

(e) To examine questions of technical and managerial personnel required for industrial development and training facilities required,

(f) To examine the part external assistance can play in promoting industrial development in the developing countries, and

(g) To consider possible co-ordinated establishment of industrial projects as joint ventures on a regional and sub-regional basis;

4. Invites member countries in the region to prepare country studies, with assistance of the secretariat as required, which could serve as background papers for the symposium;

5. Suggests that these studies include all relevant information regarding resources, markets and also experience so far gained in the developing countries.

305th meeting,
11 March 1964.

53 (XX). The development and utilization of natural gas
resources of the ECAFE region 30/

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Being aware of the large amount of natural gas reserves now available in a number of countries of the region,

Realizing that natural gas is not only one of the prime sources of energy but also an important raw material for industries,

Bearing in mind that, while in some member countries immense amounts of gas associated with the production of crude oil are of necessity being disposed of by flaring, in others there is urgent need of the by-products which can be obtained from it,

Considering that the existing and potential natural gas resources of the region, if utilized adequately, will play a vital role in accelerating the economic development of many countries,

Requests the ECAFE secretariat to:

(a) Study all possibilities of utilizing gas for the benefit of member countries,

(b) Initiate detailed case and market studies of such industries as could be established through the utilization of gas, either as a source of energy and fuel or as a raw material for finished and semi-finished products, especially for fertilizers,

(c) Provide, in co-operation with the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, experts to member countries on request, in carrying out the work mentioned above, and

30/ See para. 409 above.

(d) Assist the countries, whenever requested, in preparing applications for the Special Fund's assistance in undertaking pre-investment surveys and/or pilot installations leading to the establishment of the above industries, in close contact with the representative of the Special Fund in these countries.

305th meeting,
11 March 1964.

54 (XX). Population growth and economic and
social development 31/

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Asia and
the Far East,

Considering that the achievement of a satisfactory pattern of economic growth, including advancement in health, nutrition, housing, education, social welfare and the whole range of social services, is a vital necessity for the region,

Considering further that any economic and social development programme should take into account and, if necessary, modify demographic trends in view of their interrelationship with economic and social processes,

Recognizing that the recent demographic trends amongst most of the countries of the region, which reflect high rates of population growth and an increasing mobility of the population, are hindering the achievement of satisfactory living standards in the shortest possible time,

Noting further that the problems relating to the increase in the volume of migration within countries, especially from rural to urban areas, require even greater efforts on the part of Governments to achieve urgently needed economic and social betterment,

Observing that efforts to find effective solutions for population problems have been hampered in many countries of the region by lack of facilities and funds, lack of comprehensive and reliable demographic statistics, insufficient development of demographic and socio-biological research and shortages of trained personnel, all of which have heightened the need for international or intra-regional co-operation.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, recommending that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East intensify study and research on the interrelationship of population growth and economic and social development, and endorsing the view of the Population Commission that the United Nations should encourage and assist developing countries in obtaining basic data and carrying out studies of the demographic aspects of development,

31/ See para. 465 above.