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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS<sup>1/</sup>

(Memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General)

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<sup>1/</sup> The Secretary-General wishes to record his appreciation of the generous collaboration of the statistical services of the specialized agencies in the preparation of this review.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the fourth<sup>2/</sup> in a series of reports summarizing the status of developments in international statistics. As in previous reports particular attention is given to activities concerned with the development and application of statistical standards but the present report includes also brief descriptions of the regular work of the main international agencies, an addition requested by the Commission at its ninth session (para. 13, E/2876). Activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, about which separate documentation has been prepared for consideration at the present session of the Commission, are included only by reference.

### Points of general interest

2. Examination of statistical programmes. While no systematic investigation has been made, information reaching the Statistical Office indicates that a number of countries are re-examining some or many of the elements of their statistical systems. This is being done with a view to filling gaps and to improving the quality and timeliness of existing statistics either in connexion with programmes of economic and social development or in connexion with the evaluation of current economic trends. The interest in the re-examination of programmes is shown in part by the comments made by national statisticians on the Draft List of Basic Statistics for Economic and Social Development (document E/CN.3/L.41; comments are summarized in E/CN.3/248). If the Commission approves the further circulation of the List of Basic Statistics, as it may be amended by the Commission, it may wish also to encourage Member Governments interested in reviewing the adequacy of their statistical programmes, to do so in terms of the List of Basic Statistics and to advise the Secretary-General of their conclusions.

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<sup>2/</sup> Earlier reports are contained in documents E/CN.3/148, E/CN.3/170 and E/CN.3/196 and E/CN.3/196/Add.1.

3. Quality of statistics. Strong interest continues to be evident in the improvement of accuracy, a subject in which the Commission has expressed continuing interest. Questions of coverage, precision of definition and of classification schemes are engaging the attention of many countries. Efforts are also being made to give quantitative expression to the relative reliability of statistics or of estimates. One country, for example, has indicated its judgement of the reliability of the major components of its national accounts by applying a percentage rating scheme of +3, +3 to +10 and +10. That there is a considerable way to go to achieve accuracy, perhaps particularly in regard to national accounts, is shown by the following table contained in a staff memorandum entitled International Economic Statistics<sup>3/</sup> prepared by the US Bureau of the Budget for the Sub-committee on Economic Statistics of the Joint (Congressional) Economic Committee:

Quality Rating <sup>a/</sup> of National Accounts Statistics in 64 Countries, by Continents, End of 1956					
Continent	All	I	II	III	IV
Total	<u>64</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>
Africa	9	-	1	2	6
America, North	11	2	1	5	3
America, South	8	-	2	4	2
Asia	15	-	2	5	8
Europe and Oceania	21	15	3	2	1

a/ I = very good; II = good; III = fair; IV = weak

4. The Commission is familiar with the quality code established previously in connexion with population estimates and birth and death statistics of each country. Further developments in this work are given in document E/CN.3/238. These devices serve as warning signals and in themselves do little more than draw attention to important limitations of the data. In general, whether or not a country chooses to achieve a higher quality depends upon the uses to which the data are to be put. If the uses are general, perhaps it is not worthwhile to incur the

<sup>3/</sup> 85th Congress, 2nd session; Joint Committee Print, Washington, 1958.

cost of obtaining the last few percentage points of coverage. If, however, the uses are precise and detailed, additional expenditure to obtain data or to evaluate the quality may easily be justified. In such a case countries might wish to have recourse to sample post-testing of statistical results with a view to determining adequacy of coverage, bias in returns and conformity with definitions. The practice of computing limits of random error of estimates based on sample inquiries, particularly in contexts where it is sought to ascertain changes in time (and not only the approximate level at any given time) would be an important precaution. Unfortunately, the random sampling error, though small in relation to absolute level, can be large in relation to change.

5. The constant development of statistics is creating problems for the national statisticians in the matter of accuracy - in particular there is the difficulty of reconciling statistics purporting to represent more or less the same thing but being almost invariably different in significant degree. Many statistical inquiries now have points of contact with other series. Total or partial estimates of value of personal consumption may emerge from different sources, for example, as residues in the national account system, from the production-external trade-change in stocks system, from the census of distribution and from household budget inquiries; the personal savings may be obtained as a residue in the capital-savings national account or (partially) from such sources as savings banks or by direct sampling inquiry; persons at work classified by branch of economic activity emerge from the census of population and also from censuses of production and distribution, labour force sampling inquiries, etc.; the annual totals of monthly or quarterly estimates of industrial production need to be compared with subsequent census of production totals. It is hard to see how the national statistician can avoid trying to effect reconciliations as part of his responsibility. Such exercises may be effective and relatively inexpensive for revealing sources of error of one kind or another. The Commission may wish to make a positive recommendation in this sense.

6. The technical memoranda issued by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, as well as by a number of national offices, combined with the considerable number of statistical conferences in different regions of the world

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for the exchange of information on methods, no doubt contribute importantly to quality improvement over the course of time. The Commission may not wish to do more on this question at present than to indicate the desirability that national offices continue to give attention to improvements in quality of the main series and to indicate, wherever possible, the reliability that can be attached to particular series.

7. The Special Fund. The attention of the Statistical Commission is drawn to resolution A/1219 (XII) by which the General Assembly decided to establish "as an expansion of the existing technical assistance and development activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies a separate Special Fund which would provide systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries". The Assembly decided also that the operations of the Special Fund "shall be directed towards enlarging the scope of the United Nations programmes of technical assistance so as to include special projects in certain basic fields to be defined by the Preparatory Committee..., for example, intensive surveys of water, mineral and potential power resources, the establishment - including staffing and equipping - of training institutes in public administration, statistics and technology, and of agricultural and industrial research and productivity centres". Decisions have yet to be taken on the organization itself and on the types of projects to be financed from the Special Fund. It is likely, however, that the operations of the Special Fund will require increased efforts to improve the statistics of the under-developed countries in order that an adequate basis may be laid for the economic development programmes. The resolution of the General Assembly indicates that one of the objects of the Special Fund will be to create conditions which would make investments either feasible or more effective. This gives added importance to the achievement in each country of an adequate statistical system to provide the information necessary for both public and private decisions in the economic and social field as well as for the purposes of the Special Fund. The Commission may wish to express its interest in this development and possibly to indicate any broad lines of activity which would be compatible with the purposes of the Special Fund.

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8. Proposed establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa. At its twelfth session the General Assembly passed a resolution (1155 (XII)) recommending that "for the purpose of giving effective aid to the countries and territories of Africa", the Economic and Social Council "give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa". The Council will consider this subject at its twenty-fifth session.

9. Extra-budgetary funds. The Ford Foundation in February 1958 made a grant to the United Nations of a sum not to exceed \$300,000 to be used in the period 1958-1960 to assist countries in Asia and the Far East in developing plans for and in conducting censuses of population and agriculture. The application to the Foundation was made on behalf of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The funds will be used to support and extend regular activities under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. It is proposed that specific projects would include regional and national training centres, teams of experts, where required, to advise on the organization and management of population and agricultural censuses, sampling and data processing. A centre dealing with the analysis and use of census data is also projected. General administration of the joint project rests with the United Nations.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON  
CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITIES

10. In resolution 664 B (XXIV) the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report along the lines of Observations on the Work Programme of the Council and on the Financial Implications of the Council's Actions (doc. E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2). As document E/3011 did not include observations on the statistical programme, because the Commission held no meeting in 1957, it is intended to submit a report on this subject to the twenty-sixth session of the Council. The report to the Council on the statistical programme will be based on the substance of Section II of the present document, which contains the observations of the Secretary-General. The report to the Council will also include the comments of the Statistical Commission on the programme together with the recommended priorities<sup>4/</sup> for future work.

The publication programme

11. Statistical publications. The main statistical compilations of the United Nations - the Statistical Yearbook, the Demographic Yearbook, the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics have been maintained at approximately the same size for a number of years, despite the fact that many additional series have become available from Member Governments. It is undoubtedly true that the volume of economic and social statistics will increase in the future because the importance of statistics to economic and social development has been amply demonstrated. Some increase in the number of pages may be anticipated, although rigorous editorial supervision will continue to be applied. This takes the form of the suppression of certain tables in alternate years or other time periods, the rotation of subjects on a five-year cycle (in the case of the Demographic Yearbook), the condensation of certain tables and the omission of some tables not considered to be important enough to include in the light of competing demands. For example, the detailed tables on migration now appear only once in two years, the national income figures appear annually (Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics) instead of semi-annually - although in greater detail.

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<sup>4/</sup> The priorities adopted by the Statistical Commission at the ninth session are contained in the report of the session (paras. 171-172, doc. E/2876).

12. The view has been taken, supported in the past by the Statistical Commission, that long-run economy is achieved by the preparation of systematic tables on basic subjects published periodically to serve a wide variety of uses. This avoids the need to undertake large numbers of ad hoc investigations for the studies required by Governments, specialized agencies and other organizations, as well as the United Nations itself.

13. An illustration of the somewhat costly alternative to such systematic publication is available from the experience of the Statistical Office, which has found that when a publication is delayed for any reason, the volume of requests for data from official or unofficial users expands greatly.

14. The growth in the volume of statistics, already referred to, will require that efforts be maintained to limit the contents of the publications to the most appropriate intervals. It is intended in the next period again to examine the publication programme in detail so as to minimize the budgetary effects of the increasing amounts of statistics which the organization is called upon to compile. This examination is to involve, among other aspects, a study of further integration of the Monthly Bulletin and the Statistical and Demographic Yearbooks with a view to changing the periodicity of some tables from monthly to quarterly or annual. Study will also be given to suppressing or contracting some tables.

15. In this connexion, it must be noted that requests are received for more detailed compilations than can be reasonably provided; it has become difficult to resist some of the pressures and a strong position has had to be taken against many proposals for elaboration, however desirable such elaboration might be per se.

16. Methodological publications. These publications include those containing the recommendations or guiding principles for the compilation of specified subjects of statistics (the System of National Accounts), technical memoranda or handbooks on approved methods of preparing the statistics (the Handbook of Population Census Methods) and the standard classifications elaborated by the Statistical Office and approved by the Statistical Commission and the Council (the Standard International Trade Classification and the International Standard Industrial Classification). This group of publications exerts a potent force for the improvement and standardization of statistics, especially in countries where statistics are less well developed. The guiding principles and handbooks constitute a unique literature on applied statistics never before available.

These publications also underlie the advice given to Governments by technical assistance experts in statistics and form the basis for the courses given at training institutes and centres and educational institutions. The number and size of these publications depends upon the decisions taken by the Commission on the nature of the work programme and the capacity of the Statistical Office to complete the undertakings. It is necessary from time to time to consider revisions of previously issued standards, taking account of the experience of countries in using them, of developments in methodology and of the need for further elaboration or for more refined concepts. In addition, altogether new requirements emerge which must be examined to determine suitable methodology, relationships with existing concepts and bodies of statistics and the need for standardization. On the other hand, as the Commission is aware, a number of projects for the development of standards have reached a point where only minimum attention is required so that the Secretariat is enabled to concentrate on other proposals which are still in the stage of development.

17. While the substance of different projects in the work programme will be discussed individually by the Commission as to the priority which each should be given, any views the Commission might have upon the publication programme in general, including both the statistical compilations and the publications on technical and methodological subjects, would be welcome.

#### The development of standards

18. Statistics of industry. The programme for the development of improved statistics on industrial activities is in an ascending phase; activities are being pursued leading towards a programme for a world-wide industrial or economic census in 1962 and 1963. A preliminary investigation has shown that nearly 50 countries are expecting to take industrial censuses in 1963 (docs. E/CN.3/242 and Add.1). In order to promote basic comparability among these censuses - and others which will most certainly be taken - the Commission requested an examination of the existing international standards in basic industrial statistics, the existing International Standard Industrial Classification (doc. E/CN.3/243), the question of the reporting unit (docs. E/CN.3/244 and Add.1), and the related question of enterprise statistics (doc. E/CN.3/245). This work is well in hand, but it is likely that final

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decisions cannot be taken on the proposals until a later session. In the meantime, further consultations with interested agencies, national officers and regional working groups or conferences will probably be required.

