaking, a statistical concept, but rather one of social policy which required a definition of standards. He proposed that the Commission should leave out the second item of category B regarding minimum subsistence levels.

93. Mr. JAHN (Norway) agreed with the Chairman.

94. Mr. RICE (United States of America) did not think it was for the Commission to alter a memorandum submitted to it for information. In his view, the Commission could only decide whether or not a more detailed study of the methodological aspects of social statistics should be advocated (paragraph 7, page 4).

95. Mr. CAMFION (United Kingdom) agreed with Mr. Rice. The real difficulty facing the Secretariat was the definition of social statistics. The question was not so much one of obtaining more statistics as of defining the problems to be dealt with.
96. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) agreed that item 2 of category B concerning minimum subsistence levels required a standard definition, but thought that item 1 of category A, unemployment benefits, presented the same difficulty. He did not see, therefore, why a statistical investigation of minimum levels of subsistence should not be undertaken.

97. The CHAIRMAN replied that such a study could be made, but that it was first necessary to adopt a standard, which was not the task of the Statistical Commission; however, it would be time enough for the Commission to discuss that question when the Secretariat submitted its final report on the topic. For the time being, the Secretariat wished to know whether the Commission wanted it to undertake more advanced studies with regard to the need for social statistics. He therefore asked the Commission whether it was ready to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 7.

The recommendations were approved.

Suggestions for development of criminal statistics (E/CH.3/102)

98. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) drew attention to the penultimate paragraph on page 27 of document E/CH.5/204, which was a typical example of the requests for statistics presented by other organs of the United Nations. The Social Commission had entrusted the Secretariat with the task of compiling, with the aid of expert consultants, basic data for the compilation of criminal statistics.

99. Mr. RICE (United States of America) drew attention to document E/CH.5/203, which showed what had already been accomplished in that field by the International Statistical Institute and the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission. He requested the Secretariat to collaborate in that work with those two bodies.

100. Mr. LINDER (Secretariat) replied that steps had already been taken to ensure such collaboration.
101. Mr. RICE (United States of America) felt that document E/3/CN.3/102 did not require formal action, but he suggested that the Commission adopt the resolutions recommended on pages 27 and 28 of document E/3/CN.3/264.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTIETH MEETING
Held at LaSalle Success, New York,
on Friday, 12 May 1950, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Progress Reports:
Social statistics (E/CN.3/105, E/1343) (continued)
Migration statistics (E/CN.3/88, E/CN.3/90, E/CN.3/90/Add.1,
E/CN.3/91)
Public finance statistics (E/CN.3/108)

Report of Committee on Statistical Classification (E/CN.3/111,
E/CN.3/L.4):
Classification by professional or social status
Standardized terminology for statistics of economically active
population

Development of national statistics:
Education and training of statisticians (E/CN.3/97)

Chairman:
Mr. P. IDENBURG

Members:
Mr. ARIAS
Mr. LIU
Mr. DARMOIS
Mr. MAHALANGUS
Netherlands
Argentine
China
France
India
Members (continued):

Mr. JAHN                        Norway
Mr. BILKUT                      Turkey
Mr. CAMPION                     United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. RICE                        United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. WOODBURY                    International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. TANUI                       Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. LIU                         United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. KORTAKAAS                   International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:
Mr. RIDGEWAY                    International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
Miss SANSOM                     International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
Mr. TEPER                       

Category B:
Mr. GOUDSWAARD                  International Statistical Institute

Secretariat:

Mr. LEONARD                     Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs
Mr. LINDBERG                    Statistical Office
Mr. LACROIX                     Population Division
Mr. DURAND                      Acting Director, Population Division
Mr. BRUCE                       Secretary of the Commission

PROGRESS REPORTS (item 6 of the agenda)
(c) Social Statistics (E/CN.3/105, E/1343) (continued)

1. Mr. LINDBERG (Secretariat) submitted the report on housing statistics (E/CN.3/105) and drew attention to the recommendations made in document (E/1343, pages 15 and 57).

/2. Recalling
2. Recalling the resolution on housing adopted by the Statistical Commission at its third session, Mr. Linder briefly summarized the steps taken in the matter by the Secretariat; it had sent to the various countries the recommendations made on the subject of housing statistics by the Committee of Experts of the League of Nations. The full text of those recommendations had been included in the Population Census Handbook.

3. Mr. Linder requested the Commission to adopt the recommendations made in paragraph 5 of E/CN.3/105.

4. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) drew the Commission's attention to the difficulty of collecting housing statistics. Owing to the rapid rate of building in the various countries, housing figures might obviously be out of date before they were published.

5. Furthermore, the definition of the word "house" varied from one country to another, a fact which made international comparisons extremely difficult.

Document E/CN.3/105 was adopted.


6. Mr. LAGROIX (Secretariat) drew attention to part VI of document E/CN.3/33, which outlined the previous work done on migration statistics. The Statistical Commission and the Population Commission had concluded their work on the subject by drawing up draft recommendations for the improvement of migration statistics, which was transmitted to Governments for their comments (E/1313 Annex 3); the replies which had been received were summarized in two documents (E/CN.3/90 and E/CN.3/90/Add.1). The Secretariat had based its memorandum (E/CN.3/91) on the future work on the improvement of international migration statistics on the observations contained in these documents.

7. Since during the current year the Statistical Commission had met before the Population Commission, the latter would examine the suggestions of the Statistical Commission at the same time as it examined the observations of Governments and the proposals of the Secretariat on the steps to be taken with a view to preparing final recommendations. The Secretariat's suggestions could be found in paragraph 6 of E/CN.3/91.

\[\text{Signed}\quad \text{Mr. CAMPION}\]
Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) wished to know the exact meaning of the term "semantic" in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 6.

Mr. LACROIX (Secretariat) said the word was translated "questions d'interprétations" in the French text. It was intended to cover terminological problems which did not seem to involve difficulties of substance. Such problems could probably be settled by correspondence between the Secretariat and the statistical services concerned.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) proposed the substitution of the word "terminological" for the word "semantic".

The proposal was adopted.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that since the Secretariat was being asked to collaborate with the International Labour Organization the respective spheres of the two organizations should be clearly defined in order to avoid overlapping.

Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) said that the ILO had concluded very satisfactory agreements with the United Nations on the collection of migration statistics. The collection of basic data was in general the task of the ILO. The United Nations had, at the request of the ILO, detached a member of the Secretariat for several months in order to ensure that the data thus collected gave satisfaction to both organizations. In every case the two organizations combined to examine which of them was in the better position to take whatever steps were necessary and, more particularly, to compile the information needed by both organizations for their work. So far, that system and that division of labour had proved entirely satisfactory.

Document E/CN.3/91 was adopted.

(g) Public finance statistics (E/CN.3/108)

Mr. DERKSEN (Secretariat) reviewed briefly the question of public finance statistics, and pointed out that it had already been debated by the Nuclear Commission and at the third session of the Statistical Commission.
During the Commission's fourth session the Secretariat had submitted a report on the subject. The document under discussion (E/CN.3/103) showed what stage had now been reached in the work on public finance statistics. The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics for May reproduced tables on the public finances of eight countries which had been drawn up by the Secretariat in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund. The Secretariat intended to publish such tables regularly in future. The same tables were published regularly by the International Monetary Fund in International Financial Statistics. The Secretariat was collaborating with the Fund to eliminate all differences between the two series of tables -- differences which were due to the fact that the Secretariat and the Fund did not use the same sources. That work should encourage governments to perfect their methods of collecting and presenting data.

14. Since public finance statistics were closely linked with budgetary questions, with auditing, with the problem of taxation, and so on, the Secretariat considered that it would be useful for the Statistical Commission to collaborate with the Fiscal Commission.

15. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt that the document prepared by the Secretariat showed that the latter had undertaken only purely preliminary work on the subject. It was not enough to establish a relationship between the different budget headings and national income. It was also necessary to draw a distinction between capital accounts and "current accounts". The United Kingdom was now trying out a new classification in that field, but there were many attendant difficulties.

16. Another matter which deserved more thorough examination was the national debt. Should the national debt include government debts as well as debts incurred by nationalized industries? There was no uniform practice in that regard.

17. Finally, he wondered whether it was really wise to request that public finance figures should be submitted every three months. The dates of tax collection varied from country to country; thus, if information was collected every three months false conclusions might be reached.
18. Mr. DERSKIN (Secretariat) replied that the Secretariat was studying
the problems raised by Mr. Campion. The Fiscal Division was preparing for pub-
llication a number of working documents dealing with Capital and Current accounts,
national and international debt, special governmental transactions, and foreign
aid.

19. With regard to the quarterly collection of data, Mr. Campion's
arguments were well founded. Nevertheless, seasonal fluctuations had to be
studied. Indeed, the figures compiled every month or every three months should
bring out those fluctuations.

Document E/CN.3/703 was adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION (E/CN.3/111, E/CN.3/L.4)

Chapter V

20. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the last sentence of paragraph 20
which the Secretariat wished to amend in order to bring out more clearly the
meaning of the conclusions reached by the Committee. The new text would be as
follows:

"The Committee however did not wish at present to make specific
recommendations concerning those proposed definitions and suggested that
the Statistical Commission draw the attention of the Population Commission
to the difficulties involved in applying them."

21. The Chairman added that the Commission would also have before it an
amendment proposed by Mr. Arias (Argentina) (E/CN.3/L.4).

22. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) believed that the new text read out by the
Chairman was similar to his own proposal.

23. Mr. RICE (United States of America) feared that if Mr. Arias' amend-
ment were adopted, it would defeat its own end. Mr. Rice himself had had to
protest against further sub-division of the four groups according to industrial
or social status, since proposals for further sub-division could not be applied
in the United States. He felt that members of the Statistical Commission who had
not been present at the meetings of the Committee on Statistical Classification
might find it difficult to understand why the Committee had made those recommend-
dations. It would therefore be advisable to explain the matter to them.

