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SUPPLEMENT No. 2

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.
Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Annual report to the Economic and Social Council, covering the period
8 April 1955 — 14 February 1956

INTRODUCTION

1. This annual report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), which covers the period 8 April 1955-14 February 1956,¹ was adopted

¹ The previous activities of the Commission and its subsidiary organs have been reported to the Economic and Social Council in the following documents: Report of the first session, 16-25 June 1947, and report of the Committee of the Whole, 10-17 July 1947 (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (E/452; E/491)); Report of the first and second sessions, 16-25 June 1947 and 24 November-6 December 1947 (*Ibid.*, *Sixth Session, Supplement No. 8* (E/606 and Corr.1)); Interim report of the third session, 1-12 June 1948 (*Ibid.*, *Seventh Session, Supplement No. 12* (E/839)); Interim report on the fourth session, 29 November-11 December 1948 (*Ibid.*, *Eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/1088)); Report of the fourth session and the Committee of the Whole, 1 July 1948-5 April 1949 (*Ibid.*, *Ninth Session,*

unanimously by the Commission at its 168th meeting on 14 February 1956. It is presented for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Commission's terms of reference which states: "The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year."

Supplement No. 13 (E/1329 and Add.1)); and in annual reports to the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, seventeenth and twentieth sessions (*Ibid.*, *Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 8* (E/1710); *Ibid.*, *Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 7* (E/1981); *Ibid.*, *Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/2171); *Ibid.*, *Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 6* (E/2374); *Ibid.*, *Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 3* (E/2553); *Ibid.*, *Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 5* (E/2712)).

Part I

REVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE COMMISSION INCLUDING ITS
SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE SECRETARIAT

A. Organization

MEMBERSHIP

2. Nepal became a member of the Commission on 6 June 1955 and all countries eligible to become members, in accordance with resolution 517 (XVII) of the Economic and Social Council, are now members of the Commission. The members of the Commission are now as follows: Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet-Nam. The associate members of the Commission are Hong Kong, and Malaya and British Borneo (i.e., North Borneo, Brunei, the Federation of Malaya, Sarawak and Singapore). Cambodia, Ceylon, Laos and Nepal were admitted to membership in the United Nations by General Assembly resolution 995 (X) adopted on 14 December 1955.

MEETINGS

3. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including *ad hoc* conferences and meetings of experts, held during the period under review, are listed in annex V.

THE SECRETARIAT

4. The secretariat of the Commission is a part of the United Nations Secretariat and its staff is appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference.

5. The work of the Commission's secretariat is an integral part of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields. Several projects, particularly on population, self-help and community development, statistics, water resources development, mineral resources, trade and transport, are carried out by co-operation of the secretariat units concerned, and occasionally papers or reports are contributed by other units of the United Nations Secretariat. The secretariat of the Commission, considered as a part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, continued to work very closely with appropriate units of that department.

6. The Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs convened a meeting of the executive secretaries of the three regional economic commissions at Bangkok in January 1956, to consider the programme of work in the field of industrialization and productivity requested under resolution 560 (XIX) of the Economic and Social Council and to exchange views on the programme of work with regard to the development of natural resources and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

7. In the course of the year, the collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) developed further and covered the following fields: trade and trade promotion, electric power, iron and steel, inland transport, housing and mineral resources. A senior staff member of the ECAFE secretariat participated in the fourth session of the ECE Committee on the Development of Trade and the third Consultation on East-West Trade. The ECE secretariat assisted the ECAFE/TAA Study Group of Geologists and Mining Engineers which visited the Soviet Union and western Europe; the group prepared its report in Geneva, and drew up lists of sites to be studied when the group of electric power experts from the ECAFE countries visit Europe and the United States of America. The ECAFE secretariat furnished some of its reports to the ECE secretariat as background material for its work on electric power, iron and steel and mineral resources. The ECE secretariat also furnished some of its reports to the ECAFE secretariat as background material for its work on housing and building materials and refrigerator inland transport. The co-operation and exchange of information with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) was developed further, particularly with regard to the techniques of programming for economic development.

RELATIONS WITH MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

8. The work of the secretariat was greatly facilitated by the improvement in liaison arrangements made by Governments both at their capitals and at Bangkok. Informal meetings have frequently been held between the secretariat and the representatives of the Governments in Bangkok, acting as permanent representatives or liaison officers² to exchange information and views and to foster closer co-operation between the secretariat and the Governments.

RELATIONS WITH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

9. In accordance with the Secretary-General's policy that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should undertake full responsibility for such substantive and advisory functions as the Technical Assistance

² Cambodia, France, Laos, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet-Nam have appointed permanent representatives to ECAFE; and the following Governments have representatives acting as liaison officers with ECAFE: Australia, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom (also representing Malaya and British Borneo) and the United States of America.

Administration (TAA) might require in support of particular economic and social projects,³ the secretariat increased further its co-operation and collaboration with TAA during the year under review. As a result of its various studies, the secretariat was able to bring to the notice of TAA many needs for technical assistance in the region. The Technical Assistance Administration also sought the advice and recommendations of the secretariat in dealing with country programmes and requests. The secretariat extended its service of furnishing comments and information in connexion with the reports of TAA experts, and briefing to TAA experts and missions. The secretariat released staff members to work on a United Nations Economic Survey Mission to Viet-Nam. It continued to assist TAA by recommending experts for recruitment by TAA.

10. The establishment of the office of the Regional Representative of the Technical Assistance Board in Bangkok facilitated the co-ordination, at working level, of the work of the Commission with the United Nations technical assistance programme as a whole.

11. The collaboration between TAA and the secretariat on regional projects recommended by the Commission continued. At the regional Railway Training Centre for Operating and Signalling Officials, at Lahore, Pakistan, the third and fourth operating courses and the first signalling course have begun. The visit of a Study Group of Geologists and Mining Engineers from the ECAFE region to the USSR and western Europe was organized jointly by TAA and ECAFE in the autumn of 1955. A Population Seminar was convened at Bandung, Indonesia, in November 1955; it was sponsored by TAA in co-operation with ECAFE, the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs and the International Social Science Council. Together with ECAFE and the United Nations Fiscal Branch, TAA sponsored a Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region, which was held at Bangkok, Thailand, in September 1955.

12. In agreement with the Governments to which assistance was rendered, TAA made the services of experts available to the ECAFE Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing held at Bangkok, Thailand, in November 1955, and to the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region. The participation of TAA experts stationed in the countries of the region in the meetings of these technical bodies of the Commission and their visits to the ECAFE secretariat for briefing proved mutually beneficial.

B. Development of the work

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

INDUSTRY

13. During the year, meetings of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing and the Inter-

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 53, document A/2731, para. 10.

Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development were held. A Study Group of Geologists and Mining Engineers from the ECAFE region visited western Europe and the USSR, under the joint sponsorship of ECAFE and TAA. Technical advisory services in the fields of iron and steel, electric power, housing and building materials and mineral resources development were rendered by the secretariat to the countries of the region, on request.

