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Item 16 of the agenda

EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS  
(Item 8 (a))

Statement of financial implications  
submitted by the Secretary-General

1. The draft resolution in E/CN.3/L.52/Add.1 and Corr. 1 would recommend that the Economic and Social Council request publication of the Standard International Trade Classification as revised and of related alphabetic (commodity) indexes. In addition it would recommend that the Council request the application of the SITC Revised to the compilation of data for "Commodity Trade Statistics", beginning with data for the full year 1960 and taking into account the suggestions for improvement which have been made by the Commission.
2. The implementation of the draft resolution will involve in 1961 an additional cost of \$30,000 beyond the costs foreseen prior to the consideration of the resolution. Of this \$10,000 (see paragraph 3 (b) below) is for preparing the text of the alphabetical commodity indexes to the SITC Revised which are mentioned in (ii) of the resolution. The remaining \$20,000, which, as explained in paragraphs 4 and 5 below would recur each year, is to make possible by the use of additional staff or preferably by high speed, large-memory, stored-programme machines the processing of statistical data according to the SITC Revised in such a way as to provide the degree of detail described in the Resolution (see (iii), (iv) and (v) of the Resolution).
3. The publication of the SITC Revised and of the commodity indexes would involve the following estimated expenditure.

(a) Printing

	<u>Lang.</u>	<u>Copies</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>US \$</u>
(i) United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (Revised for Correlation with the Tariff Nomenclature of Brussels Customs Co-operation Council)	E	3,750	200	3,700
	F	1,150		3,000
	S	950		3,300
				<u>\$10,000 *</u>
(ii) Commodity Indexes for the SITC	E	4,100	752	8,500
	F	1,450		5,200
				<u>13,700 *</u>
			<u>Total</u>	<u>\$23,700 *</u>

(b) Contractual costs for production of machine-recorded text \$10,000

\* For these sums see paragraph 6 below.

4. Application to the compilation of "Commodity Trade Statistics" of the revised SITC and particularly of the suggestions for improvement made by the Commission would require additional facilities, whether the work is done manually or by machine. The reasons for this are the increased selectivity of publication which is proposed, the need during the next several years for central conversion of national data to the form of the SITC and, on a long run basis, the increased volume which will result from participation of additional countries on the new basis.

5. If this work is performed manually it would require a permanent increase in statistical staff of one (P-2) statistical supervisor and two General Service clerical staff at an estimated cost in the first full year of \$20,590 (gross salary plus common staff costs). If it were found possible to carry out the operations through the use of high speed, large-memory, stored-programme computing machines, no increase in statistical staff would be needed but an annual expenditure of approximately \$20,000 for machine contracts would arise.

6. If the Economic and Social Council approves the proposals contained in the draft resolution and concurs in their urgency, the Secretary-General would undertake to carry out the proposals in the following way:

/...

(a) Publications

Allowance for printing the SITC Revised has provisionally been made in the 1960 Publications Programme. If the project is approved, the Secretary-General would envisage giving it high priority within the existing level of appropriations and would endeavour to issue the SITC Revised under the 1960 Publications Programme. As regards the commodity indexes, publication is now planned for 1961 and provision will be made for internal reproduction in that year.

(b) Contractual costs for Commodity Indexes

The contractual costs for the production of machine-recorded lists for the Commodity Indexes, estimated at \$10,000, would be taken into account in presenting revisions of the initial 1961 estimates to the 15th regular session of the General Assembly.

(c) Machines for processing statistics

The contractual cost of use of computing machines for processing statistics or, if the experiments referred to in (v) of the Resolution give a negative result, the alternative staff costs would similarly be taken into account by the Secretary-General in presenting revisions of his 1961 estimates to the 15th regular session of the General Assembly.

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