/24. Mr. MAHALANOBIS
24. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) was surprised that Mr. Rice had referred to a classification into four groups according to industrial or social status, when two further categories were mentioned in the report: unemployed persons who had not previously been employed and persons whose social status was not known. He also wished to know what the Secretariat thought of the three categories into which it was proposed to divide the population.

25. Mr. RICE (United States of America) drew attention to footnote 2 on page 4 of document E/CN.3/61/18.

26. The Population Commission had recommended that unemployed persons not previously employed should not be classified by industrial or social status.

27. The Committee had also discussed the proposal of the Population Commission to extend the classification by industrial or social status to the whole population, as well as the economically active population. That extension would lead in many cases to absurd results. For example, if the head of the household were "unemployed, without previous employment," the dependent members of his household would also be classified as unemployed.

28. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that two precise definitions were dealt with in paragraph 20: one suggested for unpaid family workers, and the other for incorporated businesses. The Committee had thought that it would not be easy to apply those definitions, and that the best solution would be to draw the attention of the Population Commission to the difficulties. As regards paragraph 21, the Population Commission had recommended the previous year that the category of employees be sub-divided into five sub-groups. After some discussion, the Committee had come to the same conclusion that it would be wise not to maintain that sub-division. It had recommended the elimination of the sub-division, despite the fact that it had been seized of another proposal to divide the group into "private business employees" and "government employees". The Committee had not wished to recommend the latter sub-division.
29. Paragraph 22 referred to the application of three classifications to national statistics, by occupation, industry and industrial or social status; it mentioned, too, the Committee's recommendation that a technical manual should be prepared concerning the application of the three classifications to assist in the tabulation of population censuses and for the general collection of data.

30. Paragraph 23 dealt with a question connected with that raised in paragraph 22. It would make the total coverage of the three classifications of population co-extensive by the addition to the occupational group of an item for the armed forces.

31. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) remarked that the concept of dependents in his country did not altogether correspond to that which emerged from the report.

32. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) said that, if the new sentence suggested by the Secretariat could apply to the whole of Chapter V of document E/CN.3/111, he would be able to withdraw his amendment.

33. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that the Secretariat text applied only to definitions of incorporated businesses and unpaid family workers. While that proposal and the Argentine amendment were not contradictory, the one did not replace the other.

34. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Secretariat amendment could not apply to the positive recommendations in Chapter V relating, for instance, to the publication of a manual and the coverage of the three classifications of population (paragraph 23). Moreover, Mr. Arias had proposed inter alia, that provisional international standards should be worked out for countries which had decided to take a population census in 1950 and 1951. The Secretariat modification did not deal with that aspect of the question.

35. The Chairman suggested that the word "provisional" should be inserted before the words "technical manual". Perhaps that amendment would, in effect, meet the purpose of Mr. Arias' proposal.

36. Mr. ARIAS
36. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) replied that, although the change would make the text more acceptable to him, it did not cover the entire question. He would therefore maintain his proposal.

37. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that if the technical manual was to be issued in three months' time, it was difficult to see what useful purpose would be served by establishing provisional standards; moreover, if Mr. Arias' proposal were accepted, the Commission would apparently be unable to make any recommendation on the subjects dealt with in paragraphs 21 and 22 until the Secretariat had submitted a new study on the provisional standards. That would not be until 1951, when the study would have lost much of its usefulness.

38. Mr. RICE (United States of America) was ready to support the proposal put forward by Mr. Arias if it would prevent any further subdivision in the classification by industrial or social status. On the other hand, the Committee's proposal requesting the Secretariat to prepare a technical manual was a useful one, since the various countries which were to carry out population censuses would benefit from such a manual. It would contain an explanation of the three classifications according to which it was proposed to tabulate population data. A much more thorough study of the question should be undertaken, however, before collaborating the classification by industrial or social status.

39. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) explained that he was opposed to the Committee's recommendations precisely because he thought that the subject had not been sufficiently studied and that the time was not yet ripe to establish final international standards. That was a question which the Secretariat should study in collaboration with the ILO.

40. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) said that the seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians had recommended that the ILO should study the problem of classification by industrial or social status in so far as it was related to the problem of occupational classification.

41. In his opinion, the Committee's recommendations could not be adopted before being subjected to further study.

42. Mr. JAHN
42. Mr. JAHN (Norway) pointed out that it was not as difficult to draw up statistics covering the whole population as some people seemed to think, but he did not consider that trustworthy results could be obtained with regard to persons who had never been employed. The value of the results would be much too likely to be influenced by Government policy and by the personal interests of the people interrogated. It would, in any case, be necessary to begin by fixing the age at which persons should be thus classified, since it would be normal for young people never to have been employed.

43. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) proposed, first, that the Population Commission's recommendation to extend the social status classification of workers to cover the whole economically active population should be adopted, and secondly, that the number of sub-divisions of the economically active population should be reduced to 5 by excluding group (c), paragraph 10, page 11 of document E/CN.3/3.44.

44. Mr. RICE (United States of America) felt that there were no serious objections to the adoption of Mr. Mahalanobis' second proposal; the statistics would, in any case, have to include a heading for persons whose industrial status had not been established. The first proposal presented certain advantages but might produce absurd results. The Committee had proposed that the question should be studied further, and that had been the intention underlying Mr. Arias' proposal.

45. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) was prepared to agree that the question should be re-examined on condition that the comments made during the discussion were taken into account.

46. The CHAIRMAN asked whether Mr. Arias, and the Commission as a whole, would be ready to accept the Secretariat's amendment which proposed that the last phrase of paragraph 20 should be replaced by the new text which had been quoted earlier, that the word "provisional" should be inserted before the words "technical manual" in paragraph 22, and that the last two sentences of the text submitted by Mr. Arias (Argentina) in document E/CN.3/L.4 should be added at the end of paragraph 23, together with a third sentence to the effect that,
once the population censuses had been concluded, the Secretariat would be asked to prepare a final technical manual for the purpose of assisting countries to compile their population statistics.

47. **Mr. ARIAS** (Argentina) accepted that proposal.

Chapter V of document E/CN.3/111 was adopted with the amendments indicated above.

Chapter VI

48. The **CHAIRMAN** recalled that **Mr. Mahalanobis** (India) had suggested that the term "industrial or social status" should be replaced by the term "working status".

49. **Mr. DURAND** (Secretariat) recalled that on page 8 of document E/CN.3/C.1/16 the Secretariat had proposed another expression to replace the term "industrial or social status", namely "status (as employer, employee etc.)".

50. **Mr. MAHALANOBIS** (India) did not object to the Secretariat's proposal, but thought that his own expression was simpler.

Chapter VI of document E/CN.3/111 was adopted.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STATISTICS (Item 7 of the Agenda)

(a) **Education and training of statisticians** (E/CN.3/97)

51. The **CHAIRMAN** proposed that the Commission should agree with its report its satisfaction with the work carried out in that field in collaboration with UNESCO.

It was so agreed.

Document E/CN.3/97 was adopted.
(b) Technical assistance in statistics (E/CN.3/98, E/CN.3/99)

52. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) drew the Commission's attention to a printer's error which had crept into document E/CN.3/99. The following note should be added to the title of that document: "In order to give a more complete picture of the situation, the scope of the information reproduced in this document has been extended to include territories which are not regarded as non-self-governing territories in the terms of the Charter."

53. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that the document did not supply all the desired information on the position of statistics in the non-self-governing territories. For example, in the dependent territories of the United Kingdom very important work was being done to improve the quality of statistics. A conference of statisticians from the non-self-governing regions had met during March in London and statistical questions had been discussed in great detail.

54. He did not think that the information which the Statistical Office had been able to assemble with regard to the various non-self-governing territories was complete either. For example, he had noted that Malta and Gibraltar had supplied statistics on a very large number of subjects, whereas the number covered by the Secretariat was very small.

55. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should take note of document E/CN.3/99.

It was so decided.

56. The CHAIRMAN opened the discussion on document E/CN.3/98, regarding the development of national statistics.

57. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that the Secretariat had thought it would be useful to assemble in a single document all the measures which had been taken so far by the Statistical Commission, the Population Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Those measures concerned the technical assistance to be supplied to the under-developed countries and the operations service for the improvement of comparability. The recommendations /regarding
regarding the steps to be taken in those two fields were given in paragraphs 39 and 45 of the document respectively. Although the two topics had inadvertently been combined in a single resolution by the General Assembly, they were two distinct questions since the activities provided for as part of the technical assistance programme could certainly not be applied in the industrialized countries. Moreover, the Secretariat might need to consult statisticians in those countries on new statistical methods.

58. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) said that in order to develop national statistics, it was essential to set up permanent centres for the training of qualified statisticians, particularly in the under-developed areas. The establishment of such centres would also make it possible to improve international comparability.

59. The problem was of special concern to Latin America. A Latin-American training centre for statisticians had been set up in Mexico, but it had been purely temporary and was no longer in operation. He thought, therefore, that the Commission should indicate in its report that the question of establishing regional training centres for statisticians in Latin America should be examined.

60. Mr. RICE (United States of America) was grateful to Mr. Arias for raising that question and briefly reviewed all the steps which had been taken within the United Nations to train qualified statisticians. However, he recalled that the Statistical Commission had delegated its powers in that field to UNESCO, which had commissioned the International Statistical Institute to examine the question and take whatever steps were necessary.

61. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) drew the Commission’s attention to an error in paragraph 27 of the document under consideration. The words "and Calcutta" should be inserted after "in New Delhi".

62. He fully agreed that the operations service should not confine itself to assisting under-developed regions, though those regions should be given priority.

63. Mr. GOUDSWAARD (International Statistical Institute) said that his organization had been commissioned by UNESCO to provide training for statisticians in various parts of the world. The International Statistical Institute, and more particularly
particularly its Commission on Statistical Education, had devoted all its efforts to the development of the use of statistics in the under-developed countries. It was the Institute's intention at present to set up a training centre for statisticians at Calcutta. The centre would be established at and would operate in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Statistics which would make all its facilities available to it. Moreover, UNESCO had allocated the sum of $10,000 to the project for 1950 and a further $15,000 might be allocated for the same purpose in 1951.

