ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
POPULATION COMMISSION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS

Report by the Secretary-General

I. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

1. Observations received before 1 May 1950 from fifty-eight countries and two
international organizations were analyzed in documents E/CN.9/47 - E/CN.3/90 and
E/CN.9/47/Add.1 - E/CN.3/90/Add.1. Between 1 May 1950 and 15 March 1951,
thirteen additional replies have been received from governments, some of them in
answer to the reminder addressed to them by the Secretariat in compliance with
the request made by the Population Commission and the Statistical Commission at
their respective fifth sessions.1 These additional replies are summarized in
the present report; it also analyzes the suggestions received from the United
Nations Educational and Scientific Organization and the resolution on migration
statistics adopted at the second Inter-American Statistical Congress at Bogotá in
January 19502 and refers to the memorandum3 on travel statistics, issued to the
Executive Secretary of the Regional Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
in accordance with that Commission's resolution on travel (E/CN.11/218).

1/ See documents E/1711, paragraph 34(a) and E/1696/Rev.1, paragraph 105.
2/ See appendix.
3/ International Travel Statistics, Trade Promotion Series, No. 32, United
Nations, Bangkok, 1 May 1950.
II. CLASSIFICATION OF REPLIES

2. Of the thirteen replies received from governments, six are in the nature of acknowledgments (Bolivia, China, Columbia, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua). Two replies express agreement without reservation with the draft recommendations (Cuba, Egypt). One reply contains rather minor reservations, and indicates that they could probably be reconsidered in the interest of international comparability (Union of South Africa). One expresses agreement with the desirability of collecting migration statistics in accordance with the draft recommendations but makes serious reservations regarding their application (Pakistan). One contains no observation on the draft recommendations but gives very valuable additional information on the methods of collection used in the country concerned and on the improvements which will take place in 1951 (Netherlands, supplement to previous communication). One gives information only on the regulations governing aliens registration (Iraq). One indicates that the government has no comment to make (Lebanon). The reply from U.S.S.R. concerns a point of classification. The resolution of the second Inter-American Statistical Congress recommends that the American nations should develop their migration statistics, taking into account the international standards. The memorandum on travel in Asia and the Far East (principally devoted to the importance of tourists' expenditures in the balance of payments of the countries concerned) mentions the inadequacy of travel statistics in the region and supports the recommendations made on this subject by the International Union of Official Travel Organizations. 1/

III. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF REPLIES

A. General comments

3. The reply from Pakistan refers to the desirability of not inconveniencing foreign travellers by formalities. The Government of the Union of South Africa states that it is "very anxious to reduce the time taken for travellers to pass through the customs and immigration requirements when entering and leaving the Union, and efforts are therefore being made to simplify the forms being filled in,

1/ As reported in document E/CN.9/47/Add.1 - E/CN.3/50/Add.1, paragraph 2, the International Union of Official Travel Organizations informed the Secretariat that its recommendations were in general agreement with the draft recommendations of the Population Commission.

/provided
provided no information essential for immigration or statistical requirements is lost.

4. The supplementary information note from the Netherlands\(^1\) states that the data obtained from the population registers have the advantage of being consistent with figures of the \textit{de jure} population, but that they give no information on total arrivals and departures or on frontier traffic. The note accompanies a new and detailed publication of migration statistics for the Netherlands and indicates that further progress in the methods of collection is expected in 1951.

5. The reply from Cuba indicates that the migration statistics of that country conform in general with the recommendations of the International Conference on Migration Statistics of 1932 and with the 1922 resolutions and recommendations of the International Labour Conference; it adds that their statistical office is already making use of the draft recommendations in their efforts to improve migration statistics progressively.

6. The reply from Egypt indicates that migration data will become available in 1951.

B. Collection of statistics on major categories of arrivals and departures at the occasion of frontier control

7. In the Union of South Africa, statistics on all arrivals and departures are collected at the border, by means of forms completed by the travellers. The form used to record arrivals serves simultaneously as an administrative form of the Immigration Department and for statistical purposes. The form completed by persons leaving the country is used for statistical purposes only and the declarations made in it are treated as confidential.

8. The reply of Pakistan considers that the collection of migration statistics at the occasion of frontier control is likely to cause inconvenience to "foreigners at the time of embarkation and disembarkation". The difficulties would be very great because of the heavy movements of persons across the extended land frontiers of Pakistan with neighbouring countries. It would be next to impossible to take into account persons using irregular routes; among these are many refugees from neighbouring countries.

