INTERNATIONAL TOURIST STATISTICS

(Memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General)

1. At its nineteenth session the Economic and Social Council took the following action on tourist statistics (E/2730, resolution 563 (XIX) paragraph 3):

"The Economic and Social Council

"Requests the Secretary-General to study the statistics available relating to tourist travel and to report to the Statistical Commission as early as possible with a view to the establishment of uniform definitions, standards and methods."

Two agencies are primarily responsible for the international collection of statistics on tourist travel: the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which collects data on foreign travel for inclusion in balance of payments statements and the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) which collects data on the movement of tourists and on tourist expenditure. (IUOTO has consultative status, category B, with the Economic and Social Council.) Each of these agencies has prepared a paper for the Commission which is being issued as an addendum to this paper, Addendum 1 being the paper submitted by IUOTO, Addendum 2 being that submitted by the IMF.

2. The coverage of the IMF figures on foreign travel expenditure is defined in paragraph 2 of Addendum 2 to this paper.

3. The definitions of "tourist" used by IUOTO are based on those suggested in 1936 by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations and approved by the Council of the League.\(^1\) They are given in paragraph 3 of Addendum 1 to

\(^1\) League of Nations, Official Journal February 1937, paras. 3848.9.5-6. The Experts' recommendations are reprinted in an annex to that issue of the Official Journal.
this paper and the amendments made in them by IUOTO are described in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the same addendum; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approves the inclusion, made in Addendum 1, paragraph 4, of students in tourist statistics.

4. The Commission at its seventh session recommended for the purpose of collecting migration statistics the analysis of persons crossing frontiers into the following categories (E/2365, Annex 4, para. 17):

(a) Permanent immigrants (or emigrants): non-residents (or residents), nationales and aliens, intending to remain in the country they are entering (or away from the country they are leaving) for a period exceeding a year.

(b) Temporary immigrants (or emigrants): non-residents (or residents) intending to exercise for a period of one year or less an occupation remunerated from within (or without) the country.

(c) Visitors: non-residents intending to remain for a period of one year or less without exercising an occupation remunerated from within the country they are visiting.

(d) Frontier traffic.

It appears that persons in transit are here included as "visitors".

5. Where customs laws allow special facilities for tourists, this class of travellers must be defined. The United Nations Conference on Customs Formalities for the Temporary Importation of Private Road Motor Vehicles and for Tourism (May 1954, Final act printed in New York in 1955 in Article 1 (b)) defines "tourist" as:

any person .... who enters the territory of a contracting state other than that in which that person normally resides and remains there for not less than twenty-four hours and not more than six months in the course of any twelve-month period for legitimate non-immigrant purposes, such as touring, recreation, sports, health, family reasons, study, religious pilgrimages or business.

The IUOTO has informed the Secretary-General that it considers that this definition, drawn up primarily for customs purposes, is not a sound economic definition.
6. It will be noted that the definitions given above are largely compatible except that the definition of "tourist" for customs purposes excludes non-resident visitors who stay for more than six months in a foreign country whereas the other definitions include them. There are the following marginal differences among the definitions used, respectively, in migration statistics, in balance of payments statistics and in statistics of the international movement of tourists:

(a) The definitions for migration statistics and the definitions on movement preferred by IUOTO make use of a maximum period of stay in distinguishing between temporary and more permanent sojourns in a foreign country; the IMF relies on the determination of "center of interest" for balance of payments purposes.

(b) The definitions of migration statistics appear to include as "visitors" foreigners in transit through a country while the IUOTO excludes them from "tourists".

(c) The IUOTO definitions exclude from "tourists" persons visiting a country for less than 24 hours (except that visitors from cruise ships are to be recorded separately). The definitions of migration statistics include these persons in "visitors".

(d) The IMF in Table IV of the Balance of Payments Manual (which is reproduced in Addendum 2) distinguishes tourists, (non-resident) business travellers and students as separate categories, whereas the IUOTO considers government officials, students and business travellers other than those taking up an occupation or engaging in business activity in the country, all to be included in the category "tourist".

