

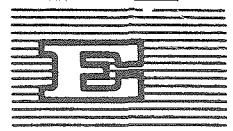
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Fourteenth session  
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP TO REVIEW THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE 1970 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Expert Group to Review the Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Population and Housing Censuses, convened by the Secretary-General in accordance with Statistical Commission resolution 13 (XIII), met in New York from 13 to 29 April 1966.

2. The Group consisted of the following experts:

Mrs. Zagorka Anicic  
Head, Population Division  
Federal Institute for Statistics  
Yugoslavia

Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson  
Central Bureau of Statistics  
Ghana

Mr. David Glass\*  
Professor of Sociology  
University of London  
London School of Economics  
England

Mr. Asok Mitra  
Registrar General of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
India

Mr. P.G. Podyachikh  
Head of the All-Union Census Department  
Central Statistical Board  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

\* Present only for the first week.

Miss Luisa Quesada  
Director, Dirección de Estadística y Censo  
Contraloría General de la República  
Panama

Mr. Conrad Taeuber  
Assistant Director, Bureau of the Census  
Department of Commerce  
United States

3. Mr. Asok Mitra and Mr. Conrad Taeuber were unanimously elected Chairman and Rapporteur respectively.

4. The following agenda was adopted:

- (1) Election of officers of the Expert Group
- (2) Adoption of the agenda;
- (3) Draft recommendations for the 1970 population censuses;
- (4) Draft recommendations for the 1970 housing censuses;
- (5) Other business;
- (6) Report of the Expert Group.

5. The documents before the Expert Group were:

- (a) Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census: Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Censuses (Working Paper No. 1 and Add.1);
- (b) A note on Points Which the Expert Group May Wish to Consider in Its Review of Working Paper No. 1 (Working Paper No. 3);
- (c) Principles and Recommendations for a Housing Census: Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Censuses (Working Paper No. 2 and Add.1);
- (d) A note on Points Which the Expert Group May Wish to Consider in Its Review of Working Paper No. 2 (Working Paper No. 4);
- (e) A note on the Relationship between the 1970 Population and Agricultural Censuses (Working Paper No. 5).

## II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 1970 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

6. The Expert Group had before it the Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census: Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Censuses (Working Paper No. 1 and Add.1) and the Principles and Recommendations for a Housing Census: Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Censuses (Working Paper No. 2 and Add.1).

7. The drafts under consideration were revisions of those presented to the Statistical Commission at its thirteenth session (E/CN.3/330 and E/CN.3/332), which, in accordance with Statistical Commission resolution 13 (XIII), had been circulated for review to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies, to regional economic commissions, to other regional bodies and to interested specialized agencies. Working Papers Nos. 1 and 2 were, therefore, revisions which took into account the comments received as a result of the circulation of the previous drafts and also the recommendations for the American censuses provisionally adopted by the Sub-Committee on Demographic and Housing Statistics of the Committee on National Statistics of the Inter American Statistical Institute.<sup>1/</sup>

8. The Expert Group considered also changes in Working Papers Nos. 1 and 2 proposed by the Secretariat consequent upon recommendations adopted by the Second Working Groups on Censuses of Population and Housing of the Conference of African Statisticians<sup>2/</sup> and of the Conference of Asian Statisticians<sup>3/</sup> and by the sixth session of the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing of the Conference of European Statisticians,<sup>4/</sup> each of which meetings had been convened after the two working papers had been drafted. These changes were set forth in Working Papers Nos. 3 and 4.

9. The Group examined the draft Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census and Principles and Recommendations for a Housing Census in detail and proposed a number of changes. The results of the Group's discussions were embodied

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<sup>1/</sup> Inter American Statistical Institute, Report of the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Demographic and Housing Statistics to the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (in preparation).

<sup>2/</sup> Economic Commission for Africa, Report of the Second Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations document E/CN.14/CAS.5/CPH/8).

<sup>3/</sup> Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the United Nations Statistical Commission, Conference of Asian Statisticians: Seventh session, Report of the Second Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations document E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.7/L.4).

<sup>4/</sup> Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians, Report of the Sixth Session of the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations document Conf.Eur.Stats./WG.6/112).

in new draft documents which will be presented to the Statistical Commission at its fourteenth session (E/CN.3/342 and E/CN.3/343, respectively).

### III. OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Relationship between the 1970 population and agricultural censuses

10. The question of the relationship between the 1970 population and agricultural censuses, referred to in paragraphs 27-30 of Working Paper No. 1, was given particular attention by the Expert Group since it had been raised by the Statistical Commission<sup>5/</sup> and by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization<sup>6/</sup> as one warranting consideration in connexion with problems of co-ordination.

11. The Group was of the opinion that it was not within its competence to examine the problem in detail but it recognized that difficulties might arise from the different concepts used in the two types of censuses, unless steps are taken with the country to co-ordinate them. The Group confined itself to endorsing the general views set forth in the relevant paragraphs of the draft Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census.

#### B. Training for the 1970 population and housing censuses

12. It was the consensus of the Expert Group that countries could not be expected to carry out even a minimum programme for the 1970 censuses without an adequate number of competent persons trained in the various aspects of census operations. It was important, therefore, that a training programme be designed to provide the necessary staff in each country. It was suggested that special consideration might need to be given to the training of senior staff who would, in turn, be responsible for the census programmes, and hence training, in their countries.

13. The Expert Group was informed of the international programme of training planned for the 1970 censuses of population and housing, which is designed (1) to provide direct expert advice to individual Governments upon request; (2) to promote

<sup>5/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council: Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13, para. 182.

<sup>6/</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, Provisional Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference, para. 305.

and assist in the organization of national and sub-regional training centres on census organization and procedures; and (3) to organize in 1967/68, under the United Nations programme of technical assistance, regional seminars on organization and conduct of censuses in Africa, Latin America and Asia, similar to that held for the European region in 1964. It is also proposed to give special attention to the provision of training in electronic data processing and cartographic procedures. The programme is to be carried out on a regional basis by teams consisting of experts in various aspects of census operations and the Group was informed that a regional adviser in general demographic statistics was already in post in Africa and in Latin America, and that one would take up his duties in the ECAP region in June 1966.

14. The Group agreed on the value of the proposed programme and made a strong plea that every effort be made by the Secretary-General to supplement the regional demographic statistics advisers as soon as possible at least by additional experts in data processing and cartography. These, together with the general and sampling advisers already in the regions, would form regional teams of experts whose assistance would be readily available to all countries in a region.

15. It was also suggested that the established statistical and demographic centres in the regions, as well as organizations such as the International Statistical Institute, be asked to help in the national and sub-regional training operations. The manufacturers of data processing machines might also be asked to co-operate in supplying personnel for the training of national staff in electronic and other data processing methods.

16. The Group emphasized that countries should take advantage of these regional training facilities as well as of the regular adviser and fellowship resources of United Nations and bilateral programmes of technical assistance. Attention was also called to the service provided, upon request, by the United Nations Statistical Office in critically reviewing and commenting upon census schedules and instructions drawn up in the countries.

17. The Statistical Office was requested to explore the needs of countries in this area and also the methods by which all available resources might be mobilized to assist in the very large task involved, especially in developing countries.