C. Tabulation by calendar year

9. The reply of the Union of South Africa mentions that the statistics of that

country are at present tabulated by calendar year, although a certain amount of information is also published monthly.

D. Classifications of major categories of arrivals and departures

10. In the statistics of the Union of South Africa three groups of travellers are distinguished, on the basis of their declarations: (1) foreign visitors arriving (or departing) with sub-divisions according to the purpose of the visit (business, holiday, education, transit); (2) residents departing temporarily (or returning after a temporary absence); (3) immigrants (or emigrants). No attempt is made to separate temporary immigrants; the establishment of this category would "depend largely on the policy of the Immigration Department". The Union of South Africa has at present no special classification for refugees but a category of "refugees and persons entering for exigencies of war" existed during the Second World War, and this "could be brought into use again at a moment's notice, if required". Similarly, no provision has been made for "transferred populations", but the numbers of persons involved could be recorded separately if transfers took place.

11. The reply of UNESCO concerns the sub-divisions of arrivals and departures in category I (visitors), sub-category III (educational purposes). It is suggested that this sub-category be further sub-divided, as follows:

(a) Teachers holding an appointment from educational institutions;
(b) Students attending educational institutions;
(c) Other types of educational visitors.

It is explained that "a simple classification of 'educational' visitors would have no particular significance, and could serve no useful purpose of information to UNESCO in connexion with its programme".

E. Definition of major categories of arrivals and departures

12. No statistics of emigrants were collected by Cuba, because their number was negligible; since the end of the Second World War, the situation has been modified and the reorganization of the migration statistics of that country, at present in progress, will provide the means for measuring emigration as well as immigration.

13. In the Union of South Africa, two groups of international travellers are not included in statistics of arrivals and departures, namely the natives (Bantu) and the persons travelling to and from the adjoining territories of South West Africa and the protectorates of Basutoland, Swaziland and Bechuanaland. The
latter group of persons falls mainly within the definition of frontier traffic, on
which no statistics are available and for which no estimates can at present be
made. Residents departing temporarily are not asked what the duration of their
temporary stay abroad is intended to be; but residents returning after a
temporary absence are asked to state the duration of their absence abroad. No
time limit is used to define the word temporary. Consideration is however being
given to the Commission's proposed recommendation that absences of less than one
year should be considered temporary. As mentioned in paragraph 13 above, the
policy is not to make distinctions between permanent and temporary immigrants; it
is further stated that for statistical purposes, "it is considered that the
recommendation that the period of twelve months should be the limit for temporary
movement is probably as satisfactory as any other, bearing in mind that in many
cases persons do not state the period of intended residence, and in many other
cases persons change their mind after arriving in the country".

F. Estimates of the volume of frontier movements of workers
14. As already mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the reply from the Union
of South Africa states that it is not considered possible at present to make
estimates of frontier traffic.

G. Collection and tabulation of detailed statistics
15. The reply of the Union of South Africa points out that it collects more
detailed migration statistics than could be obtained through the statistical
slip proposed in the draft recommendations, but that there are some small
differences between the data it is recommended to collect and the information now
collected. Thus, while children under 16 years of age are entered on the same
forms as their parents, dependents 16 years of age and older are not classified
as members of the family. Further, only the country of birth is recorded and
not the locality. Thirdly, it is the age at next birthday, rather than at last
birthday, which is tabulated; however from 1948 onwards, data could be provided
by age at last birthday.

Appendix
Appendix

Resolution No. 15 of the Second Inter-American Statistical Congress (Bogotá, January 1950)

"The second Inter-American Statistical Congress ...

"CONSIDERING

"a. That the results of the 1950 census will provide the most useful bases for the improvement and development of current statistics,

"b. That statistical investigations have not reached the same level or degree of development in the various countries of America, a fact which precludes specific recommendations on the different topics of investigation,

"RECOMMENDS TO THE AMERICAN NATIONS:

Migration Statistics

"12. That all possible steps be taken to develop adequate statistics on migration, taking into account the international standards being developed by the United Nations. It is important that these statistics should provide an adequate basis for measuring the influence of migration upon the size and demographic structure of the population, and for the analysis of the economic and social characteristics of migrants. International comparability of statistics in this field is also of the greatest importance."