7. Section III of the paper prepared by IUOTO for the Commission briefly summarizes existing methods used by Governments for collecting tourist statistics and the difficulties which have been encountered. Annex 1 to this paper reproduces tables, taken from the 1955 Statistical Yearbook, on the movement of international tourists. Notes to the table indicate differences among national methods of collecting the figures. Governments have, in replies to questions on the subject asked by the Statistical Office, pointed out the desirability of the reduction of the formalities to which tourists are subjected and how
changes in this direction will have an adverse effect on the statistics. The
tendency in relaxing frontier formalities is first to do away with them between
neighbouring countries. For instance Denmark, Norway and Sweden are considering
a marked reduction of the restrictions to travel among them. Control of movement
from and to the outside will, however, be maintained for the present which might
make possible the collection at frontiers of statistics for the three countries
as a unit.
8. Though several countries rely on information on tourists supplied by
hotels, it is possible that full use is not always being made of data that could
be collected from establishments which cater to tourists and which, therefore,
have a particular interest in the collection of good tourist statistics.
9. In connexion with part (7) of paragraph 20 of E/CN.3/22/Add.1, the IUOTO
wishes it to be emphasized that where information on tourist activity is obtained
by questioning a sample of tourists, it recommends sampling by direct personal
interview to obtain data on tourist expenditure and considers postal surveys by
questionnaires as very much a second best method.
10. The League of Nations Experts considered that, in making tourist statistics,
the country of provenance of a tourist should be his country of usual residence.
Where statistics are based on hotel records it is easier to follow this principle
than when statistics are based on frontier control; in the latter case the
nationality, as shown by the passport of the tourist, is likely to be recorded.
The IMF also prefers that where possible analysis by country of foreign travel
expenditure be the country of residence of the traveller.
11. The Commission may feel that the usefulness of statistics relating to
international tourist travel would be increased by the removal of the minor
differences between the concepts underlying migration statistics, statistics of
foreign travel expenditure and statistics of numbers of foreign tourists.
Furthermore, the Commission may wish to note that these statistics are in
different countries estimated in different ways from a variety of sources.
Consequently, the Commission may wish to recommend that the Secretary-General
in consultation with the International Monetary Fund and the International Union
of Official Travel Organizations study ways of unifying the basic definitions
and ways, such as expanded use of reporting by hotels and other establishments catering to tourists, of improving, without the increase of frontier formalities, national methods of compiling international tourist statistics.
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**Source:** British Travel Association (London) on behalf of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations.

**Note:** Figures in this table are based on official statistics and are compiled from the data of the various countries. Figures have been calculated for the period of 1953 to 1957, inclusive. Figures for other years are not available.
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For general note, see paga 344.
1 Including Central America.
2 Including Pakistan and Ceylon.
3 Figures based on hotel records. See general note 1953.
4 Figures based on arrivals at hotels, boarding houses, youth hostels and approved camps.
5 Figures include private yachts, boats, pleasure craft, yachts, etc., and include the yachts of foreign visitors. See general note 1953.
6 Figures include cruise passengers. See general note 1953.
7 Figures based on arrivals at hotels, boarding houses, youth hostels and approved camps. See general note 1953.
8 Figures include private yachts, boats, pleasure craft, yachts, etc., and include the yachts of foreign visitors. See general note 1953.
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**Note**: The data provided are estimates and may not reflect the exact number of visitors.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Ninth session
Item 17 (a) of the provisional agenda

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST STATISTICS

(Memorandum prepared by the International Union of Official Travel Organizations)

1. The International Union of Official Travel Organizations set up shortly after the war a Study Group to advise on the collection of international travel statistics and to compile a digest of such statistics annually. Annual Reports have been published on behalf of the Union covering each of the years 1947 to 1953 inclusive.

2. The growing importance of international travel as an economic and social factor has made it essential for Governments and the tourist industry to collect reasonably reliable statistics demonstrating the trends of traffic and the influence of tourism on national economies and international trade. But at the same time, the International Union acts as the champion of individual tourists and has strongly opposed the addition of forms or formalities which might limit travel purely for the purpose of collecting statistics. Travel statistics continue therefore in the main to be recorded as a by-product of Immigration Controls, Police registration, or other Government activities connected with the movement of people. The improvements in methods of recording travel might best be brought about by streamlining or adapting present port formalities to provide more information and yet at the same time reduce delays encountered by tourists at ports.
I. Definitions

3. The International Union of Official Travel Organizations have adopted in the main the definitions suggested by the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts with certain changes. The definitions used are noted below.

Accepted Definitions

TOURIST: In an Appendix to the Report of the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations, which was submitted to the Council on 22 January 1937, the Committee recommended the following definitions of a tourist:

"To secure the compatibility of international tourist statistics, the term 'tourist' shall, in principle, be interpreted to mean any person travelling for a period of twenty-four hours or more in a country other than that in which he usually resides. The Committee decided that the following were to be regarded as tourists:

"(1) Persons travelling for pleasure, for domestic reasons, for health, etc.