64. The Institute was anxious to set up similar centres in other parts of the world and it would certainly do so, if it were given the necessary financial means.

65. He wished to draw attention to the fact that during its twenty-sixth session, held at Berne in 1949, the Institute had organized a course of studies which had lasted a fortnight. It was expected that the twenty-ninth session would take place in South America in 1955 and the governing body of the Institute hoped to repeat that experiment on that occasion.

66. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) expressed his satisfaction with the statement made by the representative of the International Statistical Institute. However, he thought it was essential to consider the establishment of a permanent study centre in Latin America.

67. Mr. DARMois (France) pointed out that the study centres organized by the International Statistical Institute were not permanent.

68. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) assured Mr. Mahalanobis that the Secretariat had no intention whatsoever of neglecting the under-developed countries. However, if those countries were to benefit from the technical assistance programme, they must themselves apply for assistance.

69. Mr. LIU (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that his organization had played a very active part in the work done in that field by the International Statistical Institute.

/70. With regard
With regard to the establishment of permanent training centres, he said that the financial regulations of UNESCO provided for yearly allocations only, so that it was unable to commit itself for an indefinite period.

Lastly, UNESCO took a keen interest in the question of fellowships in statistics. It had recently granted one to a Lebanese student who had gone to study in Paris.

Mr. GCB LEWIS (International Statistical Institute) said that the Institute was quite prepared to set up permanent training centres, but the way in which its funds were made available did not allow it to plan for more than a year ahead.

Mr. AKIAS (Argentina) said that his proposal had been very general and was not addressed to any particular organization responsible for the training of statisticians. He merely considered that the idea of establishing a training centre in Latin America, even temporarily, was one worth bearing in mind. Once established, such a centre could be transferred to one of the local universities. As a conference on technical assistance was to be held in the near future, the Secretariat should be asked to make a more extensive study of that matter.

Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that all requests for funds for that purpose should be addressed to the technical assistance administration. The Commission therefore need only take note of the work already accomplished in that field and request the Secretariat to proceed with the examination of that question.

The Secretariat should also be asked what allocations it could make for statistical work in countries other than the under-developed countries.

Mr. LESTER (International Civil Aviation Organization) said that it was not enough to train competent statisticians in order to improve national statistics. Very often statistics furnished by a country were defective simply because statisticians did not have the necessary powers or were not supported by the competent authorities. The Secretariat should, therefore, investigate all those factors so as to ascertain the principal obstacles to an improvement of national statistics.

It might
77. It might be desirable for the Commission to draft a recommendation to that effect.

78. Mr. LIEU (China) supported Mr. Lester's proposal. In many cases the statistics existed, but the officials, by whom he did not mean the statisticians, sometimes did not want to make them available.

79. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that the Secretariat had already done a great deal in that sphere. In the course of its work it had been able to realize that the factors mentioned by Mr. Lester often played a very important part and certainly deserved to be examined. They were precisely the difficulties which the Secretariat endeavoured to help Governments to overcome when it gave them advice.

80. In regard to the recommendations made in paragraph 39, he explained that the funds necessary for their implementation should be provided as part of the programme of technical assistance. Those recommendations would not, therefore, involve the Statistical Commission itself in any additional expenditure.

81. Mr. RICE (United States of America) supported the recommendations.

82. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that before asking for funds to implement those recommendations the Secretariat should take careful stock of its needs in the matter.

     Paragraph 39 of document E/CN.3/98 was adopted.

83. Mr. RICE (United States of America) remarked that the recommendations contained in paragraph 45 were strictly within the Statistical Commission's competence and should, therefore, be adopted.

84. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that the expenditure incurred in that sphere must be adequately supported in the recommendations of the Statistical Commission in order to become incorporated in the ensuing budgets.

     Paragraph 45 of document E/CN.3/98 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Friday, 12 May 1950, at 2.30 p.m.

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Co-ordination of statistical activities (E/CN.3/106, E/CN.3/106/Add.1)
Proposed joint committee to cover fields of interest to the Social and
Statistical Commissions and the International Labour Organisation
(E/CN.5/L.113)

Accuracy of statistical data (E/CN.3/82/Rev.1)

Distribution censuses (E/CN.3/NGO.1)

Membership of the Statistical Commission

Date and place of 1951 session

Preparation of draft report

Chairman:  Mr. IDENBURG

Rapporteur: Mr. CAMPTON

Members:

Mr. ARIAS
Mr. LIEU
Mr. DARNOIS
Mr. MAHALANOBIS
Mr. JAHN

Netherlands
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
Argentina
China
France
India
Norway
Members:

Mr. BILIKIR

(cont'd)

Mr. RICE

Turkey

United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. WOODBURY

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mr. TAUBNER

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mr. LIU

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. LESTER

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Mr. POLAK

International Monetary Fund

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Mr. TEFFA

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

Mr. RIGGENAY

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Miss SANSON


Category B:

Mr. GOUDSVAARD

International Statistical Institute

Secretariat:

Mr. LEONARD

Director, Statistical Office

Mr. LOFTUS

Statistical Office

Mr. BRUCE

Secretary of the Commission

1. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that document E/CN.3/106 contained a short account of two or three general aspects of co-ordination during the past year together with certain recommendations which were to be found in paragraph 9. He drew special attention to the resolution adopted by the Inter-American Statistical Institute which appeared as resolution 5, annex I.

2. Document E/CN.3/106/Add.1 was a provisional consolidated list of statistical series compiled by international organizations. It had been compiled on the basis of replies received from the specialized agencies and on the basis of their publications. The Secretariat realized that it was incomplete and would circulate it to the specialized agencies for additions or corrections.

3. Mr. MAHALANOBIS stressed the importance of national focal points and asked whether most member Governments had established such points in their countries.

4. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) replied that the concept of national focal points had been developed by the Inter-American Statistical Institute and had only been applied within the countries which were members of that Institute, each of which had established such a focal point.

5. Mr. RICE (United States of America) stated that the idea of national focal points had grown out of experience in the United States where it had been agreed between the Division of Statistical Standards and the United Nations that the former would transmit information from other statistical agencies to the United Nations. When that idea had been extended to the other American countries it had been assumed that a high degree of statistical centralization existed in those countries. It had become apparent at the Bogota Congress in January 1950 that such was not the case. That Congress had therefore suggested that national focal points might serve as a means for achieving national as well as international statistical co-ordination.

6. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative from the Netherlands, and supported by Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), referred to paragraph 6 and stressed /the importance
the importance of co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the one hand and such regional agencies as ECA, ECE, OCEC and the Brussels Customs Union on the other hand. It might not always be possible to reach formal agreements with the agencies he had mentioned but it was essential that their various statistical programmes should be co-ordinated.

7. Mr. DANOIS (France) strongly supported the previous speakers and felt that some positive action should be taken on the Chairman's suggestion.

8. Mr. MAHALAKOBIS (India) drew attention to a statistical association of countries in southeast Asia which had been formed as a result of the joint United Nations and FAO International School which had been held in India. That Association was a private international organization. He had been requested to ask the Commission to explore the possibility of United Nations support in its development and he pointed out that there had obviously been a strong feeling that such an association was needed. Support from the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or the Statistical Office would be very welcome.

9. He also suggested that the need for regional co-ordination should be kept in mind in giving effect to the field service programme. The Statistical Office had sent a member of its staff to Burma, for example, to help that country with its national statistics. That staff member might also try to develop common standards and concepts applicable to the whole of southeast Asia. He felt that national and regional statistical development should go hand in hand.

10. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) stated that the Statistical Office and the specialized agencies were doing everything possible to collaborate with the regional agencies which the Chairman had mentioned but he pointed out that the latter were not United Nations organizations and it was therefore difficult to place that collaboration on a formal basis.

11. The Statistical Office supplied ECE and OCEC with pre-publication figures on which many of their publications were based. Furthermore, the regional agencies had agreed to adjust their trade statistics to correspond to the standard classification. Several joint meetings had also been held, one of which had dealt with the type of trade statistics to be collected by the various agencies.
12. No doubt additional areas for collaboration existed but the regional agencies were generally operational agencies and their requirements were different from the United Nations agencies which were engaged in producing figures for economic analysis.

13. Mr. PCLAK (International Monetary Fund) pointed out that there were three aspects of co-ordination. First, the division of responsibility for collecting data; co-ordination in that field had been achieved some years earlier, but was of minor importance. Secondly, the more important question of collaboration in technical matters in which considerable progress had been made; in this connection he drew attention to document E/CH.3/106, paragraph 3. It was moreover in connexion with the third aspect that the real problem arose owing to the decentralized organization of the United Nations and specialized agencies' statistical offices it had been found necessary for one agency to have primary responsibility for one set of statistics; the needs of each agency for statistics in the various fields however were necessarily different and could not be separated. At a meeting of the Consultative Committee on Statistical Matters on 1 November 1949 the representative of the Fund had proposed that more intimate machinery for co-ordination should be established and had stated that the absence of such machinery meant that the agencies failed to make the best use of their joint resources and separate experiences.

14. On several occasions the Fund had proposed that sub-committees or working parties to deal with specific aspects of economic statistics should be established for the purpose of consultation on substantive matters between the various specialized agencies; no one agency would have primary responsibility in any particular field. The proposed working parties would also prepare documentation for the Statistical Commission which would obviate some of the difficulties encountered by the Commission at its current session.

15. At its November meeting the Consultative Committee had asked the Statistical Office to prepare more detailed proposals by 1 December but nothing further seemed to have been done.

/16. He did
16. He did not wish to imply that the Statistical Office had not consulted the specialized agencies; such consultations had taken place many times but were not sufficient. Full co-ordination would not only involve consultation and the division of responsibility for collecting data but also the joint interpretation of statistics and a division of responsibility for correspondence with Governments. It would thereby be possible to centralize statistical work to a great extent with a corresponding saving of time and labour for both the specialized agencies and the Governments concerned. The Fund, for example, was obliged to continue working on certain fields for which it would like to transfer responsibility; it found it impossible to do so, however, in view of the lack of full co-ordination.

