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FREQUENCY AND LENGTH OF SESSIONS OF THE STATISTICAL
COMMISSION AND VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 3 August 1967, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1264 (XLVIII) with respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.
2. In operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit the Committee's report (A/6343) and General Assembly resolution 2150 (XXI) to the subsidiary bodies of the Council (of which the Statistical Commission is one) for consideration and appropriate action. Copies of the report and the resolution will be available to the members of the Statistical Commission during the fifteenth session.
3. In operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Council requested its subsidiary bodies:

"(a) To review:

- (1) Their methods of work and calendar of conferences with a view to reducing the total meeting time; 1/

1/ On 4 August 1967, the Council established a calendar of conferences and meetings for 1968 and 1969, after having decided "to request the Secretary-General to assist the subsidiary organs in reviewing their programmes in an endeavour to reduce the length of their sessions by a week or more" (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 1 (E/4429), p. 23).

- (ii) The documentation now being prepared and any new proposals for documents with a view to reducing the number of requests and the volume of documentation; and
- (iii) The terms of reference of their own subsidiary bodies with a view to rationalizing the system of subsidiary bodies;

"(c) To draw up, where they have not already done so, with the assistance of the appropriate Secretariat units, long-range programmes of work containing clear indications of priority among the various projects; and

"(d) To include in their reports to the Council a statement of action taken in response to this resolution;"

4. With respect to paragraph 3 (a) (i), the Commission's attention is called to the fact that since 1954, its meetings have been biennial and that the duration of the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth sessions was twelve, thirteen and fourteen days respectively. The fourteenth session, devoted exclusively to three substantive items, lasted nine days. The fifteenth session is scheduled to last ten days. The Commission may wish to comment on the relatively short period allocated for the fifteenth session in view of the very full agenda and the fact that a number of the items have not been discussed for the past three years.

5. With respect to paragraph 3 (a) (ii), the Commission may wish to comment on the documentation prepared by the Statistical Office for its biennial sessions.

6. With respect to paragraph 3 (a) (iii), no comment is necessary since the Commission no longer has any subsidiary bodies.

7. With respect to paragraph 3 (c), the Commission's attention is drawn to the five-year programme of work of the Statistical Office included in E/CN.3/373.

8. With respect to paragraph 3 (d), the Commission's report to the Council should include a statement regarding resolution 1264 (XLIII).