"(2) Persons travelling to meetings, or in a representative capacity of any kind (scientific, administrative, diplomatic, religious, athletic, etc.)

"(3) Persons travelling for business purposes.

"(4) Persons arriving in the course of a sea cruise, even when they stay less than twenty-four hours. The latter should be reckoned as a separate group, disregardg if necessary their usual place of residence.

"The following were not to be regarded as tourists:

"(1) Persons arriving, with or without a contract, to take up an occupation or engage in any business activity in the country.

"(2) Other persons coming to establish a residence in the country.

"(3) Students and young persons in boarding establishments of schools.

"(4) Residents in a frontier zone and persons domiciled in one country and working in an adjoining country.

"(5) Travellers passing through a country without stopping, even if the journey takes more than twenty-four hours."

4. At the Dublin Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations in 1950 it was agreed that students and young persons staying abroad should be included in the "tourist" definition. Otherwise the League of Nations definition is used as the basis of the Study Group's work.
5. For other definitions used, see "International Travel Statistics 1950" or the preceding reports, published by the I.U.O.T.O. Readers should also refer to preceding reports for notes on methods of estimating tourist expenditure, and the information requested from national tourist offices which is used as the basis of the reports.

6. It is suggested that definitions used should be amended to exclude all visitors staying for less than twenty-four hours or more than a year and include all visitors staying for more than twenty-four hours or less than a year. The term "excursionists" might best be used to describe such traffic, where a pleasure visit of less than twenty-four hours is involved.

7. Visitors travelling on holiday or for pleasure coming to a country on a day trip should be recorded separately as in, for example, (4) of the League of Nations definitions. It is also recommended that visitors staying for more than twelve months should be excluded from the tourist category.

8. Classification of travellers, particularly under the frontier check system, may be based on statements as to intended length of stay. Such information on length of stay, while suitable for purposes of classification, would not necessarily be suitable for recording actual length of stay.

9. It must be explained again that it is difficult to apply the definitions exactly in most countries, but for purposes of comparison it is essential that countries which are unable to subscribe to these definitions should state exactly in their public records the variations or alternatives used throughout in producing their estimates.

II. Information Required

10. To provide a complete statistical account of international passenger movement in the tourist trade the following categories should be covered in the ideal statistical system:

(a) The number of travellers arriving in the reporting country classified as follows:

   (i) Tourists
   (ii) Returning Residents
   (iii) Persons in transit
   (iv) Persons coming to work
   (v) Migrants
   (vi) Other

NOTE: Under the hotel record system figures should be supplied for the same categories showing the number of tourist arrivals at hotels.
A sound method of complete measurement or full count of travellers is very desirable. Once this has been done sample methods can be used to provide information on almost every aspect of the tourists' or travellers' behaviour. It may be possible to use sampling methods to provide the major classification into tourist, migrant, returning visitor, etc. if figures showing total volume of international travel are available, e.g. if passenger manifests or records of the number of passengers landed by plane or ship on certain routes are known. 

(b) Country of residence and nationality of visitor.

(c) Length of stay - days or hotel nights.

(d) Purpose of visit for visitors in the tourist category, e.g. on holiday, business, education, health, etc.

(e) Estimates of visitors' expenditure in the country, broken down under separate headings to show amounts spent on accommodation, inland transport, shopping, entertainment, etc. Where possible, figures should be given showing the country's Balance of International Payments on travel account to include both tourist revenue and expenditure by the country's travelling abroad. Details on the method of reporting this information have been published by the International Monetary Fund.

(f) Figures showing arrivals of visitors or records of nights spent by month to indicate seasonal variations.

(g) Figures showing method and class of transport used by visitors arriving in the country. Where possible information on port of arrival and departure should be covered (statistics of international passenger travel by route can be of considerable assistance to the transport industry). International travel statistics should be published covering the calendar year, i.e. covering the period 1 January to 31 December.

(h) Figures of tourist expenditure for International Balance of Payments records normally cover expenditure inside the country but do not include international fare payments received by the country's carriers. These figures should be calculated separately where possible as they form an important part of tourist revenue. Such figures, however, should be recorded separately from the total of tourist expenditure inside the country.
III. Existing Travel Statistics and Methods

11. Travel and passenger movement statistics are collected in most countries either as a result of the controls at international frontier crossing points or by means of hotel registration. There are other methods such as analysis of passenger manifests, passport and visa records, which are also used. The League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts which studied the question of Travel Statistics in 1936 commented that from the purely theoretical standpoint the records of frontier crossing furnished the most complete data concerning the volume of tourists and length of stay. In the United Kingdom, for example, all visitors of foreign nationality\(^1\) entering the country are recorded under the frontier check, and similar records of departure make it possible to provide figures of length of stay.