Trained personnel for economic development

14. The fifth meeting of the ECAFE/ILO/UNESCO Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development was held at Bangalore, India, from 19 to 21 December 1955. The World Health Organization (WHO) also participated by special invitation of the Working Party.

15. The Working Party reviewed the progress made in regard to man-power planning and budgeting and the development of management training facilities in the countries of the region, as well as the progress made by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the preparation of a guide for man-power surveys and employment information programmes, and in the compilation of data on, and the development of, the exchange of workers and studies abroad. It considered also the problems of dissemination of technical information for training in small-scale industries, particularly the question of mobile units and training for management of small industries. Working papers were prepared by ECAFE, the ILO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the above subjects.

16. The Working Party emphasized that man-power surveys would be more useful if they preceded the preparation of general economic development plans. It noted that the ILO had continued to provide advisory services to Governments and to develop a guide for man-power surveys on the basis of experience gained by experts in the field. In stressing the importance of developing man-power information surveys, the Working Party recommended that, wherever possible, Governments should utilize existing facilities, such as employment information services, instead of creating new ones, so as to avoid duplication of efforts.

17. The Working Party noted that in a few countries of the region there was a rapid development in management training, though in most of them it was not adequate to meet the demand likely to arise from economic development plans. The Working Party noted with satisfaction the work done by the ILO in this field, particularly in the development of national productivity centres and supervisory training programmes. It recognized that training programmes for management should be organized at several levels, for example, in universities, productivity centres and management institutions, as well as inside and outside the plants and through management studies abroad.

18. The Working Party recommended the continuous review and enlargement of the existing management training facilities by countries of the region, and the

encouragement of management consultant firms. Both private and Government-owned industries should provide facilities for the practical training of managers. It stressed the importance of modern technology, increased productivity and better standards of living for the labouring class, all of which factors were closely linked with management problems. It was noted that assistance from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including the ILO, might be requested in that regard.

19. The Working Party noted that the distances between the countries of the ECAFE region made travel costs high, and thereby hindered the extension of the programme for the exchange of workers and studies abroad organized by UNESCO.

20. It recommended that when utilizing the services of foreign firms for aerial surveys in countries of the region, suitable provision should be made for the training of local personnel in this type of work.

21. The Working Party noted that extension services made it possible for small industries to make better use of the available man-power and material resources. Such extension services should provide direct contact with the individual small-scale operators or groups of small industrialists and include mass meetings and exhibitions. It noted the importance of training centres, demonstration plants, pilot training plants, and itinerant demonstration and training teams. The curriculum for training under the above facilities should aim at a gradual improvement of industries; however, care should be taken to ensure that the pace of modernization should not be such as to increase unemployment. The Working Party stressed the importance of promoting co-operatives and education in co-operative principles.

22. The Working Party considered that mobile units should be attached to training and research institutions, and that the itinerant demonstration and training teams should include not only technical specialists and instructors but also extension workers well versed in commercial and organizational problems. It further stressed that financial assistance should be provided simultaneously with the establishment of mobile services.

23. Noting the importance of instructing small-scale industries in improved management techniques, particularly by educating individual plant-owners in the principles of management and by giving instruction through co-operatives, trade associations or common plants, the Working Party stressed the need for complementary measures to remove the financial and organizational difficulties faced by the small-scale industries.

24. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, endorsed the report and recommendations of the Working Party and emphasized the importance of training personnel for the economic development of the region. It noted that considerable progress had been made in a number of countries in setting up and improving man-power information services and that the ILO had continued to provide technical assistance through direct advisory services and by assigning experts whenever requested.

25. The committee felt that the countries of the region should encourage management consultant firms and private or Government-owned industries to provide facilities for the practical training of managers in the private, no less than in the public, sector. It considered that more attention should be paid to the problem of training managers for small industries.

Cottage and small-scale industries

26. The fourth meeting of the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing was held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 14 to 21 November 1955. The Working Party considered the following secretariat documents: "The ceramic industry" (ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/1), "Common-facility services for cottage and small-scale industries" (ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/2), "Production and marketing of ceramic products of small-scale and cottage industries" (ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/3 and Corr.1 and 2, Add.1 and Corr.1, and Add.2), and "Some economic aspects of cottage and small-scale industries" (ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/5), as well as the report of the Study Group of Small-Scale Industry Experts on their visit to Japan (E/CN.11/I&T/108) and the observations of the Committee on Industry and Trade and of the Commission thereon (I&T/CIWP.4/1). A note by TAA on technical assistance in the field of small industries in Asia and the Far East in 1955 (I&T/CIWP.4/19) and a number of technical papers submitted by countries were also examined. The Working Party endeavoured to devote special attention to the technical and marketing aspects of the ceramic industry. A market clinic was held at which exhibits of raw materials for ceramics and ceramic products from Burma, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Viet-Nam were analysed from the viewpoint of the suitability of the raw materials used, shape, design and workmanship. Slides and films from France and Japan showing raw materials, machines, laboratory equipment, processing scenes and samples of finished products, were exhibited. Technical advice and suggestions on each exhibit were given by the ceramic expert of the secretariat.

27. The Working Party considered the recommendations of the Study Group of Cottage Industry Experts which had visited Japan as useful guides in the programmes for developing cottage and small-scale industries in countries of the region. It noted that many countries were already implementing them.

28. The Working Party emphasized the need for governmental measures to accelerate the development of cottage and small-scale industries, such as financial, organizational and technical assistance, aid through legislation and regulation, publicity and marketing. It noted that such assistance was needed especially in the initial stages of development.

29. The Working Party visited and studied a pottery pilot plant established in Thailand on the lines suggested in the ECAFE document entitled "Scheme for the establishment of a pottery plant" (E/CN.11/I&T/CIWP.2/3). It noted that pilot plants had been set up in some other countries of the region, and suggested

that the secretariat should disseminate information on the working of pilot plants and research centres in each country. It recommended that the facilities of pilot plants, research or training centres in one country should be made available to the other countries of the region.

30. The Working Party noted that in most countries of the region there was a preference for imported ceramics because of the poor quality and high cost of local products. In order to improve the marketability of ceramic products, the Working Party stressed the need for quality control and price reduction through the introduction of modern methods and techniques, and standardization of materials and finished products. It felt that packing should be light and durable, should protect the articles against direct shock and should at the same time be economical. It also pointed out that specialization in production, as practised in Japan, had resulted in reduced costs.