17. He emphasized that his remarks were purely general and that he did not wish to make any specific recommendations. The Fund had been pressing for the establishment of working parties on economic statistics for several years but would not continue to press the point if the general feeling was that they would serve no useful purpose.

18. Mr. Loftus (Secretariat) wished to make it clear that there was day-to-day collaboration at the Secretariat level between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and he felt that collaboration was taking place at the level where it could be most effective. Much of the time of the substantive offices concerned was already taken up with committee and conference work and the creation of co-ordinating committees at other than the working staff level would be a very extravagant way of ensuring co-ordination. The Statistical Office had therefore felt that the establishment of the working parties suggested by the International Monetary Fund would be inadvisable and had placed certain alternative proposals before the Consultative Committee. Inter alia, the Statistical Office had suggested that topics for discussion in the Consultative Committee should be classified so that specialized agencies would not be obliged to attend meetings at which topics were discussed which were of no interest to them.

19. He further recalled that at the meeting of the Consultative Committee in November 1949 the representatives of the International Labour Organisation and the International Civil Aviation Organization had spoken strongly against the proliferation of United Nations bodies and activities.

20. Mr. Leonard (Secretariat) emphasized that the Statistical Office was in full agreement with the International Monetary Fund on the desirability of
substantive co-ordination and that considerable progress had been made in that direction though on account of staff limitations, progress had not been as fast as might have been hoped.

21. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) felt that the Fund's statistical work was complicated by the fact that the subject fields with which it dealt were not clearly defined. He hoped, however, that a satisfactory solution would be found to the problem of co-ordination between the specialized agencies and the United Nations and that such co-ordination would result in a reduction of the burden placed on countries in the collection of data. The agencies should take care to ensure that their own statistical committees did not duplicate the work of the Statistical Commission.

22. Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that he had had personal experience both of co-operation based on equality, which the representative of the IMF was advocating, and of co-operation based on a central authority. Both systems had certain advantages but the second was in his opinion the more productive of results. As the Statistical Office was being criticized in some quarters for being insufficiently authoritarian and in others for being insufficiently egalitarian, it appeared to be steering the middle course, which was best suited to the circumstances.

23. In another respect also the work of the Statistical Office had recently been subjected to criticism from two diametrically opposed directions. The publications for which it was responsible had reached a very high standard and marked a considerable improvement over the corresponding publications of the League of Nations. Their high quality was in large measure due to the professional competence and intellectual integrity of the staff. On the one hand, however, the Statistical Office had been criticized in some quarters for its failure to call sufficient attention to deficiencies in some of the data published, in particular of data relating to the USSR; on the other hand, a Soviet publication "New Times", in its issue of 5 April 1950, had published an article entitled "What World Industrial Statistics Show" by A. Kashkarov, in which it was asserted that the indexes of world industrial production published since the middle of 1949 in the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics were a glaring example of manipulations designed "to embellish realities and disguise from the people the sores and ulcers of capitalism."

/24. In the
In the absence of quantity figures on the USSR, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics for May 1950 had reproduced on page 5 Soviet figures officially published in the newspaper "Pravda", on the percentage fulfillment of established goals, 1047-1049. "Pravda" had not, however, given those goals in terms of quantity nor had it indicated the types of unit included under the various headings. The Monthly Bulletin had similarly published index numbers of changes in Soviet industrial production calculated in each instance on the basis of unsupported relatives; impossible to verify with the data available.

Despite the refusal of the USSR to supply the Statistical Office with adequate data, "New Times" had proceeded to make the following charge: "For some reason which is not specified, (possibly precisely in order to impede an analysis of the published indexes that would bring out the real situation) the United Nations statisticians have not up to the present made known the percentages of world industrial production accounted for by the various countries." On the basis of unsupported calculations, the writer of the article had maintained that production in the capitalist world had increased from 100 to 120 between 1937 and July-September 1950, whereas production in the USSR and the People's Democracies had increased in the same period from 100 to 203 and that the Soviet indexes had been included in the "deliberately misleading indexes compiled by the United Nations Statistical Office" merely in order to increase the appearance of growth in the world index.

As a member of the Statistical Commission, Mr. Rice had not felt that he could allow such entirely unjustifiable criticism to pass unchallenged.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Commission would note what the representative of the International Monetary Fund had said. He pointed out, however, that the problem was one for the Secretariat and not for the Commission to solve.

The recommendations contained in paragraph 2 (E/83-3/196) were adopted.

The Commission noted with appreciation the composition of the consolidated list of statistical series (E/96/3/196).
PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE TO COVER FIELDS OF INTEREST TO THE SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL COMMISSIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (E/CN.5/L.113)

28. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to express its views on paragraph 35 of annex 5 of the draft report of the Social Commission (sixth session) to the Economic and Social Council, which read:

"The Commission notes the interest of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the International Labour Organisation in methods of family living studies in under-developed territories, inquiries into which have been undertaken by the Commission. It recommends that the Secretary-General confer with the International Labour Organisation and with the Statistical Commission as to the possibility of establishing a joint committee of technical experts which would cover fields of interest to the Social and Statistical Commissions and the International Labour Organisation."

29. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that the Social Commission's recommendation appeared to be based on the recognition that the work it had been carrying out for some time past on the analysis of family budget returns concerned both the International Labour Organisation and the Statistical Commission. The question at issue was primarily one of administrative procedure.

30. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) said that the seventh Conference of Labour Statisticians had adopted a proposal that the ILO should, in consultation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, appoint a technical committee to study technical problems connected with family living studies in under-developed territories. The project was still at the stage of preliminary consultations and no definite proposal had as yet been made to the ILO Governing Body. The interested departments of the United Nations and the specialized agencies would automatically be consulted regarding the membership of the proposed committee and regarding the lines of investigation it should follow. As therefore a joint committee would involve budgetary complications, it would seem preferable to leave the matter in the hands of the ILO.

/31. Mr. RICE
31. Mr. RICE (United States of America) said he was in some doubt as to whether the proposal of the seventh Conference of Labour Statisticians and in fact the proposal to which paragraph 35 of the Social Commission's report referred.

32. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, as the matter appeared to require some further clarification, the Commission should defer its discussion until it was considering its draft report.

It was so decided.

ACCURACY OF STATISTICAL DATA (E/CN.3/68/Rev.1)

33. Mr. GOUDSWAARD (International Statistical Institute) pointed out that the question of the accuracy of statistical data was a peculiar one; while it was generally agreed that errors in statistical data were in many cases substantial, nevertheless everybody used the figures involved. Although techniques of collecting basic data were improving, the number of subjects on which statistical data had to be collected was increasing and extending into fields where the public was rather reluctant to provide information, a trend which could have an adverse effect on accuracy. Moreover, as had already been pointed out, some countries tended to furnish biased figures. Still another factor affecting accuracy was the use of estimates, customary with economic statisticians; in some cases it was not even clear whether figures were based on direct information or had been arrived at by guesswork. One proposed solution to the problem was the addition to tables of a special column indicating the possible percentage of error in those tables, but that procedure contained in itself the likelihood of further error.

34. Several proposals for a thorough study of the subject of accuracy had recently been advanced. The resolution adopted by the International Statistical Institute (E/CN.3/68/Rev.1) was the result of a paper on the accuracy of demographic data presented at its 26th session. At a recent meeting of the United States National Committee of the International Union for Scientific Study of Population, it had been suggested that the Union might serve a useful function by stimulating appraisals of the accuracy of official vital statistics and demographic data in various countries. The Cambridge Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth had discussed the problem in connexion with economic statistics, and a book on "The Accuracy of Economic Observations" by Professor Morgenstern of Princeton University was very shortly to be published.
35. A possible approach to the general problem would be a study of internal inconsistencies of data, and international comparisons could be very useful in such a study. In the field of migration statistics or statistics on the balance of trade between two countries, for example, the corresponding figures furnished by each country should obviously be the same but were not so in practice.

36. It might be useful for the Commission to request the Secretary-General to ensure that special attention should be given to the degree of accuracy of the data contained in technical studies issued by the Secretariat, with emphasis on internal consistency or inconsistency as revealed by comparisons.

37. Factors contributing to inaccuracy of data should always be pointed out systematically; that was a responsibility not only of the United Nations Secretariat but of every statistical organization and individual statistician. The question of the accuracy of statistical data had therefore been placed on the agenda of the 27th session of the ICI.

38. In connexion with the ICI's resolution on censuses of distribution, he would like to know the opinion of the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce.

39. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should first consider the part of the ICI resolution (E/CN.3/64/Perv.1) concerned with the accuracy of statistical data. It could take note of the resolution, or it could request a member of the Statistical Office to comment on the subject at the Commission's sixth session.

40. Mr. MAMAIIDORIS (India) observed that the subject deserved the closest attention, particularly at the level of the Statistical Office.

41. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should invite the Secretary-General to submit a note on the accuracy of statistical data to the following session of the Commission.

42. Mr. MAMAIIDORIS (India) suggested that the Secretary-General should also be asked to draw the attention of Governments to the problem.

43. The CHAIRMAN said the note from the Secretary-General would doubtless consider that procedure.

It was so decided.
DISTRIBUTION CENSUSES (E/CN.3/NGO/1)

44. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Commission wished to place the second point of the International Statistical Institute's resolution, which concerned censuses of distribution, on the agenda of the following meeting.

45. Mr. RIDGEWAY (International Chamber of Commerce) drew the attention of members to the memorandum submitted by the ICC (E/CN.3/NGO/1). Briefly reviewing the contents of that document, he emphasized the practical value to Governments, as well as to business men and to the general public, of statistical data relating to distribution. The ICC, as indicated by the action taken at its two post-war congresses, felt very strongly that a worldwide marketing system made more efficient by comparable international statistics would result in lower prices and improved services. The ICC resolution currently before the Commission had that aim in view.