12. In the case of the hotel record system, many groups of tourists may not be included, e.g. campers, persons staying in private houses or hostels. While the total number of tourist nights spent in hotels are accurately recorded, the number of visitors to the country using the system might not be known since only hotels or hotel nights might be measured. A visitor making a tour and staying in seven hotels would be recorded seven times. The I.U.O.T.O. has always agreed, however, that the tourist night (suitee) is the most suitable unit of measurement from the point of view of the economics of the tourist industry.

13. Since in most cases existing methods of recording obtain tourist statistics as a by-product of police or registration controls, ideal figures are rarely obtainable. It is impossible to advocate the introduction of a standard system in all countries. Geography, the different types of traffic, the characteristics of land frontiers, vary considerably from one country to another. Frontier control in a country with considerable land frontiers over which there may be heavy transit traffic, may not be in a position to carry out a frontier check.

\(^1\) Residents of British Commonwealth countries are not counted as foreign nationals.
On the other hand, a country with a very extensive national as well as international holiday movement in large numbers of hotels might find it difficult and costly to introduce the hotel record system.

14. The greatest need at the present time is to ensure that countries use one or other of the two recognized systems and that every attempt is made to check the figures, to correct the actual measurement by estimates where this may be necessary, and to render the results comparable with those of other countries.

15. In the case of the frontier check system, however, calculations of length of stay would enable those countries to provide statistics in the form of nights spent (nuites). Countries operating the hotel record system by making sample inquiries on the volume of traffic and estimates of the numbers of people not covered by the hotel record system, could provide more complete figures of nights spent and estimates of the total volume of traffic.

16. The above comments refer to measurement of volume. There is the equally important aspect of tourist statistics, the measurement of the value, or in other words, tourist expenditure. The League of Nations Committee's recommendations on this subject have been confirmed and adopted by the I.U.O.T.O. Study Group. It is considered preferable that estimates of expenditure should be based on direct inquiries amongst the tourists themselves, preferably by means of sample surveys, to discover average expenditure per head and per stay. Average figures are then applied to the whole traffic. This method is becoming increasingly used.

17. In an ideal system, it is first necessary to subdivide the traffic into economic behaviour groups, since most countries' tourist trade is not homogeneous. For example, to obtain reliable tourist figures, estimates of expenditure are needed for 40 to 50 different types of tourists depending on country of residence; purpose of visit, e.g. holiday or business; occupational background, e.g. student; young person or middle aged; professional people, etc.

18. Valuable information can also be obtained indirectly through the travel trade, e.g. by making inquiries from travel agents, banks, Government offices, information bureaux, etc.

19. In many countries information on tourist expenditure is obtained through the official banking or monetary authorities, particularly where exchange
control and foreign currency regulations are in force. Such figures are usually based on the amount of foreign currency and travellers' cheques exchanged or foreign bank notes entering the banks. This system is liable to give very inaccurate results since the value of the estimates provided in this way depends to a great extent on the efficiency of the exchange control machinery. There are inevitably personal transactions of one kind or another which might not be recorded under bank controls. Visitors may enjoy free hospitality in return for reciprocal facilities granted to their hosts in their own country at a later date. All travellers carry some bank notes with them into and out of the countries in which they travel. Exchange control estimates more accurately reflect the foreign currency entering the country's national banking system as a result of the tourist movement, but do not reflect the economic value of the tourist trade to the country concerned. In the case of exchange difficulties a very large part of tourists' foreign currency spending may find its way into the hands of the black market.

IV. **Suggested Recommendations for the Future**

20. The international travel movement is enjoying an unprecedented boom. For a long time to come international travel is likely to play an even larger part in world trade. It is estimated that at the present time that there are over 50 million tourists travelling in foreign countries each year, and their total expenditure exceeds $5,000,000,000. The movement of persons between countries has been growing at an astonishingly high rate. It is estimated that there are 30,000,000 tourists travelling in European countries each year, even if only making visits to neighbouring countries, and that this volume of travel is increasing at the rate of 10 per cent per annum.