31. In order to achieve these results, the Working Party recommended the establishment of common-facility services to meet the common needs and remedy the deficiencies of the production units of such industries. In a common-facility service, the capital/output ratio would be relatively favourable. Some of the important fields for which common-facility services were considered to be best suited, particularly for industries such as textile-weaving, ceramics, metal-work, wood-work, rattan and bamboo, tanning and leather-work, paper, lacquer-ware and umbrella-making, were the following: negotiation of credit, including its direct provision; bulk purchase and supply of raw materials of standard quality; provision and operation of specialized plants and equipment for processing, assembling or finishing products, or equipment and tools for improving techniques of production which individual units could not afford; development of marketing facilities, internal and foreign; and provision for training and research. The Working Party considered that common-facility services should be operated on a non-profit basis, specifically for the benefit of small-industry units and affiliates.

32. The Working Party called attention to some specific means for improving the position of small-scale industries—particularly against competition from large-scale industries—such as standardization of products through the issue of blueprints, designs and specifications of products or raw materials and minimization of marketing and financial risks by linking production or sales to definite orders, including preference to small industries in government orders.

33. The Working Party was of the opinion that continued efforts should be made to improve technical processes in small industries. In areas suffering from chronic under-employment or unemployment, it might be desirable to regulate the pace of mechanization so as not to displace labour unduly.

34. For those engaged in cottage and small-scale industries, the Working Party favoured short training courses in modern techniques and business management, supplemented by visual aids and instruction through periodicals, bulletins and pamphlets. It recommended the use of mobile training units.

35. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, commended the report and recommendations of the Working Party. It stressed the need to cope with management and marketing problems and to provide common-facility services. It endorsed the Working Party's practice of concentrating on the study and examination of one specific industry at each session, and commended the proposal to devote the next meeting to the study of the leather-goods and tanning industry in a country where measurable progress in that industry had been achieved. It noted with satisfaction the useful results achieved by the market clinic for ceramic products and the discussions on manufacturing techniques. It noted with appreciation the offer made by the Governments of countries within and outside the region to provide assistance in securing the services of technicians for the development of the ceramic industry in the region. It considered that pending electrification and modernization on a large scale, it was desirable to concentrate on feasible measures for improving the efficiency and organization of the existing industry. It recognized that the provision of cheap electric power in rural areas was of primary importance for small-scale industries. It considered that dispersed small industrial units should be encouraged to form themselves into industrial co-operatives and regional or industrial trade associations.

36. The committee unanimously adopted a resolution in which it acknowledged the importance of small-scale industries and handicraft marketing for the economic and social development of countries of the region. The text of the resolution is given in paragraph 265.

Electric power

37. There was no session of the Sub-Committee on Electric Power in 1955. The next session will be held in March 1956.

38. The *Electric Power Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, prepared by the secretariat, reviews the progress made by the countries of the region in the development of electric power-stations and transmission lines, and indicates the electric power situation. A note (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.1/6) indicating some important aspects of statistical data, with emphasis on the value of international standard reporting methods, was prepared by the secretariat for the use of countries of the region.

39. A note giving the outlines of a rural electrification demonstration centre under construction in Yugoslavia was circulated by the secretariat. Advisory services were rendered by the secretariat staff, at the request of the Governments of Ceylon and Thailand, in the preparation of projects for rural electrification demonstration centres.

40. In regard to the project on "Hydro-electric potential of each country of the region and its gross, technical and economic limits", a preliminary report (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.1/9) has been prepared summarizing the principles and methods for assessing this potential. The secretariat has reviewed the status of assessment of the water-power resources of the region, and surveys of water-power resources development have been compiled by the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development.

41. Arrangements for the study tour of electric power experts from countries of the region to manufacturers' plants and power-stations in North America and Europe were initiated in co-operation with TAA. The study tour is scheduled to take place in 1956.

42. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, considered the report on activities of the secretariat in the field of electric power (ECAFE/I&T/20). It considered that atomic power offered great possibilities especially for countries which had no cheap fuel resources. It noted that the secretariat proposed in the first instance to prepare a paper summarizing the situation in respect of the development of nuclear reactors for power generation and to compile information regarding facilities available in some countries for training personnel from countries of the region in the operation of nuclear reactors and in research. It expressed the hope that the work would be considered in the light of the forthcoming establishment of an international atomic energy agency and that the economic aspect of the problem would also be explored. It noted with appreciation that France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States of America were prepared to share with countries of the region their experience in the field of electric power, including the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, and to provide technical assistance.

43. The Committee noted that a number of countries in the region were keenly interested in undertaking rural electrification projects and that some of those countries had applied to TAA for the necessary equipment. It expressed the hope that urgent attention would be given to the implementation of the projects.

44. The Committee noted with satisfaction that arrangements for the group study tour of electric power experts from the region to manufacturers' plants and power-stations in North America and Europe were progressing satisfactorily, and that the study tour was expected to take place during 1956. It was gratifying to learn that the Governments of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States of America were prepared to receive the proposed study group and to offer the necessary facilities to the Asian experts.

Housing and building materials

45. The third meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials was held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 20 to 28 June 1955, simultaneously with an exhibition of local building materials and housing and town-planning projects; at the same time, a study trip to the Regional Research Centre, in the new township of Kebjoran, and to establishments manufacturing building materials was organized by the Government of Indonesia. Besides representatives of ECAFE, the ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), experts from some countries of the region also participated. The Working Party considered the following secretariat documents: "Building materials and construction methods in Asia and the Far East" (ECAFE/I&T/HBWP.3/2), "Guiding principles for building codes and housing standards in

countries of the ECAFE region" (I&T/HBWP.3/1) and reports on the activities in the field of housing of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (I&T/HBWP.3/2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

46. The Working Party noted with concern the serious shortage of housing, in both urban and rural areas in the region, and felt that unless steps were taken to accelerate current rates of reconstruction and construction, the situation would become still worse.

47. The Working Party recommended that socio-economic studies should be undertaken by the United Nations, with a view to arriving at a formula for estimating the benefits resulting from the provision of suitable housing to the working class; pilot projects should be initiated concurrently in countries of the region, if they so desired, with a view to assessing the material benefit of improved housing and making a possible contribution to the above-mentioned socio-economic studies, for which purpose existing housing projects and new projects under construction might, wherever possible, be used as pilot projects.

48. The Working Party considered that the current cost of utilizing chemical preservatives for fire-proofing on a large scale was prohibitive. It suggested that regional housing centres and other private or public agencies should develop cheaper chemical preservatives and methods of application. It considered that sound town-planning schemes to provide adequate spacing between buildings were the only really satisfactory long-term means of controlling fires. The necessity of differentiating between urban conditions, under which fire-proof materials would be the normal construction medium, and rural conditions, where cheaper and more inflammable materials are normally used, was stressed in this connexion.

49. The Working Party reviewed the progress of the housing centres: one for hot-arid climate in India, and the other for hot-humid climate in Indonesia. There were already in both countries some first-class research laboratories and institutes specializing in problems relating to housing. Considerable progress was noted in the collection and classification of available technical information. The Working Party noted that the research done by the centres would be more effective if some means, such as advisory committees, were used to permit participation in programming by the various sectors of private industry. The Committee endorsed in principle the Working Party's recommendation that a regional housing centre advisory board should be constituted to assist in co-ordinating the activities of the two centres, and requested the Executive Secretary to work out, in consultation with the Governments concerned, the details of the composition and terms of reference of the advisory board.