19. Census of population. On the other hand, the preparatory work for the world population census programme is all but completed, including the preparation of a manual dealing with all aspects of the census operation (docs. E/CN.3/237 and Add.1). The Commission is asked, at this session, to give final approval to the general recommendations for the 1960 censuses (doc. E/CN.3/236/Add.1), and to recommendations for housing censuses (docs. E/CN.3/240 and Add.1). This work has been carried on over the last three or four years, and has involved extensive consultations with national officials by means of correspondence and regional meetings.

20. During the present year the emphasis will change from the preparatory work to activities in the field in connexion with the technical assistance programme or otherwise to assist Governments in training and other planning activities. Resources not needed for field advisory services will be turned to other projects which are in a preparatory stage.

21. National accounts. In somewhat the same way, a change in emphasis may be expected in connexion with the work on national accounts. The Commission will examine the proposed changes in the System of National Accounts (doc. E/CN.3/229) at this session, and depending upon its decision, the principal attention in the future will be given to the application of the System to national statistics. Some revisions are also suggested in connexion with previous recommendations on statistics of capital formation (doc. E/CN.3/229). The questionnaire for the annual Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics has been tested and has been in use for two years. Through the continued use of the questionnaire, together with regional conferences and other consultations based on the revised System, more effective applications of the standards will be achieved although with no increase in workload.

22. External trade statistics. In the field of external trade statistics, the Statistical Commission and the Economic and Social Council have been concerned to reconcile the needs of national administrative agencies, such as the customs administration which produces the data on which the statistics are based, with the need for statistics suitable for analysing trends in the economy of the

country. The Standard International Trade Classification, promulgated in 1950 by the Council and Commission for economic and statistical use, has been increasingly applied; at present, 80 countries and territories covering about 88 per cent of trade base economic statistics upon it. The usefulness of this material is reflected in the quarterly Commodity Trade Statistics, which provides public and private users of trade statistics with an analysis of international trade into 150 commodity groups, distinguishing the countries of origin and destination of each commodity group. The availability of these data which are currently used by many countries permits these countries to avoid the costly task of compiling the data for themselves.

23. The definition of valuation, developed with the same purpose, has found similar acceptance. These successes confirm the view that there need be no contradiction between the needs of administrators and of economists. The increase of international agreements about trade, including common market agreements, is very much changing administrative requirements and is increasing the need for economic data and shifting their emphasis. Additional advice from the Commission and consultations between national officials and the Secretariat will be required to assure that the gains in availability of economic data are maintained. Such consultations might well involve, for example, the adaptation of customs nomenclatures (and possibly other practices) to the SITC and other definitions and standards.

24. Social statistics. A somewhat different problem is involved in the field of social statistics. In general, none of this work is very far advanced and statistics for the various topics included under the term "social statistics" are still quite inadequate. The Commission has discussed the general subject at several different sessions and is now requested to advise upon a proposal for an international programme of social statistics (doc. E/CN.3/239). At this stage, the main or most immediate proposal is for the publication within a year or two of a series of tables designed to assemble in one place statistics pertinent to an evaluation of social problems and conditions in a form which could conveniently underlie the analysis in the Report on the World Social Situation. The new publication, if ultimately developed, would probably result in some reduction in the size of other publications. Responsibility for these statistics is divided among the United Nations and the specialized agencies, particularly ILO, WHO, FAO and UNESCO. Other proposals involve the continuation of studies

of social statistics methods, including those in measuring conditions and levels of living, and the use of sample surveys for the collection of social statistics, particularly in less developed countries. What is apparently required at this time are decisions upon the broad outlines of the programme and upon a co-ordinated approach by the several agencies involved.

25. Other aspects of the programme. As will have been seen, the different segments of the work programme, having been started at different times and developed at different rates, are at very different stages of completion. Some are practically completed - at least for some period - and others are just accelerating.

26. Among activities that have reached a "maintenance" basis - that is where the basic work on the development of standards has been completed for the time being - mention should also be made of those referring to vital statistics, statistics of distribution (wholesale and retail trade, and services), transport statistics. At some future time, some review of the existing recommendations may be justified but in the meantime, little is required other than advice and assistance in the use of the standards.

27. Mention has not so far been made of a number of new and emerging aspects of statistics and of some areas which might well receive more active attention. Much more needs to be done, for example, in the analysis and specific uses of detailed national income figures. Similarly, many useful materials would result from a more thorough exploitation of the commodity-by-country figures of external trade. The task of arraying figures on industrial production for better economic analysis has been started and it is hoped that the first results will be available for publication in the next year or so. These results would show in generally comparable form, by two-digit industry groups, value added, wages and salaries, employment and installed power, together with derived ratios and averages. Other subjects, which have been explored only in a very preliminary way, include aspects of industrial productivity, input-output analysis, the estimation of national wealth, the integration of the flow-of-funds analysis with the national accounts, the filling-out and unification of statistics on energy including the largely neglected cost-price aspects and statistics for analysing the demographic effects of radiation. On the side of statistical methods, materials should be prepared on practical applications of sampling

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methodology and on experimentation in methods for obtaining ad hoc values for mortality and natality in the less well developed areas and other demographic indexes required to evaluate the demographic status of an area. In addition, there may well be a need for an expansion of work in the general field of financial statistics and business indicators.

28. As regards some other subjects, however, while very little is being done at present, it is proposed further to reduce or eliminate further work for the time being, especially in the development or application of standards. These include criminal statistics, construction statistics, statistics of migration (including internal migration) and statistics of tourism. It would be wise to await further developments in some of these fields; in others there is some doubt as to the value of international statistical standards in any case.

#### Other topics

29. Exchange of statistical questionnaires. At the instigation of the Consultative Committee on Statistical Matters, the Statistical Commission at its second session (E/577, para. 24) urged "that the Secretary-General arrange to receive from all specialized agencies a draft of each statistical questionnaire prepared by any of them .... The Secretary-General should circulate copies of draft statistical questionnaires received, and of any such questionnaires which organs of the United Nations intend to issue, to the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General should assemble comments received, together with his own comments, and transmit them to the agency originating the questionnaire." During the years when the statistical programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies were in the process of development, this exchange was beneficial to all concerned. In present circumstances, however, it is doubtful whether any useful purpose is served, and the Commission may wish to recommend that it be suspended.

30. Co-operation among the agencies. In reviewing the progress made in statistical matters, the Commission will wish to take note of the reports of the specialized agencies concerning subjects in their fields of competence. The agreements made between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the first years of the Commission's work provided for a division of labour among the various members of the United Nations family and for an exchange of statistical information among them. These arrangements have, in general,



operated to prevent duplication of requests to governments and have served to establish the principle that specific data supplied by governments to one agency in its field of competence will be used to meet the needs of all agencies. They have also brought about an international publications programme by which each agency publishes data in its own field, supplemented by data furnished by other agencies, in order to give the necessary perspective. This division of labour has also permitted a wider coverage of all fields of statistics than might otherwise have been possible. The Commission may wish to discuss the coverage of international statistics as a whole in order to determine whether changes in priorities are required in order to obtain fuller coverage of subjects that may not, under the existing arrangements, be adequately covered.

31. Statistical advisory service. At its last session the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General arrange to establish posts for regional statisticians to be attached to the Headquarters Office, who would undertake to advise countries upon their requirements for technical assistance in statistics, to themselves assist in short-term problems and to encourage training activities. Three such posts have now been established, and work has begun in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Results so far are very promising and the Secretary-General feels that the regional statisticians fill a long-felt need. In view of the probability that an Economic Commission for Africa will be established, the Secretary-General would expect to make similar arrangements in Africa from the beginning, including the establishment - at an appropriate time - of a Conference of African Statisticians.

32. The regional statisticians also serve as the principal secretariat officers for the Conferences of Statisticians, established by the Statistical Commission and the regional economic commissions in Europe and Asia. They are also available for over-all statistical advice to the Executive Secretaries. Their position as officers of the Statistical Office well acquainted with the work of Headquarters ensures that the statistical activities of the region are developed along lines leading to international comparability. Their connexion with the work of the specialized agencies is also extremely close since they are relied upon to further the statistical work in the specialized fields where the agencies have no field officer. The Conferences,

of course, cover the whole field of statistics and have the active participation of the specialized agencies. The regional statisticians are consequently in a central position to assist countries to utilize the assistance available from the whole United Nations family and to maximize the contribution of the individual countries to the common end of statistical progress.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS - OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Labour and related statistics (ILO)

33. Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Much of the ILO's work in relation to standards and methodology is carried out in collaboration with the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The Ninth Conference met in Geneva from 24 April to 3 May 1957, to consider social security statistics, the International Standard Classification of Occupations, international classification according to status and the measurement of underemployment.

34. The action of the Conference concerning the International Standard Classification of Occupations, the measurement of underemployment and social security statistics is described in documents E/CN.3/251 and E/CN.3/241.

35. So far as the international classification according to status was concerned, the Conference decided it was not desirable to adopt a formal resolution on the subject, and confined itself to drawing the attention of the various international organizations concerned to the main views expressed by the various members in the course of the discussion.

36. The Conference adopted resolutions on three other topics. The first proposed that the Office should make a study of the theoretical and practical aspects of the measurement of consumer price changes through index numbers. The second, on the subject of the extension and improvement of international standards for statistics of employment injuries, contained a proposal to convene a committee of experts to prepare recommendations for international action in this field. The third resolution stressed the necessity of issuing the reports of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians and other articles and documents on labour statistics in printed form.

37. Measurement of underemployment. The search for clearer concepts and more accurate results and the need to adapt international standards to the requirements of under-developed countries have emphasized the desirability of finding a way to measure the extent to which the labour force is fully employed. Current methods of measuring unemployment are clearly inadequate in many countries and the need for research into the statistical measurement of underemployment has been stressed by many bodies.

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38. A report<sup>5/</sup> was prepared by the ILO for consideration by the Ninth Conference which analysed the problems encountered in arriving at a concept and definition of underemployment; it proposed a general definition of this phenomenon, followed by definitions of its three main forms, visible underemployment, disguised underemployment and potential underemployment. After a description of the methods used by different countries to obtain partial or over-all statistical information on underemployment, the report contained an analysis of the problems to be solved before the measurement of underemployment can become practicable, such as the choice of the statistical unit, the reference period, and the factors to be taken into account, e.g., time worked, income, productivity. The report suggested an outline of the types of survey that would be required to measure the different forms of underemployment, followed by draft definitions and proposals to facilitate the development of the statistical measurement of underemployment.

39. The Conference adopted two resolutions on this subject. The first resolution sets forth the objectives of the measurement of underemployment, describes the various forms of underemployment, and establishes international standards for measuring visible underemployment. The second resolution suggests that the ILO assist in the most appropriate way such countries as may desire to carry out studies or to undertake inquiries on underemployment, and promote the exchange of information on techniques and results of studies of underemployment among the countries concerned; this resolution also recommends publication of the report on Measurement of Underemployment submitted to the Conference, revised to take into consideration the suggestions made by the Conference and the techniques and results of recent surveys, in order that it may serve as a guide in future work in this field. It is expected that the revised version will be published in the course of 1958.