21. It is evident, therefore, that with the tourist trade playing such an important part in international trade and accounting for perhaps 5 per cent of the total labour force of developed countries, improved statistics to assist in measuring trends, economic developments, etc., are necessary for the guidance of Governments and the industry itself.
(1) All countries measuring their tourist traffic should attempt to collect the information suggested in section II of this paper.
(2) Any system used to record tourist traffic accurately should be applied to the international passenger movement as a whole. It must be emphasized, however, that tourists, although the most important, are not the only category of international traveller - there are migrants, seasonal workers and other important groups. (See note on Migration Statistics.)

It is to be recommended, therefore, that every effort should be made to standardize forms or papers used at the present time in connexion with port or frontier formalities to cover all types of travel.
(3) The frontier check method or where this system is impracticable the hotel record method should be adopted for universal use.2/
(4) It will be noted that the basic information required for tourist purposes would clearly categorize all types of traveller. A small "Lending Card" could cover most of these points. Country of past and future permanent residence and purpose of travel are the key questions, since they will distinguish tourists, persons in transit and migrants. The hotel record system is not capable of adoption to measure the migrant movement to any extent and for this reason countries adopting de-novo any system of classification would be wise to choose the frontier control system.
(5) It is recommended that so far as possible the League of Nations definitions should be adhered to, with the amendments suggested in this paper. Countries reporting tourist statistics should give full details of the definitions used.
(6) It is strongly recommended that greater efforts should be made to render official tourist records comparable on an international basis. For this purpose, statistics collected under the frontier check system should be accompanied by length of stay figures to provide estimates (nuitées) and arrivals at hotels should be complemented by additional estimates to provide figures of total volume of traffic and nights spent in the country concerned together with estimates of length of stay.

2/ Some countries find it practicable to operate both systems simultaneously.
(7) So far as expenditure is concerned, it is recommended that countries should pool their resources to a greater extent in the operation of international sample checks. The direct inquiry method of seeking information on expenditure from the tourists themselves by sample surveys is the only sound method which can be recommended for universal application.

(8) Few countries at the present time collect much information about outward travel by their residents, although for most this would not be a difficult task. If Governments continue to impose exchange controls it would seem essential that more knowledge about outward travel should be collected.

On the other hand, outward travel by residents of a country can be recorded in the form of inward tourist travel by the receiving countries providing the systems, methods and definitions used are comparable.

(9) An international sample survey perhaps carried out by geographic regions, at ports of departure or in the main tourist resorts, e.g. in hotels, etc., could easily and cheaply provide information on expenditure, length of stay, country of origin, etc., of visitors. For purposes of comparison it would be preferable for such surveys to be carried out under the aegis of the international body covering a regional group of countries, or a national body in a country whose territory covers a large area of tourist interest.

10. Additional statistics on travel by international routes are recommended showing total movement on the main routes broken down by country of residence and purpose of travel of passengers, and traffic by month.

11. In most countries, international tourism, representing the export side of the travel industry, accounts for only a small proportion of the activities of the national travel trade. Information on the volume and value of the travel
and holidays business inside a country can be obtained by sample survey methods. Such surveys would provide a sound basis for action by Governments and the industry in developing their business both as regards traffic from abroad and domestic travel, and should be encouraged.

J. G. BRIDGES,
Chairman
Study Group Commission,

LONDON: January 1956.

Note: Migration Statistics

"International Migration Statistics" Statistical Papers Series M, No. 20, published by the United Nations in 1953, recommends statistical methods, and in particular the use of sampling, for the collection of information on migration. To a large extent the recommendations apply in equal force to the tourist field. The two subjects should be considered together.
TOURIST STATISTICS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

(Memorandum prepared by Balance of Payments Division of
the International Monetary Fund)

1. International tourist expenditures are entered in the category, foreign
travel, in the uniform schedule used by the International Monetary Fund in
collecting balance of payments data from its members and certain non-member
countries. The Statistical Commission may wish to have information on the
definition of this category and on the statistics reported for it, when
considering whether it should recommend the establishment of uniform definitions,
standards, and methods for tourist statistics.

2. The figures in which the Fund is interested concern residents of the reporting
country travelling in other countries and non-residents of the reporting country
travelling in the reporting country. The coverage of the figures is therefore
determined in principle by the definition of "resident". That given in paragraph 3
of the 1950 edition of the Fund's Balance of Payments Manual is:

Resident individuals include citizens of the reporting country living
there permanently. Diplomatic representatives and members of armed forces
stationed abroad and citizens studying or undergoing medical treatment
abroad are considered residents of their own country rather than of the
country where they are staying. The extent to which other citizens living
abroad are treated as residents (travelers) or foreigners 1/ (emigrants)
depends on a number of factors, such as the permanence of their stay abroad
and the extent to which they concentrate abroad their earning activities.