50. The progress of research work in Burma was noted. It was suggested that there should be an interchange of experts and technicians between Burma and Indonesia to study roof-tile manufacture, under the auspices of the regional housing centre. The Working Party requested the ECAFE secretariat to continue to disseminate technical information from the centres and other sources to countries of the region.

51. As the two regional centres would need comprehensive and detailed information on the organic and inorganic resources for housing and building construction, the Working Party recommended that Governments in the region should carry out surveys in respect of individual materials. It stressed the need for a uniform and comparable form for collecting data for that purpose and requested ECAFE to prepare such a form in respect of inorganic materials and FAO in respect of organic materials.

52. As surveys and investigations into such materials were carried out in different countries of the region by a number of authorities, at times without proper co-ordination and on different lines, the Working Party requested the Governments to co-ordinate the activities of the different authorities within the countries, and collate the information gathered.

53. The Working Party recommended a set of guiding principles for housing standards and building codes to be used as a basis for the framing of new legislation and the amendment of existing legislation in the ECAFE region.

54. The Working Party considered that when revising existing building codes, and also when planning research, the possibility of making the minimum use of steel in the design of small structures and of adopting welding techniques more widely for major framed structures should be borne in mind.

55. As regards the brick-and-tile industry, the Working Party attached greater importance to the standardization of quality and reduction of the price of clay than to the introduction of large-scale industrial plants, except in specific localities.

56. In regard to research and demonstration projects for the construction of rammed- and stabilized-soil houses, the Working Party noted that the knowledge gained from the Ceylon project and other sources was being applied in several countries. It also noted the possibilities of carrying out satisfactory maintenance, at low cost, of millions of mud dwellings in countries of the region by the application of external renderings composed of mud-mortar stabilized with a special slow-breaking bituminous emulsion developed for the purpose. It also noted the hopeful prospects for the extensive use of stabilized soil for structural purposes and for mortars and renderings, particularly in the more arid countries of the region, where inorganic building materials were the main construction media.

57. With a view to widening its own scope and effectiveness, the Working Party recommended that its status should in future be raised to that of a full working party providing for the attendance of experts sent by Governments of the member and associate member countries.

58. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, endorsed the report and recommendations of the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials. It noted with appreciation that the report contained a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic and technical problems relating to housing and building materials in countries of the region and practical suggestions for their solution.

59. The Committee noted with interest that the countries of the region were becoming increasingly aware of the importance of providing adequate housing to the masses. However, despite all efforts on the part of Governments, there was still a serious shortage of housing in both the urban and the rural areas. The Committee emphasized the fact that with the rapidly increasing population in the region, the situation would deteriorate unless steps were taken to accelerate the provision of housing.

60. Appreciating that provision of housing to the low-income group of population was clearly not self-financing and required subsidizing by the State, the Committee recognized the immense indirect benefits, both social and economic, arising from the provision of adequate housing.

61. The Committee agreed with the Working Party that national housing programmes should take into consideration the extent of the problem, the immediate shortage and the future requirements for the growing population in each country. It recognized the necessity of exploring every source from which additional funds might be raised and included in national budgets for the direct provision of low-cost, non-profit-making housing. It also stressed that national programmes should include projects to build up the supply of essential building materials, by better exploitation of indigenous resources, by the early expansion of industry and by other means of procurement, according to the economic conditions of the country concerned. The Committee also recommended consideration of measures to eliminate the shortages of trained and competent personnel at all levels.

62. The Committee also stressed the desirability of encouraging private initiative and enterprise, both in housing construction and in the manufacture of building materials in small- as well as large-scale establishments. The Committee noted that the social benefits from the provision of housing would be enhanced if accompanied by the development of proper environment for such housing.

63. The Committee was gratified at the progress made by the two regional housing centres, one for the arid tropical zone, established in India, and the other for the humid tropical zone established, in Indonesia, and appreciated the assistance provided by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, the ECAFE secretariat and the specialized agencies and also the aid given to them under bilateral programmes. The Committee stressed that the two regional centres would need such continued support and assistance.

64. The Committee endorsed the Working Party's suggestion that a study tour be arranged for housing and building materials experts from countries of the region under the United Nations technical assistance programme. It welcomed the offer made by the USSR, the United States of America and other countries to afford the necessary facilities.

65. The Committee noted with appreciation that a number of countries had sent technical experts to participate in the Working Party on Housing and Building

Materials. It recognized the value of, and the need for, associating national experts with the Working Party so that the fullest appreciation of conditions prevailing in the countries could be assured at all stages of the study of the problem. It therefore approved the suggestion that the scope and terms of reference of the Working Party should be widened and that its status should be raised to that of a full working party of experts.

66. The Committee considered that the Working Party might suitably be entrusted with the following functions:

(a) To provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of information on problems relating to regional housing and building materials;

(b) To review and guide the work of the secretariat on housing and building materials in order to ensure maximum practical value to the countries of the region;

(c) To review the progress made by countries of the region in the study of problems, both economic and technical, which have inhibited the rapid development of housing, particularly low-cost housing, and recommend ways and means of overcoming such problems;

(d) To suggest methods whereby regional research, pilot projects, exhibitions, study tours, etc., on housing and on building materials procurement, production and utilization might be carried on through international co-operation.

67. The Working Party will co-operate closely with other expert working bodies of ECAFE and the United Nations as well as with the specialized agencies.

Iron and steel

68. The sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel was held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 to 29 August 1955.

69. The Sub-Committee considered the following documents submitted by the secretariat: "Review of plans and problems of the iron and steel industry and allied industries in the ECAFE region" (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/5), "Classification of iron and steel scrap" (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/1), "Processes of iron manufacture without coking coal and their applicability in ECAFE countries" (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/4), "Re-rolling mills" (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/3), "The manufacture of steel in converters with top-blown high-purity oxygen (Linzer-Dusenstahl Process)" (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/2), and "Techniques to be studied during the proposed group visit of Asian iron and steel experts to Europe and the United States of America" (ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/6). A number of technical papers on iron and steel problems were also placed before the Sub-Committee by some member countries.

70. The Sub-Committee noted that, in some countries of the region, substantial progress had been made for the development of the iron and steel industry. It emphasized that urgent attention should be given to the training of technical personnel.

71. The Sub-Committee stressed the need for the adoption of a standard system of scrap classification which

would be simpler than that used in industrially developed areas such as Europe or the United States of America. The simplified standard classification proposed by the secretariat, it decided, might be reviewed at its next session in the light of experience in the region.

72. On the processes of manufacture of iron without coking coal, the Sub-Committee recommended that laboratory and pilot-plant tests should be carried out and the results of other preparatory work ascertained before a decision to start manufacturing on a commercial scale was taken. While recent technological developments were promising, careful investigations into the physical and chemical properties of the raw materials to be used were a prerequisite of the choice of a process.