40. Social security statistics. Recent years have witnessed a phenomenal growth of social security systems throughout the world, and it is clear that the development of social security statistics and their harmonization with statistics in other fields are of interest to statisticians and to social security administrators alike. The ILO, in view of its responsibilities in the fields of social security and labour statistics, has manifested its interest in social security statistics over a period of years, and resolutions have been adopted on the subject by the International Labour Conference<sup>6/</sup> and by the International Conference

<sup>5/</sup> ILO. Measurement of Underemployment. Report IV, Geneva, 1957.

<sup>6/</sup> Twenty-sixth session, 1944.

of Labour Statisticians<sup>7/</sup> calling for the development of internationally comparable statistics of social security. Implementation of these recommendations has included periodic studies of social security costs in different countries, undertaken by the ILO by means of a special inquiry addressed to Governments, and the convening of a meeting of experts on labour and social security statistics in October 1956 whose major objectives were:

- (a) To study the problems of establishment and application of standard definitions, classifications and methods to social security statistics.
- (b) To study the problems of co-ordination of social security statistics with statistics in wider social and economic fields, especially in matters concerning labour.
- (c) To make recommendations indicating priority areas for development in the field of social security statistics and, so far as possible, to develop proposals for definitions and classifications to be applied for the most basic items in social security statistics.

41. The findings of the experts included recommendations of wide practical usefulness, and provided the basis for the report<sup>8/</sup> on this subject to the Ninth Conference. This report analysed social security statistics from the point of view of providing an adequate picture of the social security programme; it reviewed the utilization of social security records in the development of social and economic statistics, and discussed the problems involved in the setting up and application of standard statistical concepts and definitions in the field of social security.

42. Of the two resolutions adopted by the Ninth Conference on this subject, the first one sets up objectives, definitions and standards concerning statistics for the appraisal of social security systems as well as the utilization of social security data for other statistics, and proposes measures for promoting further development. The second resolution suggests future action in the field of social security statistics, particularly through the continuation of the inquiries on the cost of social security and the development of a common body of statistical concepts, definitions and classifications, and the formulation of recommendations for the promotion of improved methods.

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<sup>7/</sup> Seventh Conference 1949 and Eighth Conference 1954.

<sup>8/</sup> ILO. Social Security Statistics; Development and Uses. Report V, Geneva, 1957.

Agricultural statistics (FAO)

43. Census of Agriculture. During the past two years an important part of the statistical activities of FAO has been concentrated on preparation for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture. A Draft Programme based on the experience in the 1950 World Census was prepared and submitted successively during 1956 and 1957 to five regional statistical meetings - Near East, Europe, Latin America, Africa South of the Sahara and the Far East. The reports and recommendations of these meetings were made available to a meeting of international census experts in Rome in June 1957, who finalized the world programme, subsequently approved by the FAO Conference in November 1957.

44. The programme for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture while covering the same main topics as the 1950 programme, embodies important new features in keeping with developments in the organization and structure of agriculture during post-war years. In general, for many of the topics the list of items included has been expanded. The scope of questions on social aspects of agriculture has been enlarged in line with the resolution on agrarian structure adopted by the fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and the continued interest in this matter expressed by the ECOSOC. For example, the section on tenure includes questions on the legal status of the holder, fragmentation of holdings and types of rental arrangements entered into by the tenant with his landlord in much greater detail than was done in the 1950 programme.

45. The role of sampling in agricultural censuses has received much greater emphasis in the 1960 programme in keeping with the increasing use of sampling for collecting census data. Attention is especially called to the possibilities for replacing complete enumeration for all or part of the census items by a sample of holdings, investigation by sampling of more complex items unsuited to complete enumeration, successive sample surveys around the census year to estimate seasonal changes in important items, sample tabulations for speedy advance results and so on.

46. Perhaps the most important change in the programme for the 1960 census is in respect to the scope of the tabulation plans. The 1950 census programme called upon countries to classify all information by size of holdings. While retaining the classification by size of holding because of the absence of any

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other practical basis for cross tabulation, the 1960 programme nevertheless recognizes that in many instances this classification does not have much international or national significance. Moreover, in view of the experience of the 1950 census, more items have been left optional to achieve a high degree of flexibility in the programme. The emphasis is now more on comparability within regions rather than world-wide comparability. For these reasons both the expert group that finalized the 1960 world programme and the FAO Conference requested FAO to submit the programme to a second round of consultations, for the preparation of regional programmes within the world framework. These regional consultations will be made in 1958.

47. The preparations for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture have also included studies for circulation to governments and census officials on various aspects of census taking. A volume on the experience of countries in the application of sampling is in the course of completion and three studies on the use of manual and punch card methods of processing data have been finished. These three studies are part of a series of studies on the processing of census data being carried out jointly by the FAO and the United Nations Statistical Office.

48. Production. Standardization of production statistics for the most part is effected in co-operation with the regional commissions of the United Nations, the OEEC, IASI, and similar bodies. Different study groups of FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems have been established during the past year and have stimulated work on standardization of production statistics of a number of individual commodities. The establishment of such study groups is expected to bring about appreciable improvement in statistical standards and in the quality of national statistics relating to important commodities. The Consultative Sub-Committee on the Economic Aspects of Rice is collecting information on the methods used in the estimation of area and yield of rice. The Cocoa Study Group has set up a Statistics Sub-Committee whose terms of reference include the improvement of methods of forecasting cocoa production on a comparable basis for different countries, and the Grains Study Group has stressed the importance of accurate conversion factors in summarizing tables on coarse grains.

49. Trade. The FAO promotes international comparability in its trade statistics by ensuring that coverage of commodities published in the Trade Yearbook conform increasingly to the SITC, with this in view. FAO code numbers have recently been assigned to the various sub-items not enumerated in the SITC.

50. Prices. A meeting of European experts on agricultural producer prices was convened in 1956 in co-operation with the ECE. This meeting suggested standardized definitions, classified the criteria for choosing specifications, developed principles for the number of markets to be priced, methods of pricing and frequency of collection. This work will be extended to less developed regions and the problems will be discussed, resources permitting, with the appropriate bodies in the different regions.

51. Food consumption. A review of some thirty household food consumption surveys is being prepared which will include a description of each survey and will present in a standardized form about seventy tables on food consumption in terms of expenditure and quantities, classified according to income classes and where possible according to other social categories. The review, which will be supplemented by a number of methodological studies on household food consumption surveys in different regions and on statistical techniques for analysing the results, will be discussed by regional statistical bodies with a view to the further development of work in this field, and the stimulation of governments, especially in less developed areas, to undertake food consumption surveys.

52. Statistical methods in agricultural research. FAO's work on agricultural research statistics has two objectives - first, to review the status of the use of experimental designs in agricultural research, and second, to assist in promoting the uses of experimental designs and other statistical methods in agricultural research. To date the review has been confined to agronomic experiments in two regions only, the Far East and Near East. Data for a total of some fifty experiments have been received and have formed the basis of this review which is now in press. Working parties of the International Rice Commission have so far provided the main opportunity for disseminating knowledge on the uses of experimental designs in agricultural research. In addition, a training centre on experimental designs for Far Eastern countries held in India was followed in 1956 by a second training centre on this topic in Mexico for Latin American countries. About seventy participants from twenty countries attended these centres, whose scope also included a set of agronomic experiments to enable participants to discuss the plans, harvest experimental plots and interpret the results of the experiments.



53. Direct assistance by FAO in planning experiments and analysing results has also increased considerably in volume during the past two years as a result of requests from countries for technical assistance.

Health statistics (WHO)

54. International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. In 1956 the Ninth World Health Assembly adopted additional Regulations amending the WHO Regulations No. I regarding nomenclature with respect to diseases and causes of death. The technical substance of these regulations was based on the recommendations of the International Conference for the Seventh Revision of the International List of Diseases, and Causes of Death, held in February 1955 in Paris. The Ninth World Health Assembly also adopted the technical recommendations of the Revision Conference concerning the revision of the Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death and on its recommendations revised editions of the Manual in English, French and Spanish were issued during 1957. The amended WHO Regulations No. I are being applied from 1 January 1958 in the compilation of morbidity and mortality statistics. The WHO centres for the classification of diseases, located in London and Caracas, continued to deal with problems connected with the application of the Manual, and assisted in its revision.

55. Expert Committee on Health Statistics. The fifth session of the Expert Committee on Health Statistics was held in December 1956. In the field of morbidity statistics the Committee reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of its 1951 session and apart from recommending increased exchange of information to provide in greater detail information about developments in morbidity studies in different countries - WHO acting as a clearing house for information on the concepts and techniques used in national morbidity studies - the Committee recommended general principles to be adopted in presenting morbidity statistics. It also reviewed the work of National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics, asking WHO to continue its efforts to foster the establishment of these Committees, expanding at the same time the

exchange of information between those already operating. In particular, it recommended that regional and inter-regional conferences should be held periodically with the technical co-operation of WHO and with the active participation of National Committees in the area.

56. The other topics on which recommendations were formulated relate to the training of statistical workers, cancer statistics and registers, hospital morbidity statistics, health indicators fitting in with the UN study on Measurement of Levels of Living (doc. E/CN.3/241), and the collection of health statistics in under-developed areas.

57. African Seminar on Vital and Health Statistics. With a view to formulating recommendations on action needed for the development of vital and health statistics in countries which medically and administratively are relatively under-developed, a seminar was convened jointly by the WHO African Regional Office and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA), in Brazzaville in November 1956. Among the topics discussed were the existing organization and procedures for the collection of vital and health statistics in African countries; methods suitable for the collection of these data in areas at different stages of administrative development through hospitals, dispensaries, mobile medical units, notifiable diseases, birth and death registration and medical certification of causes of death; methods applicable to enumeration and estimates of population; methods of estimating the natural growth of population; methods of estimating age in population without a system of vital registration; training of personnel for the collection of vital and health statistics, and the compilation, interpretation and publication of vital and health statistics. The experience thus gained by medical and statistical services in various parts of Africa was compared, and special recommendations evolved suited to particular conditions of the different countries of the region.

58. WHO Study Group on Epidemiology. In order to improve the epidemiological services and studies of WHO, a Study Group on Epidemiology was convened in April 1957. It discussed and made recommendations in respect of the present and future activities relating both to communicable and non-communicable diseases; means of securing information; delineation of endemic areas; and specified for special study such subjects as acute diarrhoeal diseases,

respiratory diseases, and a variety of other chronic diseases and conditions including cancer and cardiovascular disorders. The Study Group made recommendations for the standardization of methods for carrying out field work and the use of sampling techniques. The Group also recommended the preparation and publication of handbooks on such subjects as sampling procedures, estimation of the accuracy of measurements, interview techniques, family unit studies, comparative control studies for occupational morbidity and mortality, limitations of clinical data, and values and pitfalls of hospital statistics.

59. National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics. In order that various sources of vital and health statistics are developed in conformity with international standards and best meet the needs of different types of social and administrative frameworks, and at the same time stimulate further activity and provide guidance in developing additional techniques, procedures and international standards, National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics have been established in thirty-three countries. WHO continued to maintain a liaison centre at headquarters to stimulate the work of these committees either directly or through regional advisers and WHO field consultants in health statistics. By the end of 1956 some 100 documents submitted by National Committees to WHO were distributed, covering among others such technical and administrative subjects as procedures for sickness surveys, measurement of morbidity, definition of terms and concepts in morbidity, statistical classification and diagnostic indices, utilization of hospital in-patient and out-patient records, statistics of foetal deaths, classification of surgical operations, special morbidity and mortality lists for use in the so-called under-developed countries or countries lacking diagnostic personnel.

#### Inter-American Statistical Institute

60. General statement. Activities of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) in the period 1956-1958 can be briefly described as a continuation of past efforts developed in various fields towards the production of improved and comparable statistics by the nations of the Western Hemisphere, taking into account both national and international interests. Such activities can be summarized as dealing with the organization of national statistical systems, the advancement of statistical education and science, the introduction of

appropriate methodology and the application of international standards. IASI is taking an active part in the work of statistical integration of the Central American area preparing, in co-ordination with ECLA, documents for the sessions of the Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination of the Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Central American Isthmus, and also participating in these sessions (see para. 140 below). In co-operation with other international organizations, IASI activities, throughout the period 1956-1958, continue to give high priority to the world programmes of censuses being developed by the UN and FAO.