1/ Paragraph 1 of the Manual states that the word "foreigner" is to be understood
to mean "non-resident".

56-05659
and their investments, i.e., the extent to which they shift their general "center of interest". The same principle of "center of interest" determines whether a citizen of a foreign country staying in the reporting country should be considered a resident of the latter. In these borderline cases, the exact content of the resident concept is left to the determination of the reporting countries.

3. Foreign travel, as defined in the Fund's Balance of Payments Manual, covers, on the credit side, expenditures of foreigners visiting a reporting country including their payments for transportation within the country, but excluding payments to the country for international transportation, i.e., transportation outside the national territory of the reporting country on its ships and aircraft. Conversely, on the debit side, the travel account covers all payments to foreigners by residents of the reporting country travelling outside the domestic territory, excluding expenditures for international transportation, but including expenditures for transportation within the country visited. In addition to tourist expenditures in the narrow sense, the account covers the expenditures of business travelers, students, and Government officials other than those stationed in a foreign country. A copy of the table and notes describing the travel account in the Manual is attached.

4. The foreign travel account in the Fund's Manual covers for the most part transactions that fall into a broader category which might be described as international consumption, i.e., the consumption of residents outside the reporting country and the consumption of foreigners in the reporting country.\(^1\) This broader category has some significance for co-ordinating national income and balance of payments statistics, as was brought out at the recent meeting at the United Nations of national income technicians from the United Nations and CEEC and balance of payments technicians from the Fund. Where national consumption (i.e., consumption of residents at home and abroad) is directly measured for purposes of the national accounts, the estimates are derived from statistics covering consumption on the reporting country's territory. Such statistics must be adjusted to include consumption of residents abroad and to exclude consumption of foreigners in the reporting country, in order to cover national consumption rather than consumption on the domestic territory.

\(^1\) Expenditures of travelling businessmen and government officials are not as a rule considered to be personal consumption expenditure, since the reimbursement of such expenditure is not regarded as income of the traveler.
5. All international consumption must be entered somewhere in the goods and services account of the balance of payments and the portion of it that is entered in the travel account is determined primarily by convention. Normally, the foreign travel account as defined in the Manual covers the bulk of international consumption, but not all of it. On the credit side, the international consumption expenditures of foreigners in a reporting country that are included in items other than foreign travel are primarily the following transactions:

(1) international passenger fares and shipboard expenses paid by foreigners to domestically operated carriers (entered in the transportation account),
(2) expenditures of foreign diplomatic and consular staffs and military personnel stationed in the reporting country (entered in the account entitled "Government, not included elsewhere"),
(3) expenditures of foreign ship and airline crews (entered in the transportation account), and
(4) expenditures of migrant workers, which are discussed below. On the debit side of the balance of payments the treatment of consumption expenditures abroad by residents of the reporting country is the same, mutatis mutandis, as that for expenditure of foreigners in the reporting country on the credit side.

6. In principle, the earnings of migrant workers should be entered on a gross basis (i.e., not net of expenditures by the workers in the country where they work) in the balance of payments based on the Fund's Manual and in the rest of the world account of national accounts based on the United Nations standardized system. Such earnings represent factor income accruing to residents of one country from production in another; therefore, they must be added to (or subtracted from) the domestic product of the country concerned in order to calculate its national income. In practice, however, the earnings of migrant workers have been reported in most cases net of local expenditures in the country in which the work takes place, and entered in the item "miscellaneous services" of the Balance of Payments Manual. However, the Manual recommends that such transactions be entered on a gross basis and suggests that the expenditures of the migrant workers be entered in the foreign travel account. The best manner of classifying the expenditures of migrant workers is still under consideration.
7. If the travel account were to be based on a theory of international consumption, there would be no logical reason or criterion for excluding any international personal expenditures from the account. On this theory, the length of stay abroad, the purpose of travel, and the question of whether or not the traveler is remunerated by foreigners, would be irrelevant for determining the transactions to be entered in the travel account. The length of stay would be, of course, one of the factors determining whether a person going abroad remains a resident or becomes an emigrant. (The Manual does not suggest a rigid rule for such determination but recommends that a person's classification as resident or foreigner should depend on his "center of interest"). Furthermore, the purpose of stay abroad would be a useful criterion for subdividing the travel account.