73. The Sub-Committee felt that the process of steel-making in converters with top-blown high-purity oxygen had proved suitable under certain conditions, but drew attention to some difficulties and stressed that the process was not the only method of conversion of iron into steel developed in Europe.

74. The Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to study the demand for steel products in the countries of the ECAFE region in connexion with the study of steel-fabricating and processing industries.

75. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, endorsed the report and recommendations of the Sub-Committee. It stressed the importance of the study of demand for iron and steel and their products. It also stressed the importance of the continuation of the study of the various processes of iron manufacture without coking coal with special emphasis on low-shaft furnaces, charcoal blast furnaces and electric smelting furnaces, including the economic aspects of those processes.

76. Emphasizing the importance of iron and steel scrap for the iron and steel industry, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that the secretariat continue its study of uniform scrap classification and dissemination of information on scrap-collection techniques, scrap-supply assessment and methods of scrap preparation, with a view to promoting scrap-collection drives as well as trade in scrap among countries within and outside the region.

77. The Committee emphasized the importance of the proposed group visit and study tour of iron and steel experts from the region to Europe and the United States of America to be sponsored by ECAFE and TAA and expressed the hope that the visit would take place in the current year. The representatives of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States of America welcomed the study tour to their countries and offered their services.

Mineral resources development

78. There was no session of the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development in 1955. The second session will be held in early June 1956 in Tokyo, Japan.

79. During the period under review, the secretariat published a report on *Mining Development in Asia and*

the Far East, 1954-1955 (E/CN.11/421)⁴ and completed work on the integrated study of fuel economy of the region, draft proposals for a regional coal classification, and a legal analysis, in co-operation with the General Legal Division at United Nations Headquarters, of existing regulations on mineral resources development received from countries of the region. The study on ilmenite resources of the region in relation to titanium manufacture continued. Progress was also made in the preparation of a regional geological map of Asia and the Far East, in co-operation with the International Geological Congress and the United Nations Cartographic Section and in the promotion of an interregional exchange, between ECE and ECAFE, of low-grade coal samples for laboratory investigation, a scheme for which was drawn up jointly by the ECE and ECAFE secretariats.

80. A study group of geologists and mining engineers from the ECAFE region, under the joint sponsorship of ECAFE and TAA, visited western Europe and the USSR from 4 August to 5 November 1955. Twelve experts from Afghanistan, Burma, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia and Japan participated in the tour. The group studied methods and techniques for the organization and planning of country-wide geological surveys, training of junior geologists and mining engineers, and exploration and development of coals and metalliferous ores, as well as survey and prospecting procedures and equipment. The group visited geological departments and institutions, coal- and ore-prospecting parties, mines and processing plants, and research organizations and machinery factories.

81. The group recommended that ECAFE and TAA explore the possibility of establishing a documentation centre in Moscow to translate the relevant technical publications into English.

82. The group felt that adequate finance and technical personnel should be provided for geological surveys in Asia. For the countries of vast area, it recommended the establishment of regional or provincial geological surveys in addition to the central or federal geological survey.

83. The group felt it desirable for neighbouring countries in Asia to co-ordinate their aerial survey programmes (topographical, geological, or prospecting) so that available aircraft and technical personnel might be used economically and fully. It felt that the ECAFE secretariat might co-ordinate such work, for which purpose the countries concerned should give information on their aerial survey programme, and the secretariat should inform the countries regarding the availability of aircraft and technical personnel in the region.

84. The group recommended that countries send selected personnel abroad for training in geo-chemistry or engage experts from some western countries having experience in the field. It felt that for modernizing the equipment and introducing new methods, the countries might benefit by engaging well-established firms or organizations specializing in geo-physical prospecting for specific assignments.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.4.

85. The group recommended that the countries of the region should provide free tuition and financial assistance for board and lodging to the junior geologists and junior technicians under training. It also recommended the establishment or extension of correspondence courses in geology and mining.

86. In the opinion of the group, the experiments in underground gasification of coal from coal-seams which it was uneconomic to work with standard mining methods, carried out in the Soviet Union and in western Europe, were of considerable technical, economic and social significance. The group stressed the need for the co-ordination and exchange of technical information among the countries, and recommended the setting up of an international experimental plant under United Nations sponsorship.

87. The group suggested measures such as drilling and extensive survey of coal/lignite resources, maximum use of machines for coal-cutting and coal-conveying, adoption of simple and small machines as a first step in mechanization, training of workers in the operation and maintenance of machines, developing of mines on the basis of an economic unit of 1,000 ton/day capacity, introduction of central washery and workshops for a group of collieries, safety measures in the mines, fundamental research in coal-mining, and development of the coal-mining machinery industry.

88. The possibility of using brown coal/lignite in power generation as well as chemicals manufacture, was also pointed out by the group.

89. Among other matters on which the group made recommendations on the basis of its observation, were the utilization of low-grade ferrous and non-ferrous ores, collection and dissemination of technical information on mineralogy and geology of radio-active minerals and radio-metric prospecting.

90. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, noted with satisfaction that substantial progress had been made by the secretariat in the implementation of mineral resources development projects and that the study tour of geologists and mining engineers of the ECAFE region to western Europe and the USSR had been successfully completed.

91. The Committee noted that the final report of the study group would be carefully examined by the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development at its second session to be held during the year. In view, however, of the urgent need for developing the mineral resources of the region, the Committee recommended that careful consideration be given by the Commission to such recommendations of the study group—summarized in the secretariat document on the subject (ECAFE/I&T/21)—as lent themselves to early action without further preliminary technical review. The Committee adopted a resolution, the text of which is given in paragraph 260.

92. The Committee recommended the formation of an ECAFE/ECE joint working group of experts to examine the feasibility of establishing an experimental station for underground gasification of coal in the region in collaboration with experts from interested countries

within and outside the region. The Committee was assured by the Executive Secretaries of both ECAFE and ECE that consideration would be given to the subject at an early date.

93. The Committee was of the opinion that an intensive study of the exploration, exploitation and utilization of low-grade coal was of special importance for the region and suggested that work on the project be expedited.

94. The Committee felt that with the increase in research on the peaceful uses of atomic energy and with the construction of atomic power plants for electricity generation, the development of radioactive mineral deposits had become imperative. It therefore considered that dissemination of information on prospecting for uranium and other radioactive minerals should be included in the secretariat's work programme as a project of high priority.

95. The rapid development of aluminium production was considered to be desirable and the Executive Secretary was requested to examine, in consultation with TAA, the possibility of obtaining experts to assist such member countries as wished to undertake projects in that field.