61. Statistical organization. In the series of booklets describing the national statistical systems of the twenty-two American nations which, when completed, will comprise the second edition of Statistical Activities of the American Nations, the booklets on Colombia, Honduras, and Nicaragua were published in 1956-1957 and those on Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Panama and Paraguay have been or are expected to be published in 1957-1958.

62. Census programme. Carrying on the Programme of the 1960 Census of America (COTA-1960), preliminary inter-American census minima for population, housing and agriculture have been adopted by the participating nations at two sessions of COINS, as bases for their preliminary planning for national application of the recommendations of UN and FAO. IASI has been discharging fully its functions within the plans for regional consultation on the draft standards issued by the two mentioned world organizations. IASI activities in the census field, paralleling without overlapping the work of these organizations, are expected to bring about the final inter-American census minima in conformity with the census basic programmes proposed for international application, as well as full co-ordination of action in the fields of technical training and assistance with respect to the American nations.

63. A first study of national results of censuses taken under the Programme of the 1950 Census of the Americas has been published, entitled La Estructura Agropecuaria de las Naciones Americanas: Análisis Estadístico-Censal de los Resultados Obtenidos bajo el Programa del Censo de las Américas de 1950.

Similar studies of population and housing census results are expected to be completed within the period in review.

64. International trade statistics. An alphabetical index in Spanish to the coding manual, previously published by IASI, for the application of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) has been issued. The index takes into account, in addition to the Spanish equivalents of the inclusions shown in the UN Commodity Indexes for SITC, commodity descriptions selected from lists provided by the pertinent offices of the American nations.

65. A Guide to the Classification of Countries and Places for Foreign Trade Statistics also has been published in both English and Spanish. Its preparation, which has taken into account the UN Customs Areas of the World concept, was based on purely de facto considerations. Annual editions of the Guide, with the revisions which may be required by changes in conditions, are planned.

66. Industrial statistics. A coding manual in Spanish to the International Standard Industrial Classification is scheduled to be advanced within this period. It will take into account, in addition to the Spanish equivalents of the terms contained in a parallel coding guide issued by the UN, terms selected from lists of industrial operations encountered in the American nations provided by the pertinent national offices.

67. A study of the experience and progress attained by the American nations in the application of international standards for industrial statistics is also expected to be completed.

68. Maritime statistics. Studies of a revision of a programme outlined by the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council for compilation of maritime statistics by the American States are expected to be completed soon, taking into account the results of a survey made of the existing national activities in the field.

69. Reports on pilot projects. Reports on the pilot projects for a vital statistics system in Venezuela and for hospital statistics in Guatemala are expected to be issued soon. This work has been carried on by IASI.

70. Occupational classification. In addition to the work being done by ILO (doc. E/CN.3/251), the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), using lists of occupations compiled by the American nations on the basis of the 1950 census returns, is making a comparative analysis of their classifications

in accordance with both the Occupational Classification for the 1950 Census of the Americas and the International Standard Classification of Occupations.

This work is expected to result in a guide permitting the conversion of national results to the international standard classification.

71. Other activities. Activities of IASI in training and consultative activities are described in Section V below (see paras. 128, 131, 139, 143 and 150).

#### Population Commission - ninth session

72. The deliberations of the Population Commission at its ninth session covered several subjects which are of interest to the Statistical Commission. Reference to the regional demographic research and training centres established in Chile and India has been made in para. 130; these are of special interest because they may play a part in the development of the 1960 World Population Census Programme. Other statistical topics considered are set forth below.

73. Developments in the World Census Programme as of early 1957 were reviewed by the Population Commission and the programme given full support. The Commission expressed the hope that as many countries and territories as possible would carry out population censuses around 1960; it commended the gradual approach used in developing the census recommendations and the wide-spread consultations which had contributed to them; it recommended that the single document incorporating all the proposals and views as approved by the Statistical Commission at this session (doc. E/CN.3/236/Add.1 - ST/STAT/P/L.1/Rev.2) be distributed to countries without delay in order to assist them in their census planning. It was the consensus of the Population Commission that such planning on a comprehensive scale be initiated without delay in order that all aspects, including prompt publication of results, should be anticipated. The Population Commission also stressed the importance of translating handbooks and other methodological guides into the official languages of the United Nations and the need for early development of a comprehensive technical assistance programme in the census field.

74. The Population Commission also considered that the United Nations should encourage and help countries in the proper evaluation and analysis of population census data, especially in countries where statistical services were not far developed. In discussing the general problem of evaluation of quality of demographic statistics (census and vital statistics), the hope was expressed that the Secretariat would carry forward the work in this aspect, particularly by production of additional methodological manuals, by extension and improvement of the quality codes in the Demographic Yearbook, by publication of corrected figures and estimates when available from dependable sources, and by the inclusion in training programmes of courses on this subject.

75. The Population Commission reaffirmed the importance of organizing pilot studies in selected under-developed countries. Such studies are of direct concern to the Statistical Commission in view of the interest expressed at its ninth session (doc. E/2876, paras. 113 and 115) in "experimental work on methods of collecting vital statistics in under-developed countries, especially those where efficient legal registration was not yet established".

76. A report on the Mysore pilot study - an experiment in the use of household sampling techniques for obtaining information on population trends and their relation to social and economic development in an area where demographic statistics were fragmentary and inadequate - is available in mimeographed form. The second study under way is in connexion with the Philippine Statistical Survey; it is designed to assess the value of national surveys in obtaining information on demographic aspects of manpower and employment. The Population Commission requested the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of carrying out another study which should not merely test existing methods of collection and analysis of demographic data but also develop new methods. A possible useful project would be a study to illustrate methods of estimating fertility and mortality rates, as well as other demographic measures in a country with fragmentary or defective statistics. Africa was suggested as an area where there is need for such studies.

77. The establishment of regional demographic posts in ECAFE and ECLA was noted by the Population Commission, and suggestions were made for projects which might be taken up as time permits. Of special interest to the Statistical Commission are (a) Review and evaluation of available demographic data,

and (b) Summary of population trends and problems - both of which were given priority in a list of eight projects suggested for the ECAFE region (para. 86, doc. E/2957/Rev.1); and (a) Population growth, structure, and distribution, and (b) Size, composition, and distribution of economically active population - the latter two to be undertaken in ECLA. It should be noted that a preliminary report on Demographic Aspects and Some Related Problems in the ECAFE Region (doc. ECAFE/28), based largely on statistics published in the Demographic Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, has been issued in connexion with the fourteenth session of ECAFE. For the Middle East, a survey and evaluation of existing sources of demographic information and the preparation of a report on the principal features of the demographic situation in the region were suggested. An extension of this type of programme to Africa was also projected, and the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the possible scope of such a programme for consideration of the Population Commission at its tenth session. In this connexion, the attention of the Statistical Commission is directed to the ECOSOC Resolution 642 B (XXIII) concerning further activities of the Secretariat in African demographic statistics, with special reference to the improvement of census and vital statistics in that region.



## IV. COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF STATISTICS, AND SPECIAL STUDIES

78. The normal statistical functions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies follow a common pattern: the collection and publication of statistics from governments, the elaboration of uniform statistical standards, including those for methodology, and their application. In addition, almost all agencies participate actively in the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. These functions are discharged within the area of responsibility of each agency, subject to consultation with other interested agencies in matters of common concern. Work on the development of standards and in technical assistance is taken up elsewhere in this document so that the following sections, referring to the years 1956 and 1957, deal mainly with the collection and publications of statistics and with special studies. In connexion with the collection and publication of statistics (para. 30 above) there is a wide interchange of statistics among the agencies to prevent duplicate requests to governments. These exchanges, of which there is a large number, are not taken up separately.

International Labour Office

79. Wages and related elements of labour cost. The First European Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation, held in January-February 1955, devoted considerable attention to the problems associated with increased economic co-operation and discussed at some length the subject of international differences in wages and labour costs. As an outgrowth of the Conference, the Office undertook in 1955 a fact-finding study to determine the relative importance of wage and related elements of labour cost in European industry, basing its work on the counsel given by a group of statistical experts convened in May 1955.

80. The two phases of this survey, i.e., the collection of data from establishments through the national statistical services of the ten participating countries, and the collection of information based on national accounts and on the operating accounts of social security agencies, were completed in 1957. A preliminary report issued in August 1957 presented the ratio of the various elements of labour cost to total labour cost for wage earners in the eight

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industries covered<sup>9/</sup> in nine of the countries surveyed,<sup>10/</sup> together with summary tables and a detailed description of the methods followed in the survey of establishments; the final chapter of the preliminary report described country-to-country differences in financing of national social programmes, as shown by the information collected on national accounts. The final report on this survey will include detailed tables on the various elements of labour cost for wage earners, for salaried employees, and for all employees, in each industry and each country covered, as well as numerous analytical tables and comparisons and will be published early in 1958.

81. October survey of wages, consumer prices and normal hours of work. For many years the ILO has undertaken an annual collection of data on wages, consumer prices and normal hours of work. The information is widely used in comparisons from one country to another. The survey extends to all countries of the world, whether ILO Member States or not, who agree to answer the questionnaire circulated by the Office.

82. The information collected for October 1955 and October 1956 for more than seventy countries and territories concerned hourly wages and normal hours of work of adult wage earners in forty-one occupations, monthly salaries and normal hours of work per week of salaried employees in seven occupations, and retail prices of forty-one consumer goods. ~~These data~~ were published in the Statistical Supplement to the International Labour Review and in the Year Book of Labour Statistics.

83. Advisory service. The ILO provides advisory services in labour statistics to governments, universities, trade unions and business organizations. This service is usually provided through correspondence and on the occasion of visits to ILO headquarters. In addition to the activities mentioned above, the ILO is frequently called upon for counsel regarding statistics in the fields of employment, unemployment and the labour force, wages and hours of work, family living studies, cost of living, productivity, employment injuries and industrial disputes.

84. International comparisons in cost of living. Some of the ILO's statistical research activities are intended to serve objectives which are largely

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9/ Cotton textiles, leather footwear, radio-electronics, machine tools, shipbuilding, steel industry, coal mining and State railways.

10/ Austria, Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

administrative in character. One of these, carried out jointly with the United Nations Statistical Office, involves studies to throw light on place-to-place differences in consumer prices, to aid in the determination of salaries of international civil servants stationed in various cities. This work is in continuation of earlier work by the Statistical Office, which will continue to bear major responsibility for the surveys in cities other than certain European cities. The ILO carries major responsibility for surveys in Geneva, Copenhagen, Paris and Rome. New inquiries in these cities were launched late in 1957.

85. The complete study will comprise two phases: the collection of consumer prices in the cities surveyed and the collection of information on the distribution of expenditures of international civil servants. In the first part of the inquiry, i.e., the collection of consumer prices, the help of the national statistical offices of the countries involved has been requested in order to take advantage of the practical experience and skilled staff of the national offices and to ensure the objectivity of the results. The second phase, which will furnish the weights to be used in the combination of individual price ratios, will be conducted by the specialized agencies in co-operation with the ILO.

86. In order to ensure maximum comparability in the prices collected in the various cities, the agencies concerned have agreed on a list of some 250 items with detailed specifications; this list was distributed in November 1957 together with practical indications designed to ensure reasonable comparability, to the national statistical services in Copenhagen, Geneva, Paris and Vienna; the survey of prices in Rome was scheduled for February 1958. A first collection of data on the distribution of expenditures of international civil servants in the cities surveyed was undertaken at the end of 1957.

