

ECONOMIC
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SOCIAL COUNCIL

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

FOURTH SESSION

Corrigendum to Document E/CN.3/SR.42.

Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) requests that the following corrections be made to his interventions as reported in the Summary Record of the Forty-Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission:

Page 5, lines 15-21: delete the whole of Mr. Mahalanobis' intervention and substitute for it the following text:

"Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) said he would like to stress the point raised by the representative of France, namely, the need for studying the inter-relationship between different index numbers. The important point was that two or more index numbers would measure certain changes in common while each index number would presumably also simultaneously measure certain specific changes. It was necessary to study which was the common portion and which the specific portion of such changes.

Secondly, it was necessary that attention be paid to the statistical significance of an observed change in an index number. Such significance had an analytical aspect in connection with which it was necessary to pay

attention to autoregressive correlation, and, for wider interpretation, to inter-relationships with other index numbers also. In that connection, he would like to observe that the question of normality or otherwise of fluctuations in the index numbers deserved attention. As an example, the great merit of the geometric average was not that it specified the time reversal test but that its use provided results which could be analysed by the normal law of errors."

Page 7, lines 16-18:

"delete the whole of Mr. Mahalanobis' intervention and substitute for it the following text:

"Mr. MAHALANOBIS (India) explained that he had not advocated the use of the geometric average, but had merely pointed out one of its analytical advantages. Personally, he did not believe that there was any one "best" or "ideal" index number. He was in general agreement with the views expressed by the representative of the USSR."