96. As regards the study group's recommendation on the establishment of a documentation centre, while the Committee was generally in favour of such a proposal, some delegations felt that the translation centre might be established at Bangkok, where ECAFE had its headquarters, rather than in Moscow, and that the translation from Russian should be made not only into English but also into French, which is one of the working languages of ECAFE. Some delegations suggested that the proposals for the translation of technical publications raised broad issues concerning the competence of other international organizations and the propriety of using technical assistance funds for that purpose. The Committee therefore requested the Executive Secretary to explore the matter further with the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) and with other interested international organizations.

97. The Committee felt that the services of the ECAFE secretariat might be usefully employed for ascertaining the type of co-operation to be expected and the nature of work involved in the co-ordination, by neighbouring countries of the region, of their aerial survey programmes.

98. The Committee endorsed the study group's recommendation that a similar study group of Asian geologists and mining engineers should visit Canada and the United States of America in the near future, to obtain a complete knowledge of modern techniques and methods used by industrially advanced countries, which might serve as a basis for comparison with a view to their applicability in countries of the region.

TRADE

99. The first session of the Sub-Committee on Trade was held in January 1955. The next session of the Sub-Committee will be held in late October 1956.

Development of trade and trade promotion services

100. The secretariat prepared a scheme for the training of officials in trade-promotion techniques and services in the advanced countries of the region. The scheme consisted of two proposals: (i) a "specialized training" programme for high-ranking officials from countries of the region and (ii) "on-the-spot training" courses for a group of officials in countries of the region.

101. A report is being prepared by the secretariat on the basis of studies and observations of the international fairs and exhibitions held during the year in the region. The secretariat deputed its staff members to attend and observe the latest trade-promotion techniques at international trade fairs held in Indonesia (Djakarta) and Pakistan (Karachi). Reports on these fairs were published in *Trade Promotion News*.

102. In January 1956, the *Trade Promotion Series* was discontinued and its contents incorporated in *Trade Promotion News*, which will be issued monthly instead of once every two months. The information on "invitations to tender" in respect of supplies required by various Governments continues to be included in *Trade Promotion News*.

Regulations, procedures and practices concerning the conduct of international trade

103. For the study of regulations and procedures concerning the conduct of international trade, the secretariat is in the process of collecting data from countries of the region under the following heads: (i) import licensing, (ii) export licensing, (iii) problems relating to customs, (iv) quality control of exports, (v) travel of businessmen, (vi) trade complaints, (vii) industrial property rights, (viii) Government purchases, and (ix) procedures and regulations in partner countries.

Market analysis

104. An observer from the ECAFE secretariat participated, at the special invitation of the Government of the Philippines, in the First International Coco-nut Conference, held at Manila in August 1955. The conference emphasized the importance of the coco-nut and its industry to the economies of the major producing countries of the region and adopted several resolutions aimed at the improvement of the production and marketing of, and research on, coco-nut and coco-nut products.

105. A marketing study by the secretariat on coco-nut and its products is nearing completion.

106. The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, considered the report on the activities of the secretariat in the field of trade (E/CN.11/I&T/120 and Add.1). In view of the urgent need for simplifying regulations and procedures and rationalizing practices concerning the conduct of international trade, the Committee felt that the secretariat study should be expedited and that practical suggestions should be formulated for the consideration of member Governments. It was of the opinion that the interest of individual countries and of the region as a whole could best be served by

simplifying regulations and practices relating to the conduct of international trade as far as practicable, and by widening both markets and sources of supply to the maximum extent. It felt that serious consideration should be given to the question of increasing the foreign-exchange resources available to the countries of the region. Several members felt that the early establishment of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) would be of considerable assistance in that direction.

107. The Committee considered trade promotion to be of vital importance in the economic development of the countries of the region. It recommended that consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing a study centre within the region for the training of trade-promotion personnel and that an endeavour should be made to obtain experts from outside the region. It noted with appreciation that several countries would be prepared to exchange, to the maximum extent, information and knowledge relating to trade-promotion techniques. It noted that countries of the region were showing an increasing interest in utilizing international fairs and exhibitions for the development of trade. Some countries of the region had successfully organized trade fairs and exhibitions on a fairly large scale, and a number of ECAFE countries had participated in international fairs held outside the region.

108. The Committee noted that the secretariat had printed and issued the *Glossary of Commodity Terms* (E/CN.11/394)⁵ including currencies, weights and measures in use in the countries of the region. It also noted that the information on the functioning of export credit insurance, export-import banks and other export-promotion schemes had been published in *Trade Promotion News*. It felt that the usefulness of the study on intra-regional trade would depend on the extent to which it would promote and encourage individual Governments to carry out activities in that field. It felt that intra-regional trade should be encouraged within the context of an ever-expanding world trade.

109. The Committee also considered that the secretariat study on ocean freight rates should be expedited with the co-operation of the Governments of the countries concerned. In that connexion the Committee emphasized the need for fair and non-discriminatory freight rates and the need for increasing the availability of shipping facilities.

110. The Committee noted that the secretariat was making a study of the problems of land-locked countries in the region with a view to submitting a report for consideration at the second session of the Sub-Committee on Trade. In view of the interest in transit trade facilities for land-locked countries and countries without easy access to the sea, the Committee recommended that full recognition be given by all member States to the needs of land-locked member States and members having no easy access to the sea and that adequate facilities be accorded.

111. The Committee felt that the secretariat should give particular attention, wherever necessary, to assist-

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.II.F.4.

ing the development of commercial-arbitration facilities in the region, and to the problems of standards and specifications for consumer and capital goods.

112. After careful consideration of the various projects being undertaken by the secretariat in the field of trade, the Committee adopted a resolution, the text of which is given in paragraph 271.

INLAND TRANSPORT

113. The fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee was held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 14 February 1955. The Committee's deliberations covered library service, co-ordination of transport, statistical study of performance of transport systems with a view to obtaining maximum efficiency and full utilization of all available resources, railways, highways, inland waterways, and refrigerator inland transport.

General

114. The quarterly *Transport Bulletin* and the annual *Railway Statistics Bulletin* continued to be issued.

Co-ordination of transport

115. The Inland Transport Committee considered the secretariat's report (TRANS/72 and Add.1), which reviewed the current position in some countries inside and outside the region and contained certain suggestions covering basic principles and methods, including financial and other criteria for co-ordinating the development of railway, highway and inland water transport under varying economic conditions. The Committee recommended the following subjects for further study by the secretariat:

(a) General principles for the calculation of comparative costs to be taken into consideration in co-ordination studies for all means of transport, including coastal shipping;

(b) Methods to be adopted for the calculation of costs for various means of transport: rail, roads, inland waterways, air and pipe-lines;

(c) Present tariffs in countries of the region;

(d) Value of service to users;

(e) (i) Analysis of the principles and methods of co-ordination of different forms of transport, statutory or otherwise, in the countries of the region as well as in some countries outside the region; (ii) Analysis of the existing co-ordination machinery in those countries; (iii) Recommendations on the above.