87. Salary levels in Geneva. Salaries of general service (locally recruited) categories of the personnel of the international organizations are to be determined on the basis of the best prevailing conditions for comparable jobs in outside employment in the locality of the office concerned. In this connexion, the ILO was requested in 1957 by the secretariats of the international organizations located in Geneva to conduct a survey on the wage levels in effect

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for jobs such as clerks, secretaries, stenographers, messengers, etc., in selected establishments in Geneva. The survey was conducted and completed in October 1957.

88. Publications. In a continuation of the effort undertaken in the recent past to present the statistical data available on labour questions in an attractive and readable form, frequent articles have been published in the International Labour Review on such subjects as the upturn in consumer prices, the evolution of wages, the incidence of industrial disputes by industry, recent productivity trends in Western European manufacturing, an analysis of post-war family living studies, an international review of changing wage structures and the size of industrial establishments. A series of three articles analysing the world's working population in its demographic aspects, its industrial distribution and its distribution by status and occupation were published in the International Labour Review in February, May and August 1956, and later assembled in a combined reprint. Other articles on statistical matters concern aspects of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, the main results of the survey of wages and related elements of labour cost in European industry, the measurement of underemployment, etc.

89. Following the recommendation of the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, a report on real wages, prepared for consideration by that Conference, was revised and published in 1956.<sup>11/</sup>

90. The various articles on the trends observed in the main indicators of the labour situation served as a basis for the preparation by the ILO of chapter VI of Part I of the United Nations Report on the World Social Situation (document E/CN.5/324/Rev.1-ST/SOA/33). Along these lines, the ILO also prepared for internal use a quarterly analysis of labour developments, reviewing the employment and unemployment situation, and the evolution of wages, consumer prices, productivity and disputes in the world.

91. Work on the collection and dissemination of information on family living studies has progressed, and the ILO expects to issue early in 1958 a publication grouping together and comparing the main results of family living studies undertaken in the various countries since the end of World War II.

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11/ ILO. International Comparisons of Real Wages; A Study of Methods. Geneva, 1956.

92. In continuation of its current work, the ILO issued the 1956 and 1957 editions of the Year Book of Labour Statistics and continued its collection of current statistics relating to employment, unemployment, wages, normal hours of work and consumer prices, which were, as usual, published in the Statistical Supplement to the International Labour Review.

#### Food and Agriculture Organization

93. Production statistics. These statistics comprise, on a world-wide basis, area, yield and production of all crops, livestock and poultry numbers, meat, dairy products and eggs, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery. They are published annually in the Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics, Part I - Production. More up-to-date figures and quarterly data, where appropriate, are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Economics and Statistics. During 1956-1957 the collection and publication of data was extended to include new tabulations on pineapples, tomatoes, silk, beehives and honey, cow numbers and garden tractors; new postwar five-year averages (1948-1952) were tabulated; the Monthly Bulletin incorporated each month a new table showing latest revisions in important production series or new data recently released by governments.

94. Trade statistics. Trade statistics are published in FAO's Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics, Part II - Trade and Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Economics and Statistics. The former includes annual imports and exports by quantity for about eighty agricultural products and requisites and annual imports and exports by value for broad groups of agricultural products and requisites. The latter shows quantity statistics of exports and imports for major agricultural products. During the past two years the number of countries for which value data have been collected has considerably increased. In response to needs expressed by Commodity Study Groups and others, questionnaires have been expanded to include more detailed questions, e.g. cocoa products, rice flour and bran, wheat-milling products and many others.

95. Prices. The collection of agricultural price data by FAO has steadily expanded, especially in the past two years. Annual data published in the Production yearbook of national average producer prices and wholesale prices

in leading markets, cover approximately 100 different agricultural products and requisites. Monthly data for major agricultural products and requisites, maritime freights and prices of international importance appear in the Monthly Bulletin.

96. Index numbers. National index numbers of prices paid and received by farmers, agricultural and general wholesale prices, and retail food prices and the cost of living are published in the Production yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin. The following international index numbers are, however, calculated by FAO:

97. (a) International indexes of agricultural production. These indexes are computed by the use of uniform world weights applied to the output of the corresponding commodities. Indexes are prepared on the basis for the world as a whole, the different regions and individual countries. The weights in use are generally pre-war world prices adjusted by leading national prices in some instances, with wheat as a base for calculating price relatives of all other commodities. These indexes are published annually in the Monthly Bulletin and the State of Food and Agriculture.

98. Two meetings of experts have been convened in Rome to consider methodological aspects. The second, held in September 1956, made the following recommendations:

- (1) FAO should continue to use uniform world weights for the calculation of regional and world indices of agricultural production.
- (2) These world weights should be weighted averages of country relatives of producer prices and should replace the system of world weights based on world prices.
- (3) Wheat relative prices should continue to be the basis of the weights.
- (4) The practicability of the use of regional weights for intra-regional country comparisons should be further tested.
- (5) FAO should shift both the weights and the time base of the index to a postwar period of at least three years and possibly more centred around 1953.

99. Work is proceeding in accordance with these recommendations and the new index series will be published in 1958.

100. (b) Indexes of unit value of agricultural imports and exports. Annual and quarterly indexes of the unit value of agricultural imports and exports are

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published each year in the State of Food and Agriculture. The unit values are compiled from trade in some forty of the principal food and agricultural commodities covering about 85 per cent of world trade. The base period for the index is 1952-1953, the weights being the annual average value of world trade in 1948-1953 in commodities converted to United States dollars during that period. The unit value index for any given year is obtained by weighting the unit value ratios of the given year with respect to the base period by the corresponding commodity weights. Unit value indexes for regions and for groups of commodities are obtained in the same way.

101. (c) Quantum index of trade in agricultural products. FAO's indexes of the quantum of imports and exports, annually and by quarters, are also published in the State of Food and Agriculture. The coverage and the base period for the index are similar to those used for obtaining the unit value index. The unit values based on 1952-1953 trade constitute the weights for calculating the quantum index. These weights are applied to the trade of each commodity in the given year and to that of the base period to obtain the quantum index. The methodology used in both the unit value and quantum indexes is under consideration for further refinement.

102. Food consumption. FAO's statistical work on food consumption has two aspects. The first relates to the assembly and analyses of national food balance sheets. These food balance sheets which give national averages of food consumption in terms of calories and nutrients and the utilization of each food commodity are kept up to date by the publication of a loose-leaf folder to which supplements are added annually. Summary per capita figures and other important food balance sheet information are also published in the Production yearbook. These food balance sheets are used largely within FAO to assess broad changes in the world food situation and as information sheets giving basic data on the pattern of food consumption and utilization in individual countries. The international nutritional conversion factors used for obtaining the calorie and protein content of food are based on the recommendations of a group of international nutrition experts.

103. The second aspect relates to the promotion of food consumption surveys, the assembly of data obtained from surveys, and the use of appropriate statistical

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techniques for analysing and using the results of the data for various important purposes - chiefly for assessing variations in food consumption levels among different classes of the population and for estimating the effects of long-term factors, e.g. income changes on demand for food. During 1956 and 1957 existing material from a number of food consumption surveys was summarized and analysed and provided the basic material for a special chapter on long-term food consumption trends in the State of Food and Agriculture published in 1957.

104. Publications. The following publications were issued or were in preparation in 1956 and 1957:

1. Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics, Part I - Production, 1955 and 1956
2. Yearbook of Food and Agricultural Statistics, Part II - Trade, 1955
3. Monthly Bulletin of Food and Agricultural Statistics
4. Report on the 1950 World Census of Agriculture, Vol. I (issued as a loose-leaf folder; contains at present results for seventy-nine countries)
5. Report on the 1950 World Census of Agriculture, Vol. II, Methodology
6. Draft Programme for the 1960 World Agricultural Census
7. Estimation of Crop Yields
8. Application of Sampling Techniques on Census Taking (in preparation)
9. Review of Uses of Statistical Techniques of Experimentation
10. Studies on Methods of Data Processing (in preparation)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

105. A report upon the statistical activities of UNESCO is contained in document E/CN.3/252.

International Civil Aviation Organization

106. Improvement of reporting. When the ICAO Assembly met in Curaçao in 1956 for its tenth session, the statistical activities of the organization were discussed at some length and in accordance with a resolution (A10-38) passed by the Assembly the following action has been taken.

107. A statistical meeting is tentatively planned for mid-September in Montreal. The Assembly's resolution called for meetings to examine the statistical problems

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of contracting States and ICAO in order to meet more effectively the needs of the organization and to improve the uniformity of the statistics, the completeness and timeliness of the reporting States, the form and content of analyses and publications and the speed of dissemination by ICAO. However the agenda for this meeting is still under consideration at the present time.

108. A statistical panel has been established with experts from thirteen States who are available to ICAO for consultation at any time either by correspondence or by personal visits.

109. A survey has indicated that the difficulties experienced by States in improving their air transport statistics and their reporting to ICAO are largely administrative and of a nature such as to require personal contact for their solution. Several ways in which this contact could be effected were considered. The Council directed the Secretary-General to continue the inquiries that have been made among governments which find difficulty in filing ICAO statistics, and to follow up each case individually by whatever means appear to be most suited to it, keeping expenditure to a minimum.

110. Collection and publication. Air transport statistics are collected by ICAO from seven Air Transport Reporting Forms dealing with traffic, fleet, personnel, finance and accidents. The frequency of required reporting varies from monthly (two forms), to twice a year (one form), to once a year (four forms). The statistical data reported on these forms are published in the ICAO Digest of Statistics, of which more than sixty issues have been produced since 1947.

#### World Health Organization

111. General activities. In conformity with agreements reached between the United Nations and WHO in respect of statistical services, WHO acts as the central agency for the collection, publication, standardization, dissemination and improvement of statistics relating to causes of death (according to the Detailed International List) communicable diseases, morbidity statistics in general, and statistics from medical institutions or relating to medical and sanitary personnel and public health measures. Briefly stated this work was pursued along three main lines:

- (a) Stimulation of the work of national health statistical services with a view to improving the quality and coverage of national data in this field.

This was carried out through WHO-sponsored field projects, consultants, regional advisers, and headquarters staff, and at the same time by maintaining collaboration with the work of various national committees on vital and health statistics.

(b) Collection and dissemination of epidemiological and health statistical information through the publication of annual and monthly epidemiological and vital statistics reports as well as by means of special epidemiological and health statistical studies on problems of topical interest.

(c) Conferences and meetings of expert committees and study groups to deal with specific problems in health statistics.

112. Publications. Monthly issues of the Epidemiological and Vital Statistics Report, and the Annual Epidemiological and Vital Statistics were published for the years 1953 and 1954. In addition to the routine statistics on population, area and vital statistics, including statistics on causes of death by sex and age groups, detailed figures were published in the annual volumes on deaths from tuberculosis and malignant neoplasms by site, age and sex. Enlarged tables were included on death rate by selected cause, specific for sex and age group, with separate information on aggregates of infective diseases and cardiovascular diseases. In order to provide background information for study groups or research workers in special fields, a series of special tables containing retrospective data going back in some cases to the beginning of the century and for some a comprehensive set of tables giving actual numbers and rates by age and sex were published in respect of: accidents, cirrhosis of the liver and alcoholism, suicide, whooping cough, malignant neoplasms of the digestive organs, congenital malformations, senility and pre-senile psychoses, pneumonia, bronchitis, cholelithiasis, arteriosclerosis, hyperplasia of the prostate, acute infectious encephalitis, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, anaemias, chronic degenerative diseases in Europe, nephritis and nephroses, infective diseases, maternal mortality, motor vehicle accidents, hypertensive heart diseases, foetal, neonatal and perinatal mortality by cause, malignant neoplasms of the breast and female genital organs.