46. His organization wished to stress the importance of ensuring international comparability as to timing, definitions and classification, and therefore urged that countries undertaking such censuses should agree on uniform procedure and classification methods. He pointed out that the composite report to be prepared by the ICC on already completed distribution censuses, as described in document E/CN.3/NGO/1, would of course be available to the Secretariat.

47. Although priorities among various censuses presented problems for some countries, the ICC wished to emphasize the importance of prompt action designed to promote the establishment of proper standards and uniform procedure in the field of distribution statistics.

48. In conclusion, Mr. Ridgeway expressed the ICC's appreciation of and interest in the work of the Commission.

49. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Commission wished to place the question of distribution censuses on the agenda of its following meeting, and to request the Statistical Office to prepare a paper on the subject.

50. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) considered the problem important and said that a pooling of ideas would be welcome.
51. In connexion with page 5, paragraph 3, of document E/CN.3/NGO/1, he cited the experience of the United Kingdom, which was currently conducting its first census of distribution; that experience indicated that detailed information on retail costs was best collected by the appropriate trade organization, but that the census itself, in view of the confidential nature of the data, was often better undertaken by the government, provided it had the support of professional organizations.

52. A kindred problem was censuses of production. Most countries compiled figures on wholesale and retail trade, but not on a sufficiently broad basis. The United Kingdom was looking forward to the results of its census for use in the weighting of index numbers. It had first conducted a pilot census, and had found that the cost was great, because of the difficulty of obtaining complete lists of shops and businesses.

53. He thought that the matter should be kept before the Commission and proposed that the Commission should bring to the attention of Governments the value of censuses of distribution, with the suggestion that such censuses might cover the items listed in document E/CN.3/NGO/1.

54. Mr. JAHR (Norway) pointed out that while in many countries censuses of distribution had been taken, few countries had done more than obtain the total turn-over of their commercial establishments, and figures on merchandise would be new. He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that it was important to know more about commerce, as that knowledge would be very helpful in planning.

55. Mr. MAHALAUKI (India) also supported the United Kingdom proposal.

56. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Commission should adopt the United Kingdom proposal. It was so decided.

57. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should take note of the memorandum prepared by the International Chamber of Commerce (E/CN.3/NGO/1). It was so decided.
MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

58. Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that, while other Commissions had as many as fifteen or even eighteen members, the Statistical Commission had only twelve, of whom three were not at present participating in its work. In view of the fact that many parts of the world were not adequately represented in its membership, he proposed that the Commission should recommend to the Economic and Social Council an increase in its membership from twelve to fifteen. That increase could be offset if the Commission no longer took advantage of the provision by which it was represented on the Population Commission. Such representation was in his view no longer necessary.

59. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), while reserving the position of his delegation in the Economic and Social Council regarding the financial aspect of the proposal, supported Mr. Rice's proposal in principle. The membership of the Commission had presumably been based on that of the corresponding League of Nations body. In the period since its establishment the problems of underdeveloped countries had greatly increased in importance and it was desirable that those countries should be adequately represented on the Commission.

60. Mr. ARIAS (Argentina) supported Mr. Rice's proposal and welcomed his reference to the principle of geographical distribution.

61. Mr. DARMOIS (France) was in general agreement with the principle of geographical distribution. He considered, however, that the principle should only be applied to countries possessing competent statisticians.

62. Mr. LIEU (China) pointed out that a number of under-developed countries might have experts in the collection of data rather than in methodology, whose work might not have been published in any of the more widely read languages. It might therefore be useful to the Commission to include such experts among its members.

63. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) and Mr. RICE (United States of America) supported Mr. Dermois' view that the criterion for membership should be professional competence, although the principle of geographical distribution should be taken into account wherever possible.
44. The CHAIRMAN proposed that a recommendation on the lines suggested by Mr. Rios should be made to the Economic and Social Council.

It was so decided.

DATE AND PLACE OF 1951 SESSION

55. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) drew attention to a proposal made at an earlier session that a future session of the Commission should be held in India.

66. Mr. RIOS (United States of America) pointed out that the International Statistical Institute was proposing to hold its twenty-seventh biennial session in New Delhi in December 1951. The United Nations had recognized the importance of the twenty-fifth biennial session by convening a World Statistical Congress at the same time and place. Although the proposal to hold the 1951 session of the Commission in New Delhi might give rise to difficulty, he felt it might be explored. There would be advantages both to the Commission and to the Statisticians, of the region who would participate in the Institute's programme if the two sessions could be related.

67. The CHAIRMAN expressed the Commission's appreciation of the invitation extended by India. The rules of procedure for functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council laid down, however, that each session should be held at the United Nations headquarters "unless another place is designated by the Economic and Social Council taking account of any recommendation of the Commission, and in consultation with the Secretary-General". The rules of procedure also stated that the date of each session should be fixed by the Council in consultation with the Secretary-General.

63. Mr. JAHN (Norway) also expressed appreciation of the Indian invitation. He pointed out, however, that unless the holding of a session in New Delhi was essential to the Commission's work, it was doubtful whether the majority of Governments would be willing to incur the additional expenditure.

69. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) agreed with Mr. Jahn. His Government held the view that sessions should as far as possible be held at Lake Success. Apart from the question of expenditure, the proposal to hold a session in December 1951 had the disadvantage that any proposals with financial implications could not be considered until the General Assembly of 1952.
70. After some further discussion, the CHAIRMAN proposed that a suitable expression of the Commission's views should be included in its report.

It was so decided.

PREPARATION OF DRAFT REPORT

71. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should suspend its meetings until Tuesday 16 May at 11 a.m. to permit the preparation of the draft report.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-SECOND MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Tuesday, 16 May 1950, at 11 a.m.

CONTENTS:
Draft report of the fifth session of the Statistical Commission to
the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.3/L.5, E/CN.3/112)

Chairman: Mr. IDENBURG Netherlands
Rapporteur: Mr. CAMPION United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
Members: Mr. ARIAS Argentina
Mr. LIEU China
Mr. DARMOIS France
Mr. MAHALAMOBIIS India
Mr. JAHN Norway
Mr. BILKUR Turkey
Mr. RICE United States of America
Representatives of specialised agencies:

Mr. WOODBURY

Mr. TAEUBER

Mr. LIU

Mr. LESTER

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Representative of a non-governmental organization in Category A:

Miss SANSON

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Secretariat:

Mr. LEONARD

Director, Statistical Office

Mr. LOFTUS

Statistical Office

Mr. BRUCE

Secretary of the Commission


1. The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Campion to introduce the Commission's draft report (E/CN.3/L.5).

2. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) said that the draft report covered the main points which the Commission had discussed in the course of the previous week. Three points relating to Chapter VII of the report had not, however, been covered: -- the resolution by the International Statistical Institute on the accuracy of statistics, the date and place of the Commission's next session and the proposed increase in membership. That section of the draft report would, however, be ready in time for the next meeting.

3. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Commission also had before it a paper on the consideration of priorities within its work programme (E/CN.3/L.114). A paper on the financial implications of its programme would be available at the following meeting.

/4. He proposed
He proposed that the Commission should adjourn and begin its discussion of the completed draft report at the following meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

29/5 a.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday, 16 May 1950, at 2.30 p.m.

CONTENTS:
Joint Committee of technical experts to cover fields of interest to the Social and Statistical Commissions and the International Labour Organisation (E/CN.5/113) (continued)
Draft report of the fifth session of the Statistical Commission to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.3/L.5, E/CN.3/112) (continued)

Chairman: Mr. IDENBURG Netherlands
Rapporteur: Mr. CALPICH United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Members:
Mr. ARIAS Argentina
Mr. LIU China
Mr. DARIOIS France
Mr. BILKUR Turkey
Mr. RICE United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:
Mr. WOODBURY
Mr. ROSENFIELD
Mr. LIU
Mr. KORTEKAAS
International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Representatives of a non-governmental organization in Category A:
Miss SANSOM
Mr. RIDGEMAY
International Chamber of Commerce

Secretary:
Mr. LEONARD
Mr. LOFTUS
Mr. BRUCE
Director of the Statistical Office
Statistical Office
Secretary of the Commission

JOINT COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO COVER FIELDS OF INTEREST TO THE SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL COMMISSIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (E/CN.5/113) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Commission still had to take a decision on the recommendation made in paragraph 35 of the Social Commission's draft report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/113).

2. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the following text should be inserted in the report in order to cover that point:

"The Statistical Commission notes the interest of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the International Labour Organisation in methods of family living studies in under-developed territories, inquiries into which have been undertaken by the Social Commission. It recommends that the Secretary-General confer with the International Labour Organisation as to the possibility of establishing a joint committee of technical experts which would cover this field of interest to the Social and Statistical Commissions and the International Labour Organisation, or as to other suitable means of assuring effective collaboration in the development of methods of family living studies."

The text was adopted for inclusion in the report.

4. Mr. RICE (United States of America) raised the general question of the form in which the Commission should make its recommendations and asked the Secretariat whether the commission could make direct recommendations to other Commissions and Member Governments or whether it always had to act through the Economic and Social Council.

5. Mr. BRUCE (Secretary of the Commission) replied that, although the Commission reported to the Council, it was also free to make direct recommendations to other bodies or to Member Governments, and indeed precedents existed for such recommendations. The Commission could use its discretion as to the form recommendations should take and decide each case on its merits.

6. Mr. NAHALANGOBIS (India) pointed out that no action could be taken on any recommendation made through the Council until the Council met; consequently, recommendations should not be put in that formal manner if urgent action on them were required.