8. The provision of data for use in national accounts is not, however, the only use to which data on foreign travel are put. For example, they may be used in analysing balance of payments developments and for this purpose transactions which differ significantly in behaviour should be distinguished. Tourist expenditures would not be expected to move in the same way as troop expenditures. Again, it may be desirable to relate parts of international consumption to other items in the balance of payments. Thus, international passenger fares and crew expenditures are an important element in the transactions of a country's merchant fleet. Indeed, statistics on such "travel" expenditures are usually obtained from shipping or aviation companies and are frequently not available separately from other transactions of the companies. For these reasons the Fund would not wish to collect statistics that give only the total credits and debits on account of foreign travel, defined according to the international consumption theory. Either the foreign travel account, if it were to cover all international consumption, would be subdivided, e.g., into (1) tourism, (2) government and military, (3) crew expenditure, and (4) expenditure of migrant workers; or certain components of international consumption would be entered in other accounts and shown separately.

9. Aside from analytic usefulness, the content of the travel account may be partly determined by statistical practicability. It may be possible to achieve consistency and comparability in the data reported by all countries only by a certain definition of the account, and even then, only the total account and not
its subdivisions may be consistent. As noted above, data on passenger fares and crew expenditures may be obtained by some countries in combination with other transportation transactions. For this reason, passenger fares and crew expenditures should perhaps be reported in the transportation account by all countries (and specified separately where possible) rather than in the travel account. On the other hand, where expenditures of diplomats and troops stationed abroad can be identified as such only by their resident (home) countries but cannot be distinguished from tourist expenditures by the countries where the expenditures are made, such expenditures should be included in the travel account. This may suggest that expenditures of persons in the diplomatic and military services travelling outside the country where they are stationed (e.g., expenditures of United States soldiers on leave in Switzerland and Italy) should be classified as tourist expenditures whereas consumption expenditures incurred by such persons in the countries where they are stationed should not be so classified. Full symmetry, of course, is an ideal that cannot be fully realized statistically.

10. While the exact definition of the concept of tourist is not crucial for the calculation of the balance of payments, the Balance of Payments Division of the International Monetary Fund is inclined not to modify materially the content of the Manual's account for foreign travel, which corresponds closely with the commonly accepted notion of international tourist expenditures. It is suggested that the Statistical Commission may find the present definition of this account broadly satisfactory for the non-balance of payments uses of tourist statistics. In considering standards for the collection of tourist statistics the Commission will undoubtedly keep in mind the fact that the content of the foreign travel account in the Manual was carefully reviewed with the compilers of balance of payments statistics at the Fund's Balance of Payments Conference in 1947 to which all members of the Fund were invited to send representatives. Furthermore, since the Conference a body of statistics has been collected and published by the Fund on the basis of the Manual definitions. These statistics are reviewed in the next section.
Foreign Travel Data Collected by the Fund

11. The data on foreign travel for 1947-54 reported to the Fund and published in the Fund's Balance of Payments Yearbooks are summarized in the attached table. The figures have been adjusted as far as possible for omissions and for inconsistencies between data reported by partner countries. The data are based on present Manual definitions; i.e., international passenger fares and expenditures of diplomats, troops abroad, crews, and border workers are in general excluded.

12. The data indicate a steady growth in foreign travel expenditures, which have nearly doubled between 1947 and 1954. To some extent, however, the growth reflects an increasing number of reporting countries and some improvement in the statistics. By 1954 the data represent a fairly good coverage of the countries outside the Soviet Bloc. Nevertheless, it is believed that the figures underestimate the travel account for the area covered. Some important countries, e.g., Argentina and Spain, and some groups of transactions, e.g., travel between the United Kingdom Colonies and non-United States countries and between France and its overseas territories, are omitted, and the transactions that are reported seem likely to be underestimated.

13. The figures show a systematic bias in that reported payments are persistently larger than reported receipts. The recorded discrepancy lies outside the figures for travel between Canada and the United States and between Mexico and the United States, since the reported figures for such travel have been adjusted to show equal credits and debits. It seems likely that the excess of payments reflects an underestimate of receipts rather than an overestimate of payments. Where countries base their data on exchange control records, the travel account will normally fail to include receipts in the form of the countries' own currencies brought in by foreign travelers and foreign currencies spent or exchanged outside official channels. From the other side, however, such transactions are recorded as payments where the travel account is based on number of travelers going abroad and estimated per capita expenditure. In fact, OEEC countries, which have large receipts, have frequently based their data on exchange records, while the United States, which accounts for one-third of world travel payments, uses the other method. On the other hand, some expenditures, such as those of diplomats and troops stationed abroad but travelling on leave away from
their stations, are often recorded as travel receipts by the countries where they are traveling, but not as travel expenditures by their home countries. Taking the payments figure and allowing for some omissions, total travel expenditures of the world outside the Soviet Bloc amounted to about $2.9 billion in 1954, or nearly 4 per cent of the same area's total exports (excluding military aid goods) of $75 billion.