Statistical study of performance of transport systems with a view to obtaining maximum efficiency and full utilization of all available resources

116. The Committee took note of the interim report (E/CN.11/TRANS/115) prepared by the secretariat, dealing with the efficiency measurement and operational research aspects of the performance of transport systems with recommendations for improved methods for measuring the efficiency of rail and road transportation, and recommended that the secretariat should make further

studies and formulate suitable recommendations for transportation systems and Governments having larger resources at their disposal.

Refrigerator inland transport

117. The Committee considered a preliminary report (E/CN.11/TRANS/112) on the current position of, and trends in, the development of refrigerator inland transport by road and rail, including storage techniques in respect of fixed installations and vehicles, and the principles adopted in countries outside the region under conditions similar to those prevailing in the area. As most countries of the region are planning to expand refrigerator inland transport, the Committee recommended that the secretariat's further studies should bear on specific aspects, including cost of refrigeration, freight charges and techniques suitable for adoption by small, medium and large transport undertakings.

Proposal to include telecommunications in the terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee

118. Having regard to the current development of telecommunications in the ECAFE region, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

"The Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

"Taking note of the fact that efficient systems of telecommunications are essential to the economic development of the region,

"Having regard to the fact that there is no international regional organization within the ECAFE region for review and study of telecommunications problems peculiar to that region,

"Realizing the importance of, and an urgent need for, developing telecommunications systems to meet the growing requirements of transport, industry and trade,

"1. Recommends that the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East undertake, in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union and any other appropriate United Nations specialized agency, studies on:

"(a) Promotion and improvement of public communications systems for domestic and commercial purposes;

"(b) Establishment of telecommunications facilities for various industrial activities, such as development of transport, electric-power generation, water-resources development and agriculture;

"2. Further recommends for this purpose that the main specific functions of the Inland Transport Committee as set out in the Commission's resolution of 6 March 1951 (E/CN.11/298) be extended to include the following:

"To make studies, in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union and any other appropriate United Nations specialized agency, on the development of domestic and regional telecommunications systems in the ECAFE region to meet the requirements of transport, industry and commerce, and to make recommendations to Governments'."

The Committee recommended a tentative work programme to include, *inter alia*, the study of techniques and economic aspects of telecommunications systems, improved methods of co-ordination between domestic networks, exploration of the possibilities of establishing a regional or national training centre and regional organizations of national telecommunications administrations under article 42 of the International Telecommunication Convention.

Development of international travel and tourism

119. As regards the recommendation of the Asian and Far Eastern Travel Commission of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations that the ECAFE secretariat consider setting up a section to deal with all facets of tourism, the Committee noted that, as it would not be possible to do so, the secretariat should co-operate with and help the two newly proposed regional travel commissions of the Asian and Far Eastern Travel Commission.

Railways

120. With the concurrence of the Governments, the fourth session of the Railway Sub-Committee was postponed until March 1956.

121. During the year, substantive work was concentrated mainly on the projects described below.

Training Centre for Railway Operating and Signalling Officials

122. The third and fourth operating courses and the first signalling course were held. The participation in, and the working of, the centre showed improvement.

123. In order to make further use of the training facilities offered by the Centre, the Government of Pakistan, ECAFE and TAA agreed to invite certain middle-eastern countries, such as Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Turkey, to send trainees to the Centre. So far, two trainees have been seconded by the Government of Iraq.

124. To assist Governments of the region to send trainees, the Government of Pakistan offered to grant scholarships, under the Colombo Plan, to trainees from countries members of the Consultative Committee for Co-operative Economic Development in South-East Asia. Some Governments were reported to be taking advantage of this offer.

125. Acting on the recommendations of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Railway Training Centre, the Inland Transport Committee adopted the following resolution:

"The Inland Transport Committee,

"Recognizing the important role the United Nations Training Centre for Railway Operating and Signalling Officials, Lahore, is playing in providing training facilities to railway officials of the railways of countries of the region and the direct benefits accruing to the railways from such training programmes,

"Having regard to the need for an assured continuation of support for the Centre by the participating Governments for a period of at least three to four

years ahead to enable the United Nations and the host Government to formulate future policies and programmes,

"Requests participating Governments to guarantee a minimum representation of their trainees at all courses at least during a period of three to four years, and give an indication of the extent of their participation at the fourth session of the Railway Sub-Committee convening from 26 to 31 March 1956 in New Delhi, India."

Diesel locomotives and railcars

126. On the basis of the report of the members of the expert group appointed by the Railway Sub-Committee at its third session, an interim report on diesel locomotives and railcars has been prepared by the secretariat.

Improved turn-round of rolling-stock

127. A report (TRANS/Sub.1/2) was prepared by the secretariat, analysing the current situation in turn-round of freight cars and the steps taken by the railways of the region to improve it, and reviewing developments in certain railways outside the region. The studies suggest the possible lines on which further improvement in the turn-round of freight cars may be achieved, such as organized action for improving freight-train operation and control, the planning and programming of freight-train movements, the adoption of sound freight and demurrage policies, and the rationalization of movements, loading, empty haulage of freight cars, and yard and terminal operation.

Railway track sleepers

Wooden sleepers

128. Part of the joint ECAFE/FAO study on wooden sleepers has been completed by the secretariat (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/9). The part covering supply and related aspects will be completed by FAO by the middle of 1956. The part of the study undertaken by ECAFE deals mainly with the different types of railway sleepers in use in the ECAFE region, comparative specifications, causes of failures, design and dimensions. Relevant aspects of the sources of supply and manufacture are also discussed.

Concrete sleepers

129. The secretariat prepared a report on concrete sleepers (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/12) on the basis of replies from Governments to a questionnaire. It examines the technical and economic aspects of concrete sleepers in use in the various countries within and outside the region, theoretical calculations on which their design is based and the results of tests carried out on the use of concrete sleepers.

Incidence of railway accidents and measures for prevention

130. A preliminary report (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/11) prepared by the secretariat reviews the present situation with regard to railway accidents in countries of the region and suggests a possible outline for the proposed study, covering the nature and types of railway accidents, the various measures adopted by railways for

prevention of accidents, the governmental inspecting organization for safety of rail operation and accident prevention, and recommendations for possible further action. A questionnaire has also been circulated to obtain information from Governments.

Highways

131. The third session of the Highway Sub-Committee was held at Manila, Philippines, from 21 to 28 November 1955. The Sub-Committee considered the following secretariat documents: "Water-bound macadam construction" (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/25), "Low-cost roads and soil stabilization" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.2/3), "Bituminous construction" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.2/4), "Engineering aspects of highway safety—Final report" (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/26), and "Traffic aspects of highway safety—Preliminary report" (TRANS/Sub.2/1).