115. A new addition in the 1954 volume was statistics of health personnel, hospital establishments and vaccinations. In addition, a Manual of Instructions

to WHO staff for the preparation of annual health reports of Member States in the South-East Asia Region, containing a chapter on the statistical content of the annual health report, was issued.

#### International Monetary Fund

114. The Monetary Surveys,<sup>12/</sup> prepared by the Fund, were introduced in January 1956 and in the last two years the work of completing them for all countries has been largely finished. A meeting of correspondents for International Financial Statistics (IFS) was held in September 1956 to discuss the Monetary Surveys and other IFS problems. The papers presented to this meeting were published in Staff Papers, Volume 5, No. 3, February 1957.

115. There is a major problem for the future on this score. In the view of the Fund a means must be found to reconcile and integrate monetary and financial statistics with the national accounts. The time is ripe to accomplish this and the Fund proposes to make this a major project in the coming year. The project could succeed, of course, only with the full help of the Statistical Office.<sup>13/</sup> The completion of financial statistics and their integration with the

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<sup>12/</sup> The Monetary Survey is a part of national accounting. Since its data arise from the records of the money and banking system, it can in most cases be compiled monthly. It is intended to be a contribution to the measurement of intersector finance and liquidity, covering that part that can be known from the accounts of the sector whose capacity for borrowings and lendings is usually the largest in the economy's liquidity. Like the national accounts, it divides the economy in broad sectors; in so far as possible, the asset and liability positions of each sector vis-à-vis the money and banking sector are measured. Unlike the national accounts, the sector distributions in the Monetary Surveys are made without splitting the accounts of any accounting unit between two or more sectors; the money and banking system is itself a sector, and, to provide measures of liquidity, which are necessarily absolutes, assets and liabilities are measured rather than transactions. As presently compiled the statements ordinarily show the following details: assets - foreign assets, claims on government, claims on the private sector and unclassified assets; liabilities - money, quasi-money, foreign monetary deposits and unclassified.

<sup>13/</sup> Note by the Statistical Office: The Office has prepared the first draft of a paper incorporating proposals for the extension of the existing system of national accounts in the direction of financial flows. It is proposed to discuss this paper with interested international organizations and national offices.

national accounts requires the assembly of further data on other financial institutions. During the past year some progress was made on this front by the inclusion in IFS of data on life insurance companies, compiled in a form intended to make them complementary to IFS money and banking statistics. The data were introduced with an IFS article in the November 1957 issue.

United Nations Statistical Office

116. Periodical publications. The following periodical statistical publications are issued by the Statistical Office:

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Statistical Yearbook

Demographic Yearbook

Yearbook of International Trade Statistics

Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics

Commodity Trade Statistics (quarterly)

Direction of International Trade (annually, with monthly supplements);  
published jointly by United Nations, Bank and Fund

Population and Vital Statistics Reports (quarterly)

World Energy Supplies (biennially).

A number of specially computed indexes and aggregates, based on national statistics, are contained in the foregoing publications. A complete list of these is given in annex I.

117. Special services. As the central statistical secretariat for the United Nations, the Statistical Office also prepares special compilations for the World Economic Survey, the Report on the World Social Situation and other official reports. The Office provides a considerable amount of statistical services for the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the Committee on Contributions of the General Assembly and for other United Nations organs.

118. Reference is made in paras. 84-86 above to the joint work with ILO in establishing the statistical basis for the system of post adjustments applied to the salaries of international officials in different parts of the world. The ILO takes major responsibility for certain European cities, while the Statistical Office makes the studies for all other duty stations of international

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officials. The United Nations/ILO arrangements make provision for close collaboration on all questions of method.

119. Collection of information on international economic aid. The General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to consider at its twenty-fourth session the question of the collection of such information concerning the international economic aid programmes as would contribute to constructive consideration by the United Nations of assistance to less developed areas. In order that the Council might be aware of the dimensions of economic aid in recent years, the Statistical Office prepared a statistical report (E/3047) surveying the nature, magnitude and direction of the economic aid provided to the less developed areas by the main contributing countries through bilateral programmes and through the various international agencies. In order to put the scale of assistance in perspective, the aid furnished to each self-governing country was related to the size of its population and to the level of its economic development. The survey also identified a number of major issues involved in compiling studies of international economic assistance and, for the Council's consideration, made proposals on definitions and methods to be employed in future periodic surveys. The Council requested that this survey should be repeated at regular intervals.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

120. Statistics on a great variety of economic subjects are collected by the Statistics Section of the Research and Planning Division and supplied in collated and adjusted form for the economic studies and analyses published regularly in the regional Economic Survey and the Economic Bulletin. The great bulk of the statistics are extracted from national publications but a small proportion is supplied by means of special returns from national statistical offices. A considerable number of important series covering all the European countries for which they are available are regularly kept on cards and graphs. In addition, numerous tables relating to special subjects are prepared from time to time on an ad hoc basis. The list of publications follows:

Economic Bulletin for Europe (quarterly)

Quarterly Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe

Quarterly Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe

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Monthly Coal Statistical Survey

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe

Quarterly Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe

Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe

Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics for Europe

Quarterly Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe.

121. Nearly all of the Committees of the ECE have established a statistical working party either on a standing or an ad hoc basis. Thus, there are statistical working parties on coal, steel, electric power, housing and building, transport and timber. Meetings have also been held on statistical problems in the fields of agriculture and of manufactured gas. The working parties regularly review the respective statistical bulletins and study methods of improving and standardizing the statistics, for example by the development of standard definitions and by promoting the collection and publication of national series with standard coverage and at standard intervals of time.

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

122. The main object of the statistical work carried out in Santiago de Chile is to provide data needed for ECLA's own economic studies. Only those statistics which are of direct use to it in its research projects are normally compiled. In a similar way, published data up to now have been confined to those series relevant to any particular study and no attempt has as yet been made to present information of more general interest.

123. On the other hand, the ECLA statistical section has been gradually building up in a systematic way continuous time series relating to many branches of economic statistics - notably national income, trade, industry, agriculture, mining, energy and prices. For the various branches of production, for example, time series are maintained for all leading commodities while indexes for production as a whole have been calculated wherever possible both on a national and a regional basis. Similarly, in the case of national income, ECLA maintains various time series in terms of constant prices, for which it makes use of national data, adjusted when necessary in order to ensure comparability and expressed in dollars of 1950 purchasing power. For foreign trade, ECLA has recently adopted machine methods of tabulating import data in

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current and constant prices in order to obtain indexes of quantum and unit value. The adoption of this system has greatly facilitated the work and has permitted the classification of imports in various ways - e.g. in accordance with the SITC, or the ISIC (for industry of origin), or according to special classifications which ECLA has adopted relating to end use (capital goods, raw materials, consumers' durable or non-durable goods, etc.).

124. Finally, mention may be made of national series elaborated for the various "country studies". In such cases, statistics relating to all aspects of economic development are assembled for a particular country, the period covered varying according to the availability of reliable information but often going back over thirty or more years. A principal use of such series by economists is the projection of demand and supply factors for future periods in accordance with various hypotheses; in this connexion it may be noted that increasing use is now being made of input-output matrices constructed by ECLA staff.

#### Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)

125. The basic series of various types of statistics were maintained and expanded during the year. The series on currency and banking statistics were completely revised to bring them into conformity with the concepts applied by the Fund and new series on prices of important export commodities were added. In addition to the preparation of statistical tables for publication in the Economic Bulletin and the Economic Survey, assistance in statistical work was given to other sections of the secretariat. In particular, much work was done in connexion with the population and timber trend studies undertaken by the Special Economic Studies Section. An exploratory study of social expenditures in India was made.

## V. TECHNICAL AID AND CONSULTATIVE ACTIVITIES

### Statistical experts

126. During the two years 1956 and 1957, 112 statistical experts were assigned to advise the national statistical services of forty-nine under-developed countries under the terms of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (see Annex II). These account for 111 man-years of services, of which about one-third came under the United Nations programme and two-thirds under the programmes of the other participating agencies. The subjects dealt with included statistical organization (thirty-two experts), agricultural statistics (twenty-five experts), labour and health statistics (seventeen experts each) and economic statistics (twelve experts). Smaller numbers of experts were requested for national income, demographic and education statistics.

### Fellowships

127. In 1956 and 1957, 181 fellowships or scholarships were awarded to persons in fifty-four countries for statistical training abroad under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Eighty-two fellowships were given in health statistics, twenty-one in economic statistics, eighteen in agricultural statistics and fifteen in demographic statistics. Other details are shown in Annex III. These figures exclude training grants or other financial assistance which may have been given in connexion with short-term training centres or seminars. The figures also exclude the considerable number of fellowships and grants under bilateral arrangements.

### Training and education centres and seminars

128. During the last two years, as shown in Annex IV, nine such centres were organized by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and one by the Inter-American Statistical Institute. This excludes the continuing centres which had been previously initiated by international agencies: the International Statistical Education Centres (Calcutta and Beirut) sponsored by ISI/UNESCO with substantial support from the respective host Governments; the Inter-American Training Centre for Economic and Financial Statistics (Santiago) sponsored by

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IASI; the Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics (Santiago) now sponsored by the University of Chile with a grant of funds from WHO; the Statistical Center of the University of the Philippines, co-sponsored by the United Nations; and the Institute of Statistics of the University of Cairo, co-sponsored by the United Nations.

129. Under the sponsorship of the Government of Viet-Nam, a Statistical Training Centre, attached to the National Institute of Statistics of Viet-Nam, has been established. A course in elementary statistics started on 30 January 1958 and will continue for four months. A further course for technicians at the intermediate level is to be started shortly and will continue for eight months. Participating at these courses are technicians from Cambodia and Laos in addition to those from the host country. The UN Technical Assistance Administration has provided the services of the Principal Advisor, and it is expected that two other advisors will be appointed shortly. Fellowships have been awarded by UNTAA and the United States International Cooperation Administration to enable the technicians from Cambodia and Laos to attend both courses.

130. Regional demographic research and training centres have been set up in Bombay, India and Santiago, Chile. The Bombay Centre opened in November 1957, sponsored by the United Nations, the Government of India and the Dorabji Tata Trust. The Santiago Centre initiated its programme in the University of Chile on 3 February 1958 under the sponsorship of the Government of Chile, with the participation of the United Nations. Substantial financial support has been given to these Centres by the Population Council. The aim of the training programmes at these Centres is to build up a body of demographers who will be competent to plan and carry out such population studies as the governments in the two regions may sponsor and who will have the ability to train other workers in this field.

#### Proposed training centres, 1958

131. Two regional training centres are planned by UN/FAO in connexion with the 1960 World Census Programme of Population and Agriculture. These centres will be held during the second half of 1958 in Lima, Peru and Tokyo, Japan. The Latin American Centre is co-sponsored by IASI.

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132. A United Nations Statistical Seminar for Arab States on foreign trade and production is scheduled for November 1958.

133. A WHO Working Group on Education and Training on Medical Certification is planned for 1958 in Caracas, Venezuela. WHO also plans for 1958 a South East Asia Inter-Country Seminar on the Certification and Classification of Morbidity and Mortality, as well as a Statistical Seminar in Europe.

134. The 1958 ILO programme provides for a Seminar on Labour Statistics in Asia.

135. UNESCO has tentatively scheduled for mid-1958 in Beirut a Regional Seminar for the Arab States of the Middle East on the International Standardization of Educational Statistics, and plans for April-July 1958 a Latin American Training Course in Educational Statistics to be held in Santiago, Chile.

Regional consultations, 1956-1958

136. Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference of European Statisticians was established as a permanent body in 1953, upon the recommendation of the Statistical Commission and the Economic Commission for Europe, with the general object of improving and standardizing European official statistics. It provides a forum for discussion on all statistical matters of interest to its members (the directors of central statistical offices of European countries), arranges for studies to be undertaken or sets up Working Groups, maintains contact with the statistical offices of international organizations, and develops recommendations to European statistical offices carefully co-ordinating them with those of the Statistical Commission in fields where such recommendations have been made. The Conference also receives reports on the work of the statistical sub-committees of ECE substantive committees.