15. While for the whole area travel is a small item compared with trade, for some countries it is an important source of foreign exchange earnings. For example, travel receipts in Austria amount to as much as 10 per cent of exports, and in Mexico travel receipts may be over 30 per cent of exports.
## World Foreign Travel Account by Areas, 1947-54

(In millions of U.S. dollars)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>310</td>
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<tr>
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<td>115</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>368</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>527</td>
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<td>705</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>972</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>72</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>272</td>
<td>279</td>
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<tr>
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<td>691</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>113</td>
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<td>134</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,553</td>
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<td>1,666</td>
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<td>2,026</td>
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<td>167</td>
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<td>208</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico 1/</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>678</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>722</td>
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<td>779</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>1,210</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Republics 2/</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>169</td>
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<td>Sterling OEEC countries</td>
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<td>339</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>597</td>
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<td>Other sterling area 3/</td>
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<td>All other countries 4/</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>151</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,545</td>
<td>1,564</td>
<td>1,789</td>
<td>1,942</td>
<td>2,303</td>
<td>2,425</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>2,044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|Net receipts or payments (-) |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|Canada          | 84   | 145  | 90   | 46   | -6   | -68  | -64  | -52  |
|Mexico 1/       | 73   | 71   | 90   | 105  | 113  | 150  | 133  | 137  |
|United States   | -206 | -292 | -310 | -535 | -282 | -300 | -368 | -420 |
|**Total North America** | -49  | -76  | -130 | -186 | -182 | -238 | -294 | -365 |

|Other Latin American |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|Republics 2/        | -64  | -33  | -38  | -75  | -109 | -35  | -103 | -98  |
|Sterling OEEC countries | -110 | -2   | -22  | 2    | -20  | 46   | 45   | 31   |
|Other OEEC countries | 79   | 95   | 175  | 255  | 206  | 168  | 259  | 399  |
|Rest of sterling area 3/ | -23  | -26  | -53  | -74  | -93  | -54  | -60  | -51  |
|All other countries 4/ | -20  | -45  | -55  | -49  | -50  | -74  | -79  | -97  |

1/ Data cover travel with the United States only, as reported by the United States.
2/ Excluding Argentina.
3/ Excludes Egypt and the Sudan throughout the period covered, and includes Jordan from 1950 on. Data for U.K. Colonies (other than Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland) cover travel with the United States only, as reported by the United States.
4/ Excluding Spain and the Soviet Bloc.

SOURCE: International Monetary Fund, Balance of Payments Yearbooks.
STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Ninth session
Item 17(d) of the provisional agenda

TOURIST STATISTICS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

(Memorandum prepared by Balance of Payments Division of the International Monetary Fund)

The attached copy of the table and notes describing the travel account in the Balance of Payments Manual was inadvertently omitted from document E/CN.3/221/Add.2. It should appear as page 9 of that document.
TABLE IV. FOREIGN TRAVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Credit (Receipts)</th>
<th>Debit (Payments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tourists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Business travelers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Government officials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Total (1 through 5) (Transfer to Table I, Item 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Alternative classification, if any)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TABLE IV

In this table record as a credit (receipt) all expenditures of foreigners visiting your country, including their payments for transportation within your country. (Receipts by domestic transportation companies for transport of persons outside the territory of your country are to be entered in Table 5 rather than here.) Record as a debit all payments to foreigners by residents of your country travelling outside the domestic territory, excluding passenger fares and shipboard expenses paid to ships and aircraft in international service, which are entered in Table 5 (the transportation account).

If a breakdown between tourists, business travelers, students, government officials and other travelers cannot be obtained, the receipts and payments may be classified according to other criteria which are significant from the point of view of your country, e.g., when border traffic and other traffic or between motor, railway, and other traffic.

If the amounts paid to foreign-operated ships and aircraft (Table 5, item 7.1) cannot be separated from other travel expenditures, include the total in this table and indicate that fact in the accompanying notes.