

development, especially in the field of mineral resources development, joint aerial surveys and joint geological mapping of adjoining areas, joint research on low-grade ores and co-operation between exporting and importing countries.

243. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Committee on the urgent need for stabilization of commodity prices in view of the serious difficulties encountered by the countries of the region, owing to wide fluctuations in the prices of their export products. In this connexion some members considered that there was need for an equitable relationship between the prices of primary products and the prices of manufactured goods as referred to in paragraph 229 above.

244. In regard to the disposal in the region of agricultural surpluses by donor countries under economic aid schemes, the Commission noted with appreciation the recognition by the donor countries of the need for exercising due care and caution to avoid unfair competition with the countries of the region and to avoid disruption of normal trade patterns.

245. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that a study of ocean freight rates affecting the countries of the region should be made. It felt that a study of railway freight rates might also be made as this question was of importance to land-locked countries.

246. The Commission noted that countries of the region were keenly interested in the use of atomic energy for industrial and peaceful purposes. It noted with appreciation that some countries outside the region were prepared to co-operate at the international level in the sharing of available fissionable materials and in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. It noted with interest that the United Nations conference on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes would be convened shortly. It considered that the secretariat should keep in touch with further developments in the matter in order to disseminate information to the countries of the region.

INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRADE

247. The Commission considered the question of interregional co-operation in the field of trade as requested by resolution 535 B (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council in the light of the technical report (E/2674) prepared by the Secretary-General on the practical conditions under which effect might be given to resolution 5 (IX) of the Economic Commission for Europe.

248. The Commission unanimously adopted resolution 14 (XI) on interregional trade consultations, reading as follows (E/CN11/406) :

"The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

"Having considered resolution 535 B (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council and the report prepared by the Secretary-General in this connexion (E/2674),

"1. Records the earnest desire of its members to promote trade on a multilateral basis ;

"2. Endorses in principle the concept of trade consultations between interested countries on specific problems ; expresses its interest in the technique

developed by the Economic Commission for Europe but believes that methods and procedures should be more fully explored ;

"3. Considers that these consultations should not be limited to members of the three regional commissions inasmuch as this would have the effect of excluding other interested Member countries of the United Nations ; and

"4. Recommends that consideration be given at the next session of the Economic and Social Council to the most effective means of exploring and developing new techniques and avenues for the expansion of international trade."

REPORT OF THE THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS

249. The Commission commended the report of the Third Regional Conference of Statisticians (E/CN11/390) and approved the recommendations concerning national income statistics. It requested the Executive Secretary to transmit the report, through the Secretary-General, to the United Nations Statistical Commission for consideration.

250. The Commission endorsed the proposal to convene, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office, a fourth regional conference of statisticians in 1956, with a view to considering, *inter alia*, the draft recommendations of the Secretary-General for the 1960 world programme of population and related censuses. It took note of an offer from the Government of Japan to act as host for the conference, leaving the decision on the venue of the conference to the Executive Secretary.

251. The Commission noted the suggestions from some Governments for the expansion of advisory services by the secretariat staff to Governments on statistical matters.

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

252. The Commission considered the annual report of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development (E/CN.11/397) and the report of the Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development (E/CN.11/391). It commended the work done by the Bureau, and endorsed the recommendations of the Conference.

253. The Commission welcomed the two recent publications of the Bureau, namely, *Multiple-Purpose River Basin Development* and *Standards for Methods and Records of Hydrologic Measurements*, which were considered useful handbooks and guides for experts in the countries of the region.

254. The Commission attached importance to the Bureau's work on flood control and water resources development of international rivers, and approved the Bureau's project to undertake, at the request of the interested Governments, studies on the development of the Mekong river basin.

255. The Commission noted with satisfaction the Bureau's participation in the proposed training centre for water resources development being organized by the Government of India at Roorkee University, and appreciated the extension of the Centre's facilities to trainees from other countries.