7. He felt that four types of recommendations were possible: first the report could state, for example, "the Statistical Commission recommends that a technical manual be prepared"; in that case it was quite clear that the recommendation was addressed to the Secretary-General and was within his field of executive action; secondly, it could include observations to other Commissions; such recommendations could be phrased directly and simply as it would be quite clear to whom they were directed; thirdly, the Secretary-General could be requested to draw the attention of Member Governments, specialized agencies, etc. to certain points; in that case it would be better to mention the Secretary-General specifically; lastly, formal recommendations could be made through the Economic and Social Council by means of a resolution for its adoption. All four methods were quite permissible and each should be used where most suitable.

/8. The CHAIRMAN
S. The CHAIRMAN felt that the Economic and Social Council tended to restrict rather than to encourage formal resolutions and that it would therefore be preferable for the Commission to make most of its recommendations directly to Governments or the other bodies concerned.

9. Mr. CAUTION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Council wished to consider any major recommendations from commissions. He felt that, as a general rule, the best course was for the Commission to instruct the Secretary-General on the action to be taken.

Introduction
The introduction was adopted without discussion.

Chapter I: Report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling on its Third Session.

10. Mr. NAYALAWOBIS (India) drew attention to the reference to document E/CN.3/SR.54 in the first paragraph of the chapter. Since that document was specifically mentioned in the report, he wished to make a few comments on it and to ask for some clarification. In the first place, he pointed out that the words "from the Statistical Commission" in paragraph 30 should read "from the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling".

11. Secondly, he wondered what was the exact implication of the decision recorded in paragraph 39.

12. Finally, referring to the discussion on operational research recorded in paragraphs 47 to 52, he said that he had subsequently received some further information on the subject. He had recently received a copy of the Operational Research Quarterly and, from the various authoritative articles in that paper, he submitted several examples of the statistical nature of the work being done in operational research. There was thus ample evidence that the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling could proceed with its discussions on the sampling aspects of operational research and he hoped that the decision recorded in paragraph 52 would not prevent it from doing so.

13. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the decision recorded in paragraph 39 of E/CN.3/SR.54 appeared quite clearly and without any ambiguity in paragraph 13 of the draft report.

/14 Mr. RICE
14. Mr. RICE (United States of America) agreed that there had not been much information before the Commission when it had discussed the question of operational research. The summary record showed that members had not been opposed to the suggestion that the Sub-Commission should consider the problem; they had simply not decided to recommend it to do so in the absence of the necessary information on the subject.

15. The RAPPORTEUR proposed the deletion of the reference to document E/CN.3/SR.5: from paragraph 8 of the draft report. It was so decided.

16. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) pointed out that, in the absence of adequate documentation on the subject, it would be very difficult for the Sub-Commission to make any progress in its discussion on operational research. He therefore suggested that the Secretariat should be asked to prepare a suitable document on the subject.

17. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) regretted that the Secretariat would not be in a position to prepare such a document in time for the Sub-Commission's 1950 session. Moreover, he had understood that one of the members of the Sub-Commission was intending to prepare a paper on the subject.

18. Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that he had some minor drafting changes to propose to the various paragraphs in Chapter I. He therefore suggested that, before the chapter was finally adopted, a redrafted text should be submitted to the Commission. It was so decided.

Chapter II: Report of the Committee on Statistical Classification:
Standard list of commodities for international trade statistics

19. The RAPPORTEUR pointed out that the Commission should decide on a definite title for the new international classification.
20. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the title "Standard International Trade Classification" should be used throughout the draft report wherever a reference was made to the new classification.

It was so decided.

21. Mr. PANDALANOBIS (India) pointed out that the action recommended in paragraph 27 could not be taken until the Economic and Social Council had adopted the resolution contained in paragraph 26. As the text stood, the Commission appeared to be taking it for granted that the Council would adopt that recommendation. As a matter of form it might therefore be advisable to redraft paragraph 27.

It was agreed that paragraph 27 should be redrafted.

The section was adopted subject to the redrafting of paragraph 27 and minor drafting changes.

Classification of Commodities for General Economic Analysis

22. Mr. CAMPTON (United Kingdom) pointed out that the reference to paragraph 35, contained in parentheses in paragraph 33, referred to the original document (E/CH.3/S.1/21); the text should be amended to make that clear.

The section was adopted subject to minor drafting changes.

Occupational Classification

23. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought that the Commission should be more explicit in the last sentence and suggested that the words "at the meetings held in Bogota" should be replaced by the words "at the Second Inter-American Statistical Congress and the associated meetings of the Committee on census of the Americas held in Bogota".

It was so agreed.

24. Mr. RICE (United States of America) suggested that paragraph 36 should be amplified to read: "The Statistical Commission thought that because of the many difficulties involved, further attempts to amplify the classification and fix definitions for world-wide use should proceed cautiously. It took note of and commended the progress made and requested that a further report on this subject be submitted at the sixth session". He felt that that text would make /it quite
it quite clear that the Commission did not oppose progress in the direction agreed at Bogota, but felt that caution should be used.

25. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) wondered whether the text suggested by Mr. Rice made it quite clear that the word "cautiously" applied only to the question of further sub-divisions and not to the major groups on which it was hoped that worldwide agreement would be reached.

26. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Commission must be careful not to give the impression that the Inter-American Statistical Institute had gone too far in agreeing on thirty-four sub-groups. He felt that it would be preferable to replace the word "cautiously" in Mr. Rice's text by the words "with great care" and that that would meet the point raised by Mr. Mahalanobis.

The text submitted by Mr. Rice, as amended, was adopted.

Classification by Industrial Social Status Groups

The section was adopted with minor changes.

Co-ordination and application of classification, by occupation, industry and industrial or social status

27. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) suggested that the wording of the latter part of the section heading should be amended to correspond with the wording agreed by the Commission, namely "status (as employer, employee)".

28. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that, while it was desirable to use the new wording as soon as possible, the existing wording had been used for the agenda items and for all the relevant documents. To change the heading would thus divorce the subject from its previous history. The item was also included on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Population Commission and it might therefore be better to wait until that Commission had considered the question before putting the new wording into use.

It was so decided.

The section was adopted, subject to minor drafting amendments,

/Standard terminology
standard terminology for statistics relating to the economically active population.

29. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) suggested that a summary of paragraph 18 of document E/CN.3/6.1/16 should be given in paragraph 44.

It was so decided.

The section was adopted, subject to minor drafting amendments.

Chapter III: Research on statistical methods and standards

Transport statistics

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said that he had been unable to be present when the question of transport statistics was discussed. He pointed out that animal-drawn vehicles were of great economic importance in certain parts of the world, and suggested that a reference to that form of transport should be included in the report.

Mr. LEONARD (Secretary) said that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East was carrying out studies of local transport in the Far East. It might perhaps be better for the Commission to await the result of its work before making any reference to the particular problem of animal-drawn vehicles.

The CHAIRMAN did not feel that there would be any objection to including a reference to the question and invited Mr. Mahalanobis to submit a suitable phrase.

The section was adopted, subject to drafting amendments.

The meeting rose at 4:30 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING
held at Lake Success, New York
on Wednesday, 17 May, 1950 at 10.30 a.m.

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Draft report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifth session
of the Commission (E/CN.3/I.5, Conference Room Papers Nos. 1 and 2)
(continued)

Chairman: Mr. IDENBURG

Reprorateur: Mr. CAMPION

Members: Mr. LIEU
         Mr. DAIMOIS
         Mr. MAHALANGUS
         Mr. BILKUR
         Mr. RICE

Netherlands
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
China
France
India
Turkey
United States of America
Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. WOODBURY
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr. LIU
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. KOETAKAAS
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Representative of a non-governmental organization:

Category A
Mr. RIDGWAY
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Secretary:

Mr. LEONARD
Representative of the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs

Mr. BRUCE
Secretary of the Commission

DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (E/CN.3/L.5, Conference Room Papers Nos. 1 and 2) (continued)

Chapter 1 of the draft report (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to discuss the redrafted text of Chapter I.

2. Mr. LIU (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) proposed that, in the English text, the expression "in education" should be replaced by the expression "of instruction" in the penultimate line of paragraph 9.

3. Furthermore, he thought that the phrase "it therefore hopes that the International Statistical Institute and UNESCO will be able to..." in paragraph 13 should be replaced by the phrase "it hopes that UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Statistical Institute, will be able to...". That change would show the importance of maintaining close collaboration between the two organizations.

4. Mr. RICE (United States of America) supported Mr. Liu's proposals. Since the Statistical Commission was an organ of the United Nations, he thought it should address its recommendations particularly to UNESCO, which was also a part of the United Nations structure and had asked the International Statistical Institute to carry out certain tasks of interest to the United Nations.

/ Mr. Liu's
Mr. Liu's two proposals were adopted.

Chapter I, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter II: Report of the Committee on Statistical Classification (continued)

Paragraph 27

5. The CHAIRMAN opened discussion on the new text for paragraph 27.

6. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the words "subject to approval by the Economic and Social Council" should be inserted after the words "The Commission", at the beginning of the text. In that way, paragraph 27 would be brought into line with paragraph 26, in which the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council should adopt the classification. Before it could recommend the classification to governments, the Commission would naturally have to wait for the approval of the Economic and Social Council.

7. After a short discussion in which Mr. MAHLANOBIS (India), the CHAIRMAN and Mr. RICE (United States of America) took part, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the second sub-paragraph of paragraph 27 should be replaced by the following text:

"Requests the Secretary-General to arrange that reporting by governments to the Statistical Office on trade statistics is done in terms of the International Standard Industrial Classification at the earliest possible date, preferably starting with data for the year 1949, at least in summary form".

Paragraph 27 was adopted with that amendment.

Chapter III: Research on statistical methods and standards (continued)

Index numbers of industrial production

Paragraphs 51 and 52

Paragraphs 51 and 52 were adopted.

Paragraph 53

8. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) proposed the deletion of the words "for each item" from the first sentence of paragraph 53. Furthermore, the expression "industrial standard classification" should be replaced by "International Standard Industrial Classification" which had already been adopted.

9. Mr. MAHLANOBIS
9. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) wondered whether it was really necessary to use both the word "international" and the word "standard" in that title.