137. A variety of economic and social statistical subjects have been studied by the Working Groups of the Conference and later discussed in plenary sessions. The 1957-1958 programme of work includes the study of population and housing censuses, data-processing equipment, indicators of short-term economic changes, statistics of savings, the statistical unit in economic statistics, systems of national accounts, statistics of wholesale prices, a multi-lingual glossary of statistical terms, statistics of capital formation and capital consumption, and seasonal and similar adjustments to economic series.

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138. Conference of Asian Statisticians. The Conference of Asian Statisticians was set up at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in April 1957 along lines similar to those of the Conference of European Statisticians, with special emphasis being placed on training activities in statistics. The first session of the Conference discussed the FAO Draft Programme for the 1960 World Census of Agriculture, suggested adaptations of this programme for the AFE region and discussed some aspects of sampling in the conduct of agricultural censuses. The terms of reference, work programme and methods of the Conference were discussed and high priority on the agenda for the second session was given to the subject of training of statisticians, unfinished business in connexion with the World Censuses of Population and Agriculture, the use of sampling methods and the long-term work programme of the Conference.

139. Committee for the Improvement of National Statistics (COINS). This Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Institute, composed of statisticians from all the American nations, held two sessions, described in para.62 above.

140. Central American Statistical Coordination Sub-Committee. In response to a request made at the second meeting (held in May 1956) of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Coordination of the Committee of Economic Co-operation of the Central American Isthmus, the Statistical Office of the United Nations provided assistance in preparing a new statistical publication. This publication, entitled Compendio Estadístico Centroamericano, was approved at the Sub-Committee's third meeting in March 1957 and appeared in printed form in January 1958. It contains eighty-four tables showing statistical series from 1950 through 1955 for each of the Central American Republics in addition to totals for the Isthmus. The subjects covered are demography, agriculture, industry, transport, foreign trade, balance of payments, prices, national income, money and banking, public finance and education and culture. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Compendio should be issued every three years.

141. In January 1957 a Working Group of the Sub-Committee held a meeting at which detailed plans (covering questionnaires, methods of listing and enumerating) were discussed and revised for industrial censuses which were to be taken in Costa Rica and El Salvador. Guatemala planned to utilize the results of the discussions in planning its 1958 industrial census.

142. During the first four months of 1957 a statistical expert under UNTAA auspices provided guidance in the planning and conducting of a road transport

pilot sample survey in El Salvador in collaboration with the national statistical office. At the invitation of the Sub-Committee, members of the statistical offices of other Central American countries sent observers to San Salvador to see the demonstration of this survey.

143. A course on the construction of quantum and unit value indexes was held in Mexico City from 23 September to 31 October 1957 with the participation of six UNTAA fellowship holders, all of whom were officials of the statistical offices of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The Inter-American Statistical Institute co-operated in the instruction.

144. At its third meeting the Sub-Committee added to its continuing programme of work for 1957-1958 the following subjects:

- (a) A preliminary examination by the member national services of the classifications used in their respective government accounts;
- (b) A review by the member national statistical services of their statistics on construction and production of electricity and metallic minerals.

The fourth meeting of the Sub-Committee is expected to take place during the second half of May 1958 in Managua, Nicaragua.

145. Other conferences. The second meeting of the Inter-African Conference on Statistics, sponsored by the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA), met at Lourenço Marques from 21 to 30 October 1957. Recommendations were made concerning (a) a minimum list for the scope of the population censuses in Africa; (b) a Handbook on Demographic Research in Under-developed Countries which is to be circulated for comment and later distributed in its revised form by CCTA; (c) labour statistics; agricultural statistics and the 1960 censuses of population and agriculture.

146. At a meeting of the Conference of Statisticians of Arab States, held 4-12 November 1957 in Beirut, methods of statistical training were discussed and plans were made for the Second Statistical Seminar for Arab States which is to be held late in 1958.

147. A Conference on the Demographic Problems of the Area Served by the Caribbean Commission was held in Trinidad from 25 July to 2 August 1957, with a view to developing plans for the future demographic course of the area and to

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suggesting measures which might be applied to adjust the imbalance between population growth and economic resources. Among the recommendations of the Conference was one urging countries in the area to participate in the 1960 World Census Programme and in the general development of comparable demographic and social statistics.

#### Handbooks and training materials

148. The Statistical Office has prepared training materials on population census methods and on price and quantity indexes for national accounts, which are mentioned in the documentation under the relevant agenda item.

149. FAO will shortly complete the Handbook on Technical Conversion Factors in Food and Agriculture which is intended as a supplement to the Handbook on World Weights and Measures, a joint UN/FAO publication. This complementary volume, in addition to providing capacity/weight ratios, will give useful factors such as cereal and oilseed extraction rates, fat content of milk, and animal slaughter weights. A Calendar of World Harvests is also being completed and will provide information on the period of the bulk harvest for all major crops in different parts of the world. It will also be used as a working document establishing an acceptable time reference policy for aggregating national harvests in international tables. FAO is also preparing a handbook on the estimation of crop areas and, resources permitting, it is proposed to issue more detailed publications on the use of sampling in collecting statistics on specific commodities.

150. In the Inter-American Statistical Institute's "Inter American Textbook Series on Theoretical and Applied Statistics" (BIETA) the following translations into Spanish have been or are expected to be added during the period 1956-1958: Lecciones sobre Ciclos Económicos y Renta Nacional by Alvin H. Hansen and Richard V. Clemence; Comportamiento de la Renta Nacional: Una Introducción a su Análisis Algebraico by Thomas C. Schelling; and Desarrollo Económico: Principios y Pautas by Harold F. Williamson and John A. Buttrick. In addition an original text, Estadística General by Enrique Cansado, professor of the CIEF, will be published. By the middle of 1958, therefore, the BIETA will comprise fourteen published volumes. A following

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prospective work in the series is the Spanish edition of Statistical Methods in Research and Production by Owen L. Davies. The preparation of the second edition of Statistical Vocabulary, a IASI compilation of selected statistical terms in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, is also scheduled to be completed.

151. The International Statistical Institute's teaching aids include a Dictionary of Statistical Terms, prepared for the Institute by M.G. Kendall and W.R. Buckland and published in 1957. The main part of the Dictionary contains about 1,600 statistical terms with their definitions in English. Four glossaries have been added as supplements to the main volume giving the same terms in French, German, Italian and Spanish followed by the equivalents in English. A start has been made with the preparation of separate glossaries in the opposite direction, that is, giving the English terms in alphabetical order followed by a translation in one of the other four languages and, if necessary, adding a short explanation. An English-French Glossary has been prepared and will be published shortly.

152. In the series of bibliographies on statistical textbooks in various languages, a volume on Italian literature will soon appear. This bibliography has been prepared under the joint auspices of the International Statistical Institute and the University of Rome.

153. The compilation of another series of bibliographies on specific topics in the field of statistics has been started. A first volume, the Bibliography on Index Numbers, was issued in the autumn of 1956. It includes 600 entries referring to literature in eleven languages. A second volume in this series, devoted to time series and stochastic processes, is under preparation at the Institute of Statistics of the University of Uppsala.

154. On the invitation of UNESCO the International Statistical Institute undertook to prepare a survey on the teaching of statistics in several countries in co-operation with the Indian Statistical Institute undertook to prepare a survey on the teaching of statistics in several countries in co-operation with the Indian Statistical Institute; this survey was published in 1957 by UNESCO in its series on the teaching of social sciences.

155. Mention should be made also of the ISI project to set up an abstracting service on statistical theory and methods, which is now being organized.

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ANNEX I

WORLD AND REGIONAL SUMMARY DATA ORIGINATED BY THE  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I. Population

- A. Total population of the world analysed by continents (quarterly) and by regions with continents (annually).
- B. Area and population density of the world analysed by continents and regions (annually).
- C. Birth rates, death rates, population growth rates of world analysed by continents and regions (annually).
- D. Estimated number of births and deaths for the world, continents and regions (annually).

II. Industrial production

- A. Index of industrial production of the world. 1/ Data are analysed by regions based on geographic and economic criteria. Mining and manufacturing are distinguished separately and, within these headings, also a number of "major groups" of the United Nations Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (quarterly and annually).
- B. Percentage distribution of value added in 1953 by each of the regions and industrial sectors distinguished at "A" above.
- C. Production of individual industries expressed in units of quantity.

1. Quarterly and annual data

Coal <u>2/</u> , <u>3/</u>	Aluminium <u>4/</u>	Iron <u>2/</u>
Crude petroleum <u>2/</u> , <u>3/</u>	Copper <u>4/</u>	Steel <u>2/</u>
Electricity <u>2/</u> , <u>3/</u>	Lead <u>4/</u>	Passenger automobiles <u>7/</u>
Cement <u>2/</u>	Zinc <u>4/</u>	Lorries (trucks) <u>7/</u>

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2. Annual data

Lignite	Phosphate rock <u>4/</u>	Bauxite <u>4/</u>
Motor spirit <u>3/</u> , <u>5/</u>	Potash <u>4/</u>	Chrome ore <u>7/</u>
Kerosene <u>3/</u> , <u>5/</u>	Iron ore <u>6/</u>	Tungsten ore <u>7/</u>
Distillate fuel	Manganese ore	Nickel ore <u>7/</u>
oils <u>3/</u> , <u>5/</u>	Copper ore <u>7/</u>	Cobalt ore <u>7/</u>
Residual fuel oils	Lead ore <u>7/</u>	Antimony ore <u>10/</u>
<u>3/</u> , <u>5/</u>	Zinc ore <u>7/</u>	Cigarettes <u>8/</u>
Lubricating oils		
<u>3/</u> , <u>5/</u>		
Sulphuric acid <u>7/</u>		

III. Consumption

- A. Energy consumption of the world analysed by continents (annually).

IV. External trade

- A. Value of exports and value of imports of the world 1/ in US dollars analysed by regions based on currency areas (quarterly and annually).
- B. Direction of trade matrix showing flows of trade between regions based on currency areas 9/ (semi-annually and annually). Data in US dollars.
- C. Indexes of quantum and unit value for world 1/ exports analysed by regions based on currency areas (quarterly and annually).
- D. Unit value index of world 1/ exports of manufactured goods (quarterly and annually). A quarterly and annual quantum index is compiled for the exports of manufactured goods of the 12 principal exporters accounting for about 90 per cent of the world 1/total.
- E. Price index of primary commodities in world 1/ external trade (quarterly and annually). Sub-indexes are compiled for (1) Food, (2) Agricultural non-food products, (3) Minerals and for a number of smaller categories.
- F. Price index of world 1/ exports of non-ferrous metals (quarterly and annually). Sub-indexes are compiled for each of the six principal metals. Corresponding volume and value indexes are compiled annually.



V. Transport

- A. Sea-borne external trade
1. Goods loaded and unloaded analysed by continents (annually). Dry and tanker cargoes are separately distinguished.
  2. Ton-kilometres performed, distinguishing dry and tanker cargoes (selected years).
  3. Average length of haul of a ton of cargo, distinguishing dry and tanker cargoes (selected years).
- B. Railway transport: Freight net ton-kilometres performed analysed by continents (annually).
- C. Road transport: Numbers of (1) passenger cars and (2) commercial vehicles in use analysed by continents 1/ (annually).