10. In his opinion, it was necessary to standardize not only the classification itself but also the terminology relating to it. There was not as yet any uniformity in the terminology for the standard classifications of trade, international trade and industry.

11. He thought it would be far better to use the same terms each time: "standard industrial classification, standard international trade classification", etc. The word "standard" would show in each case that the classification was the standard one adopted by the United Nations.

12. The CHAIRMAN, supported by Mr. RICE (United States of America), recognized the validity of the arguments put forward by Mr. Mahalanobis. Since, however, the terms in use had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission could not alter them during its current session. Nevertheless, the subject was an important one and the Commission would be able to discuss it at its following session in the light of the experience gained in the interval on the application of the standard classifications.

13. Mr. MAHALONOBIS (India) was prepared to accept that suggestion on the understanding that the discussion that had just taken place would be recorded in the summary record of the meeting so that the Secretariat would be able to place the item on the Commission's agenda for its following session.

14. The CHAIRMAN announced that the words "industrial standard classification" in the third and fourth lines of paragraph 53 would therefore be replaced by the words "international standard industrial classification".

Paragraph 53, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 54

15. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) drew attention to two typing errors in the text of the paragraph. In the second line, the expression "to the extent" should be replaced by "in the extent". In the sixth line, the word "concept" should be in the plural.

Paragraph 54 was adopted with those corrections.
Paragraph 55

15. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) proposed that the word "consensus" should be replaced by the word "opinion" in the first line of the paragraph.

17. He also proposed that the second sentence of the paragraph should be redrafted to read as follows: "The information from such a census of production would be very useful for changing weights where necessary and for checking and adjusting monthly series."

18. In response to a suggestion by Mr. MAHAONOBIS (India), Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (rapporteur) agreed to the addition of the words "and quarterly" at the end of that sentence.

Both amendments were adopted.

Paragraph 55 was adopted as amended.

Paragraphs 56 and 57

19. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) proposed that the word "important" should be substituted for the word "certain" in line 2 of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 56.

It was so decided.

20. Mr. MAHAONOBIS (India) thought that the wording of sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph 56 was too vague, having regard to the fact that two different sets of recommendations were involved.

21. After a short discussion in which Mr. MAHAONOBIS (India), the CHAIRMAN and Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) took part, the latter proposed that the words "as to the most suitable base for" should be added after the words: "These recommendations" in the second sentence of sub-paragraph (d).

It was so decided.

22. Mr. NICE (United States of America) said that the text of paragraph 57 would not be intelligible to anyone who had not read paragraph 56. As draft resolutions were normally published as separate documents, the phrase "on this subject" required some amplification.

23. Mr. MAHAONOBIS (India) proposed that paragraphs 56 and 57 should be amalgamated to form a single draft resolution.
24. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) supported that proposal.

25. The new text would read as follows:

'The Statistical Commission
requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Governments
to the methods to be used in compiling index numbers of production and
to the following recommendations:'

26. That introductory sentence would be followed by paragraph 56,
amplified by the recommendations contained in paragraph 57 regarding, on the
one hand, the technical study of methods to be used in drawing up index
numbers of industrial production and, on the other hand, technical advice and
assistance.

Paragraphs 56 and 57 were adopted in that form. It was also decided
that the final text of those paragraphs should be drafted by the Rapporteur in
collaboration with the Secretary of the Commission.

Paragraph 58

27. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) proposed that the phrase
'Member Governments' should be amended to read: 'Governments'.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 58 was adopted, as amended.

Censuses of industrial production

Paragraphs 59, 60 and 61

Paragraphs 59, 60 and 61 were adopted.

Paragraph 62

28. Mr. NAIK (India) pointed out that paragraph 62 dealt with the
same subject as sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph 56. While paragraph 62 was
primarily concerned with censuses and paragraph 56 with the index numbers of
industrial production, it was nevertheless desirable to avoid repetitions.

29. It would have been more logical, in his opinion, to place the chapter
on censuses of industrial production towards the beginning of the report.

30. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) explained that, in drafting
the report, he had followed the order in which items had been discussed. He
had also tried to draft the chapters so as to give a complete picture of the
discussion and of the decisions taken on the various items. The repetition to
which Mr. NAIK had drawn attention was therefore deliberate.
31. Mr. RICE (United States of America) considered that the repetition was in fact desirable. In order to make it clear that it was intentional, an indication might be given in one of the paragraphs concerned, in paragraph 50, for example, that the question was also dealt with in the other paragraph.

32. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) proposed that the following words should be inserted after the word "desirable": "not only for the purpose of defining weights for the index numbers of production but also...".

33. Mr. AMAL RAO (India) thought that the phrase "in which industrial production is important" was open to misunderstanding.

34. Mr. RICE (United States of America) proposed that the phrase should be replaced by the following: "country in which the measurements of industrial production are regarded as important."

Paragraph 53 was adopted, as amended.

Paragraph 53

35. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) pointed out that the word "should" required deletion in sub-paragraph (c) of the English text.

36. Mr. RICE (United States of America) was doubtful of the phrase "labour resources". If what was wanted was the total wages and salaries, such information could be obtained; if, however, statistics were required on wages by age of workers, they would be much more difficult to supply. He did not think that the United States was in a position to provide such information at the present time.

37. Mr. NAHULA (India) said that it would be useful to ascertain the relationship between wages and production in a number of countries.

38. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) proposed that the words "on labour resources" should be replaced by the words "numbers employed, by sex, wages or salaries paid, etc.".

/Paragraph 63
Paragraph 63 was adopted, with the proposed amendments.

Paragraph 64

Paragraph 64 was adopted.

Indices of prices

Paragraphs 65 and 66.

Paragraphs 65 and 66 were adopted.

Paragraph 67

39. Mr. CALLOW (United Kingdom) (rapporteur) pointed out that the words "index numbers of index prices" in line 2 of the English text should be replaced by the words "index numbers of wholesale prices".

40. Mr. HAFEZ (India) wondered whether sub-paragraph (a) did not give the impression that the Commission had renounced the idea of compiling a general price index.

41. Mr. CALLOW (United Kingdom) (rapporteur) said that that was not the case; the question was still pending.

Paragraph 65 was adopted, with the proposed amendments.

Paragraphs 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72

Paragraphs 68 to 72 were adopted.

Paragraph 73

42. Mr. CALLOW (United Kingdom) (rapporteur) said he had taken the liberty of altering the draft resolution, since the draft submitted by the Secretariat in document E/CH.3/89 was in the form of a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. He had felt, however, that in view of the nature of the subject, it would be better to request the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Governments to the importance of the measures advocated by the Statistical Commission.

43. In an ensuing brief discussion, Mr. NANDALAKISHAN (India) pointed out that the measures in question were part of a general attempt to improve statistics throughout the world, while Mr. RICE (United States of America) remarked that it would be advisable to draw the Council's attention to the results of the Commission's work.

The Commission decided to present the draft resolution in the form in which it had appeared in the Secretariat document E/CH.3/89, that is to say as a draft resolution of the Economic and Social Council.

/The Commission
The Commission also decided that any reference to Member States should be deleted on the Commission's recommendations, so that they would apply to all Governments, whether Members of the United Nations or not.

Chapter IV: Progress Reports:

Application of the international standard industrial classification

Paragraphs 74, 75 and 76

Paragraphs 74 to 76 were adopted.

International trade statistics

Paragraphs 77, 78 and 79

Paragraphs 77 to 79 were adopted.

Registration methods and compilation of vital statistics

Paragraph 80

Paragraph 80 was adopted.

Paragraph 81

44. Mr. RICE (United States of America) thought the last sentence of paragraph 81 should be redrafted. As it stood it appeared to indicate that the national committees could be of interest only to the Western hemisphere.

45. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) (Rapporteur) pointed out that the question was really within the competence of the World Health Organization; there was no reference, however, to that organization. That seemed to give the impression that the Commission had not wished to take that fact into account.

/46. Mr. MAHALANOBIS
46. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) proposed the following formula: "In this connexion the Commission took note of the formation and establishment of the national committees...".

47. That would mean that no reference would be made to the Western hemisphere.

Paragraph 81, with the above amendment, was adopted.

Paragaphs 82, 83 and 84

Paragraphs 82 to 84 were adopted.

Population statistics

Paragraphs 85, 86 and 87

Paragraphs 85 to 87 were adopted.

Paragraph 88

48. Mr. WOODBURY (International Labour Organisation) pointed out that his organization had included questions on occupational diseases in the questionnaire which it transmitted to Governments.

49. He proposed that the word "Demographic" in the seventh line should be deleted, together with the phrase "to secure information for inclusion in the next volume" in lines 7 and 8. The word "questionnaire" in the seventh line should be in the plural.

Paragraph 88, thus amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 89 and 90

Paragraphs 89 and 90 were adopted.

Social statistics

50. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that any decision taken on that part of the report would be subject to revision after discussion of the financial implications.

/Paragraphs 91 to 98
Paragraphs 91 to 93 were adopted.

51. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Secretariat felt that the decision regarding the studies on family living standards should be inserted between paragraphs 98 and 99.

52. Mr. BRUCE (Secretariat) read the following text which the Secretariat proposed should be included in the draft report:

"The Commission was informed of the interest of the Social Commission in the methods of family living in the under-developed countries and the action taken by the Social Commission in this connexion (E/CN.5/W.113 page 69, paragraphs 34 and 35). After consideration of the inter-related interests of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in this field, the Commission adopted the following resolution:"

53. The resolution adopted by the Commission would then follow. The text proposed by the Secretariat was adopted.

Migration statistics

Paragraphs 99 and 100 were adopted.

Public finance statistics

Paragraphs 101 and 102 were adopted.

Chapter V: Education and Training

Paragraph 103

54. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Mr. Lew of UNESCO had drawn attention to the amendment to paragraph 13 of the report; paragraph 103 would have to be amended in the same way.
55. Mr. RICE (United States of America) suggested that the Commission should state that "The Commission noted the arrangements made by the International Statistical Institute under the sponsorship of UNESCO..."

56. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) thought that the explanation given in paragraph 103 was not sufficiently detailed. He suggested that the Secretariat should expand the statement by describing the various types of activities under consideration.

It was so decided.

57. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the end of the last sentence beginning with the word "world" should be deleted.

It was so decided.
Paragraph 103, as amended, was adopted.

Development of national statistics and provision of technical assistance in statistics

Paragraphs 104 to 103 were adopted.

Paragraph 109

58. Mr. RICE (United States of America) did not approve of the expression "technical assistance services" in the second line of the first sub-paragraph of paragraph 109.

The Commission decided to replace those words by the following phrase:

"reaffirms its conclusions and recommendations concerning the value and importance of providing technical assistance to statistically under-developed countries".

Paragraph 110

The Commission decided to indicate that the second type of activity referred to was described in paragraph 105.
Paragraph III.

It was decided to delete the first line of paragraph III.

Paragraph III, thus amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING
Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Wednesday, 17 May 1950, at 2.30 p.m.


Chairman: Mr. IDENBURG Netherlands
Rapporteur: Mr. CAFTIN United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Members: Mr. ARIAS Argentina
Mr. LIU China
Mr. DARMOIS France
Mr. M.HALANODIS India
Mr. BILKUR Turkey
Mr. RICE United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:
Mr. WOODBURY International Labour Organization (ILO)
Mr. LIU United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. KORVAKAS International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Representative of a non-governmental organization:

Mr. RIDGEWAY International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Secretariat:

Mr. LEONARD Director, Statistical Office

Mr. BRUCE Secretary of the Commission


Chapter VI: Co-ordination of statistics

Chapter VI was adopted, subject to minor drafting amendments.

Chapter VII: Other business

Censuses of distribution

2. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) drew attention to the phrase "composite report" in paragraph 19. He noted that the phrase had been used in the paper submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce, but felt that the phrase "consolidated report" would be more appropriate.

3. Mr. RIDGEWAY (International Chamber of Commerce) could see no objection to the use of the phrase suggested by Mr. Mahalanobis.

4. In reply to a question by Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), Rapporteur, said that paragraph 121 would be amended to take the form of a recommendation to the Secretary-General.

The section was adopted, subject to minor drafting amendments.

Accuracy of statistics

The section was adopted without discussion.

Size of Membership of the Statistical Commission

5. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India), while in general agreement with the wording of paragraphs 125 and 126, pointed out that it failed to express the Commission's view that the principle of geographical distribution should not be followed at the expense of the expert qualifications of the Commission's members.

/6. Mr. CAMPION
6. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), Rapporteur, proposed that the following sentence should be inserted after the words "would justify an increase in the size of the Commission" in paragraph 126: "provided that the high technical qualifications now expected of its members should be ensured".

7. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) considered that a reference should be made in paragraph 125 to the view which the Commission had taken since its establishment that it was primarily a technical body.

8. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), Rapporteur, proposed that a sentence on the following lines should be added to paragraph 125: "It was also observed that in its reports, the Commission has consistently drawn attention to the need for a high standard of qualifications for its members".

9. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the wording suggested by Mr. Campion should be adopted.

   It was so decided.

   The section was adopted as amended.

Time and place of the next session.

10. Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) suggested that, as April would be an inconvenient month for a number of members, the reference to it should be deleted from paragraph 130.

   It was so decided.

   The section was adopted as amended.

11. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the revised text of the section of chapter V on Education and Training (Conference Room Paper No.3)

   The revised text was adopted, subject to minor drafting amendments.

12. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the draft report as a whole, as amended, should be adopted after consideration of the report on the priorities within the Commission's programme and the memorandum on financial implications.

/Consideration
Consideration of priorities within the Commission's work programme (E/CN.3/12).

13. The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Leonard to introduce the Secretariat paper on priorities within the Commission's work programme.

14. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) said that the Secretariat paper listed the projects on which work was in progress or was envisaged on the basis of the views expressed in the Commission's reports. Work on a number of items was almost completed and the paper indicated the present view as to which items should be accorded first and second priorities. The paper also included a number of items on which the work involved was of a continuing nature and entailed little additional expenditure. So far as possible, the paper also covered the action taken by the Commission at its current session.

15. He drew attention to the fact that the question of migration statistics had been included in the third group of projects in which the Statistical Commission had a general interest, not because the Statistical Office regarded the question as unimportant but because the greater part of the work involved was carried out by the Population Division and by the International Labour Organization. From a priority standpoint, the item might well be included among the first priority group.

16. Mr. RICE (United States of America), supported by Mr. MAHALAHOBIS (India), proposed that the item in paragraph 8 (d) should be moved into the first priority group in paragraph 7. It was indeed important that a start should be made in the preparation of a coding manual to enable countries to adapt their national statistics to the standard international trade classification. Until such a manual had been prepared, the classification by itself would not be of very great value. Naturally the manual could not be completed within a year, but the initial work on it at least should be regarded as falling within the first priority group.

17. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that the Statistical Office would be able to do the work set forth in paragraph 32 of the report (E/CN.3/L.5) during the year 1950. It would, therefore, be possible to move Item 8 (d) into the first priority group on the understanding that only the initial part of the work could be covered and that the progress could not be very rapid.

Item 8 (d) was moved into the first priority group on that understanding.
18. Mr. RICE (United States of America) said that item 8 (a) covering the preparation of a coding manual for use with the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities was also very important. Since, however, some work was to be done to facilitate the use of the classification under item 7 (j), he would not propose that item 8 (a) should be placed in the first priority group.

19. He asked exactly what was meant by item 7 (r): "Preparation of materials for the improvement of national statistics and the development of facilities for the training of statisticians to assist countries in improving their statistical surveys".

20. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) explained that the item involved the preparation of training manuals and study materials for training centres. The item fell, to some extent, within the normal work programme of the Statistical Office, but some new work which had not been undertaken in previous years was involved.


21. Mr. MAHALAGOBIS (India) said that, although social statistics were important, the subject was somewhat vague and the Commission should perhaps exercise caution when making recommendations involving additional expenditure. He recalled that there had been some suggestion during the Commission's discussions that the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling might need the help of additional experts. He hoped, therefore, that if additional expenditure was authorized for social statistics, that would not preclude the possibility of a further authorization at a later stage for the work of the Sub-Commission.

22. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that any further proposals on its membership by the Sub-Commission would have to be considered by the Commission at its next session and would not therefore have any effect on the budget before 1952.
23. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) stated that the Economic and Social Council and the Fifth Committee would have to judge the Commission's recommendations and their financial implications in relation to the overall picture. The Secretariat of the Statistical Office must be prepared to explain why the additional expense in question constituted a net addition to its budget. It might be asked to explain why a reshuffling of staff was not possible following the completion of other projects such as the population censuses and the standard trade classification.

24. Mr. LEONARD (Secretariat) pointed out that much of the work on the population censuses had been done with the assistance of other departments; moreover, the operation was a continuing one since, even after the censuses had been concluded, the results still remained to be tabulated and analysed. Furthermore, in connexion with the preparation of the Demographic Year Book, the Statistical Office did not expect to receive as much assistance from the Population Division as hitherto.

25. The work on the trade and industrial classifications had largely been done by outside experts or through the contribution of governments. Most of the people engaged on that work had not, therefore, formed part of the normal strength of the Statistical Office.

26. It was inevitable that as the substantive programme of the Departments of Social and Economic Affairs became more fully operative they would need more social statistics.

27. Mr. RICE (United States of America) recalled that the Commission's objective had always been the establishment within the United Nations of a single statistical office responsible for all the statistical work required by the various United Nations divisions and departments. He strongly urged that that centralization should be retained.

28. The Department of Social Affairs was developing an increasing interest in the statistical approach to its field of activity and, if decentralization were to be avoided, the Statistical Office should be in a position to provide it with the data it required.

29. He therefore proposed that the Commission should maintain its recommendations regarding social statistics notwithstanding the additional expense involved.

It was so agreed.
30. The CHAIRMAN explained that if the recommendation in paragraph 123 of the draft report, to the effect that the Commission should not send a representative to the meetings of the Population Commission, were adopted, there might be a saving of between $240 and $280 to offset the increased cost of three additional members for the Statistical Commission.

31. Mr. RICE (United States of America) pointed out that the Council would not act on the Commission's suggestion that it should not be represented on the Population Commission before the next session of the Population Commission. On the other hand, no provision had been made for such representation in 1950. Mr. Mahalanobis had generously offered to attend meetings of the Population Commission at no cost to the United Nations. Mr. Rice hoped that some way could be found to take advantage of that offer.

32. He proposed that the Commission should maintain its recommendations regarding increased membership notwithstanding the additional expense involved.

   It was so agreed.

33. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom) assumed that in noting the contents of document E/CN.3/L.6, members of the Commission were not committing their delegations on the Fifth Committee.

34. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that assumption.

35. Mr. CAMPION (United Kingdom), seconded by Mr. DARMUIS (France), moved the adoption of the draft report (E/CN.3/L.5).

   The draft report was unanimously adopted.

36. The CHAIRMAN regretted that the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Czechoslovakia had been absent from all but the first meeting of the Fifth Session of the Commission but stressed that that did not invalidate the conclusions reached by the Commission. Nevertheless, the Commission had missed the co-operation of members from an important part of the world and he hoped that the representatives in question would be present at the next session.

/37. The Commission
37. The Commission had made great progress though it was clear from the list of priorities within the work programme that much still remained to be accomplished.

38. He thanked the Rapporteur for his constant assistance and the representative specialized agencies and other international bodies concerned for their collaboration.

39. The Statistical Office was to be congratulated on the excellent preparation of the documents and on the work it had accomplished during the past year. He hoped it would have adequate staff to carry out all the office and field work which awaited it in the future.

40. Mr. RICE (United States of America) endorsed the Chairman's remarks and thanked him for the conscientious and efficient way in which he had fulfilled his functions.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

29/5 p.m.