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- 1/ Data exclude Albania, Bulgaria, mainland China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, North Korea, Poland, Romania, USSR.
  - 2/ Data exclude mainland China. Annual tabulations include but quarterly tabulations exclude USSR.
  - 3/ Annual data are analysed by continents.
  - 4/ Data exclude mainland China and USSR.
  - 5/ Data exclude Albania, mainland China, Czechoslovakia, India, USSR.
  - 6/ Data exclude mainland China.
  - 7/ Data exclude USSR. For motor vehicles the exclusion is in quarterly data only.
  - 8/ Data exclude Brazil and mainland China.
  - 9/ Data exclude trade with one another of the countries listed in footnote 1.
  - 10/ Data exclude Korea and USSR.

ANNEX II  
 UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES STATISTICAL CONSULTANTS 1948-1957  
 BY SUBJECT AND AREA 1/

	Statistical organization and administration		Economic statistics 2/		National income and finance		Demographic statistics		Health statistics		Labour statistics		Agriculture statistics		Education statistics		TOTALS				
	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1957		
Africa (7 countries)	1	2	2	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	13	6	19
Asia (15 countries)	8	16	11	1	4	1	3	1	2	11	4	6	10	8	-	1	3	-	45	45	90
Europe (4 countries)	3	3	1	4	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	18
Latin America (23 countries)	12	4	12	4	9	2	18	-	2	1	7	10	14	11	2	1	-	-	76	33	109
Middle East (9 countries)	4	7	6	3	1	-	1	1	2	4	3	-	13	4	1	1	-	-	31	20	51
TOTAL <sup>3/</sup> (58 countries)	28	32	32	12	15	3	26	3	7	17	16	17	45	25	3	3	3	-	175	112	.
	<u>60</u>		<u>44</u>		<u>18</u>		<u>29</u>		<u>24</u>		<u>33</u>		<u>70</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>287</u>		

1/ Table only includes experts in the field and those whose assignments have been completed.  
 2/ Includes industrial, trade and price statistics.  
 3/ In the 1956-1957 period, 49 countries received expert advice from the United Nations and specialized agencies.

## ANNEX III

UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS 1948-1957  
BY SUBJECT AND AREA

	Statistical methods		Statistical organization and administration		Economic statistics <sup>1/</sup>		National income and finance		Demographic statistics		Social statistics		Health statistics		Education statistics		Labour statistics		Agricultural statistics		TOTALS		
	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1955	1956 and 1957	1948 to 1957		
Africa (8 countries)	-	-	-	5	3	1	1	-	2	-	4	-	6	10	-	2	-	-	3	2	19	20	39
Asia (15 countries)	7	1	5	5	20	3	5	3	6	3	6	-	12	7	4	2	6	2	3	3	74	29	103
Europe (14 countries)	4	-	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	-	11	-	17	3	-	1	4	-	6	2	51	12	63
Latin America <sup>2/</sup> (29 countries)	7	-	3	-	12	14	4	3	28	12	4	-	72	57	11	6	7	2	11	7	159	101	260
Middle East (9 countries)	5	-	5	3	3	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	12	3	4	3	8	3	6	4	48	17	65
TOTAL <sup>3/4/</sup> (77 countries)	<u>23</u> 24	<u>1</u>	<u>16</u> 32	<u>16</u>	<u>40</u> 61	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u> 19	<u>7</u>	<u>41</u> 56	<u>15</u>	<u>27</u> 27	<u>-</u>	<u>119</u> 201	<u>82</u> <sup>3/</sup>	<u>19</u> 33	<u>14</u>	<u>25</u> 32	<u>7</u>	<u>29</u> 47	<u>18</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>181</u> <sup>3/</sup>	<u>532</u> <sup>3/</sup>

1/ Includes industrial, trade and price statistics.

2/ Including countries in the Caribbean area.

3/ Including 1 for Canada and 1 for USA.

4/ In the 1956-1957 period, fellowships were awarded to candidates in 54 countries.

ANNEX IV

LIST OF STATISTICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRES ORGANIZED  
BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES 1948-1957

Statistical Training Course for the Near East. FAO. Held in Baghdad, March-May 1948. Attended by 39 participants from 5 countries.

Latin American Training Centre on Statistics and Censuses. Joint UN/FAO. Held in Mexico City, September-December 1948. Attended by 60 participants from 16 countries.

European Centre for Applied Agricultural and Demographic Statistics. Joint UN/FAO. Held in Paris, September-December 1949. Attended by 40 participants from 10 countries.

International Training Centre on Statistics and Censuses for the Near East Countries. Joint UN/FAO. Held in Cairo, October-December 1949. Attended by 33 participants from 5 countries.

International Training Centre on Censuses and Statistics for South East Asia and Oceania. Joint UN/FAO. Held in New Delhi, November 1949-February 1950. Attended by 56 participants from 9 countries.

Balance of Payments Training Programme (continuing). FUND. Initiated in 1950. Attended by 15 participants each year.

International Statistical Education Centre (continuing). Established in Calcutta, October 1950. Attended during 10 terms by 277 participants from 17 countries. 1/

Inter-American Seminar for Biostatistics. Joint UN/WHO. Held in Santiago, September-December 1950. Attended by 46 participants from 14 countries.

Latin American Training Centre for Agricultural Statistics. Joint UN/FAO/IASI. Held in San José, January-March 1951. Attended by 28 participants from 13 countries.

Statistical Training Centre for the Application of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. WHO. Held in Geneva, June 1951. Attended by 20 participants from 16 countries.

Latin American Training Laboratory on Agricultural Census Tabulation Methods. Joint FAO/UN. Held in Rio de Janeiro, August 1951. Attended by 13 participants from 9 countries.

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1/ Established with the co-operation of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and UNESCO; now financed by the Government of India.

Seminar on Statistical Techniques. Joint FAO/UN/ILO. Held in Helsinki, 6-15 September 1951. Attended by about 140 participants.

International Training Centre on Vital Statistics and Health Statistics for South-East Asia. Joint UN/WHO. Held in Ceylon, September-December 1951. Attended by 31 participants from 7 countries.

Training Centre on Vital Statistics and Health Statistics for the Eastern Mediterranean. Joint UN/WHO. Held in Cairo, October-December 1951. Attended by 44 participants from 9 countries.

Regional Seminar on Labour Statistics. ILO. Held in New Delhi. November-December 1951. Attended by 47 participants from 9 countries.

Indo-Pacific Training Centre for Fisheries Statisticians. FAO. Held in Bangkok, June-July 1952. Attended by 34 participants from 16 countries.

Seminar on Experimental Design. FAO. Held in Israel, July-August 1952. Attended by 44 participants.

Latin American Training and Demonstration Centre in Agricultural Statistics. Joint FAO/UN. Held in Quito, July-October 1952. Attended by 66 participants from 11 countries.

Regional Demonstration Centre for Agricultural Statistical Sampling. FAO. Held in Bangkok, September 1952-February 1953. Attended by 40 participants from 10 countries.

Seminar on Sampling. Joint FAO/ILO. Held in Stockholm, November 1952. Attended by 17 participants from 7 countries.

Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics. Joint UN/WHO. Established in Santiago in August 1952. Attended during 3 terms (1953-1955) by 116 participants from 19 countries. United Nations sponsorship of this centre ceased at the end of 1955, when it was incorporated into the regular programme of the School of Public Health of the University of Chile with support from WHO.

Western Pacific Regional Seminar on Vital Statistics and Health Statistics. Joint UN/WHO. Held in Tokyo, August-September 1952. Attended by 32 participants from 3 countries.

Inter-American Seminar on National Income. Joint PAU/IASI/UN. Held in Santiago, January 1953. Attended by 80 participants from 19 countries.

Inter-American Training Centre for Economic and Financial Statistics (continuing). IASI/PAU. Established in Santiago, January 1953. Attended during 5 terms by 194 participants from 21 countries.

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- Training Centre for Research in National Income. UN. Held in Cairo, January-April 1953. Attended by 60 participants.
- International Statistical Education Centre (continuing). ISI/UNESCO. Established in Beirut in 1953. Attended during 5 terms by 167 participants from 17 countries.
- African Regional Training Centre for Agricultural Statistics. Joint FAO/CCTA. Held in Nigeria, July-September 1953. Attended by 42 participants from 23 countries.
- Inter-American Seminar for the Reporting of Communicable Diseases. PASB. Held in Chile, 30 November to 11 December 1953. Attended by 29 participants from 10 countries.
- Training Course in Biostatistics for the Caribbean. WHO. Held in Kingston, Jamaica, 1 November to 10 December 1954. Attended by 19 participants from 12 territories of the area.
- Training Centre for Agricultural Statistics. FAO. Held in Turkey, February-April 1954. Attended by 87 participants.
- First Central American Course in Statistics (Primer Curso Centroamericano de Formación Básica en Estadística). IASI. Held in San Salvador, from June 1954 to February 1956. Attended by 67 participants from 6 countries. Second Central American Course in Statistics was established in March 1957 in Costa Rica, and was attended by 27 participants from 6 countries.
- Statistical Center of the University of the Philippines (continuing). UN. Established in Manila in June 1954. Attended, during 8 semesters, by an average of 84 regular students at each semester. In addition, 131 students attended 3 summer sessions, and approximately 300 students attended 8 in-service training sessions.
- Training Centre on Experimental Design and Survey Techniques of Experimentation. FAO. Held in New Delhi, September-December 1954. Attended by 36 participants from 12 countries.
- Training Centre on Vital and Health Statistics. Joint WHO/UN. Held in Afghanistan, September-October 1954. Attended by 38 participants.
- Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration. UN/WHO. Held in Chile, December 1954. Attended by 48 participants from 15 countries.
- Demonstration Centre on Agricultural Sample Surveys. FAO. Held in Turkey, April-July 1955. Attended by 27 participants from 10 countries.
- Latin American Demonstration Centre on Agricultural Sampling Techniques. FAO. Held in Argentina, March-July 1955. Attended by 20 participants from 10 countries.

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Statistical Seminar for Arab States. UN. Held in Egypt, November 1955.  
Attended by 50 participants from 9 countries.

Training Course for Classification of Diseases. WHO. Held at the Latin American Centre for Classification of Diseases, Caracas, Venezuela. The first course was held from 12-24 September 1955, and was attended by 12 participants from 9 countries. Similar courses were held in September 1956 and August 1957, the latter having been attended by 29 participants from 20 countries.

Institute of Statistics. Established at the University of Cairo in 1947. From September 1956 UN has contributed teaching assistance to the Institute.

Central American Training Centre in Experimental Designs. FAO. Held in Mexico, April-July 1956. Attended by 30 participants.

International Training Centre for Agricultural Economics and Statistics. FAO. Held in Rome, January-May 1956. Attended by 38 statistical participants.

Vital and Health Statistics Seminar. WHO with the collaboration of UN. Held in Viet-Nam, April 1956. Attended by 18 participants from 3 countries.

International Demonstration Centre in Agricultural Sampling for Africa South of the Sahara. FAO. Held in Bingerville, Ivory Coast, August-September 1957. Attended by 46 participants.

Near East Sampling Demonstration Centre. FAO. Held in Cairo, August-October 1957. Attended by 26 participants.

Regional Seminar for South East Asia and the Far East on the International Standardization of Educational Statistics. UNESCO. Held in Bangkok, November 1957. Attended by 32 participants from 15 countries.

Quantum and Unit Value Indexes Course (Curso de Números Índices Quantum y de Valor Unitario), held in Mexico City from 18 September to 31 October 1957 under the auspices of UN, ECLA, in co-operation with IASI. Attended by 6 participants from the 5 Central American countries and Panama.

Regional Seminar on Industrial Statistics. UN. Held in Athens, Greece, from 6-31 May 1957. Attended by 7 participants from 4 countries.

Statistical Training Course for Caribbean Countries. IASI. Held in Dominican Republic. Semester beginning January 1957 was attended by 31 students.

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General Note: For almost all the centres listed above, the government of the country in which the meeting was held acted as co-sponsor or otherwise contributed substantially to the work of the project.