132. The Sub-Committee appointed a group of experts to consider the draft specifications for macadam construction and to make recommendations for their adoption by countries of the region. On the question of low-cost roads and soil stabilization, due account was taken of the various methods adopted in countries of the region for soil stabilization and it was recommended that the secretariat should obtain, through a questionnaire, detailed information on the experience of the various countries, particularly on mechanical stabilization and stabilization with cement, bituminous materials, resinous materials and chemicals. In addition, a number of countries and specialized institutions were requested to prepare basic papers on the above subjects. The Executive Secretary was requested to convene a seminar on low-cost roads in co-operation with TAA.

133. The Sub-Committee felt that Governments of the region should develop techniques and methods for the construction of bituminous surfacings. It recommended that the secretariat collect from countries within and outside the region detailed information on the results of research and experiments carried out on bituminous road construction and maintenance. It emphasized the need for developing a uniform terminology for the dissemination of technical data.

134. In view of the phenomenal post-war increase in the volume of road transportation and in the congestion caused in urban areas by the intermingling of slow- and fast-moving traffic, which results in accidents, the Sub-Committee gave particular attention to the engineering and traffic aspects of highway safety. It felt that Governments should undertake suitable highway-safety development programmes as matters of urgency. It stressed the need for a uniform technical terminology and recommended the convening of a seminar on the engineering and traffic aspects of highway safety with a view to pooling information on current practices in the various countries and formulating recommendations for adoption by countries of the region. A sub-committee was appointed consisting of the representatives of India, Japan and the Philippines to assist in the organization of the seminar.

135. The Inland Transport Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Highway Sub-Committee that

a seminar on low-cost roads and soil stabilization should be convened.

136. The Committee noted that the Government of Japan had agreed to be host for a seminar on highway safety. It felt that slow-moving non-mechanical traffic and the possibility of its segregation from motorized vehicular traffic were important problems to be considered. It felt that the seminar on highway safety should receive higher priority than the seminar on low-cost roads and soil stabilization.

Inland waterways

137. The third session of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee was held at Dacca, East Pakistan, from 24 to 30 October 1955.

138. The Sub-Committee considered the "Final draft for the Convention Regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed in Inland Navigation" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/31). It considered also the following documents: "Uniform system of buoyage for inland waterways in Asia and the Far East" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/27), "Uniform system of shore marks for inland waterways" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/28 and Add.1), "Study of inland ports" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/35 and Add.1 and 2), "Study of model government organization to deal with inland waterway transport and river and canal conservancy" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/22), "Establishment of a regional training centre for diesel marine mechanics" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/36), "Demonstration/pilot project" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/33), *Selected Plans of Inland Waterway Transport Vessels* (E/CN.11/409)⁶ and "Current inland waterway developments" (ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/34).

139. The text of the Convention Regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed in Inland Navigation was noted. The main object of the convention is to have a uniform standard for measuring vessels as well as standardized registration certificates, which will reduce delay in international traffic, thereby increasing the carrying capacity of the fleet.

140. In view of the fact that only a limited number of shore marks are at present in use on the inland waterways in the region, the Sub-Committee made recommendations on standardization of shore marks, and requested the secretariat to prepare printed publications showing the recommended systems. It also recommended an agreed uniform system of maritime buoyage for adoption by governments for their inland waterways.

141. The Sub-Committee noted the progress made in India in the organization of demonstration/pilot projects on the improved design and operation of craft. It noted that the Government of France was willing to consider participating in the scheme, provided that assistance from other countries was also forthcoming and that the various contributions could be co-ordinated satisfactorily.

142. The Sub-Committee noted the progress made in the establishment of the ILO/ECAFE Regional

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.VIII.2.

Training Centre for Diesel Marine Mechanics at Rangoon, which was expected to be opened on 1 March 1956, and noted that the number of prospective trainees would exceed the number of places available. It also noted that there was a possibility that equipment might be donated by various member countries. The Sub-Committee emphasized the need for an advisory board and recommended suitable terms of reference for such a body. It also made suggestions regarding the curriculum and duration of the courses.

143. The Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to continue its work on inland ports, plans of inland waterway transport vessels and current inland waterway developments. It suggested the convening of a working party on inland ports at a later stage, to analyse the information collected and to frame recommendations for countries of the region.

144. The Inland Transport Committee approved the report of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee.

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Multiple-purpose river basin development

145. A manual on methods of planning river-basin development was published in March 1955. It discusses the basic problems which arise in the preparation of a comprehensive river-basin plan. The manual also contains a country-by-country survey of water resources development in the region. A further publication comprising the survey of water resources development in Ceylon, China (Taiwan), Japan and the Philippines is now available. Surveys of water resources development in other countries will be published subsequently.

Flood control and water resources development of international rivers

146. The studies with regard to the lower Mekong basin, covering parts of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet-Nam within the basin, which had been started in 1952, were resumed.

147. In accordance with the Commission's desire that the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development should concentrate its efforts and resources on international rivers and on the improvement of the conditions in their basins, the secretariat resources are being pooled to organize a team of experts to undertake, in 1956, a reconnaissance survey of the lower Mekong basin with a view to working out a preliminary plan for water-resources development, looking into projects which are feasible for the control and utilization of the Mekong and outlining an appropriate network of hydrologic stations, and the topographic, geologic and soil mapping and studies that are necessary for further detailed investigation and planning. The team is scheduled to begin field investigations in March 1956 and to complete the report in about one year's time, for submission to the Governments concerned for their consideration and further action. A working paper, summarizing the findings of the secretariat in the course of its investigations during the past few years, has been prepared by the bureau, indicating the lines along which

the reconnaissance survey should proceed. It is being submitted to the various technical departments of the countries concerned for their comments and suggestions, on the basis of which a definite programme of work for the reconnaissance survey will be chalked out.

Improvement of flood control methods

148. A preliminary study of methods employed for earthwork construction, with particular emphasis on the use of labour with a view to improving the efficiency of operation and reducing the cost, was completed after on-the-spot investigations in selected earthwork construction sites had been carried out in India, where there is an abundance of labour at relatively low wage rates, and in Japan, where high wages and mechanization prevail. Activity, process, operation and motion analyses of earth excavation and moving were carried out. Slow-motion pictures of earth-moving operations were taken, on the basis of which detailed analyses were done. The study will be submitted to the technical departments of countries concerned for their consideration and comments.

149. On the problem of sediment control, studies on the silting and scouring of rivers and canals, undertaken jointly with hydraulic research stations in India and Thailand, were continued.

Hydrologic observations and hydraulic research stations

150. A working group of experts from various countries of the region, in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), met at Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 24 September 1955, to review the major deficiencies in hydrologic data in the region and to finalize hydrologic terminology. It finalized the terminology proposed by the various countries, specialized agencies and international technical organizations, with respect both to coverage and to correctness of definitions.

151. The working group considered the statistics made available by member countries and made detailed suggestions on them, and it approved the outline of a report to be prepared jointly by the secretariats of ECAFE and WMO.

152. The compilation and publication in the *Flood Control Journal* of the programme of research work carried out by hydraulic experiment stations along with lists of equipment of these stations, were continued.

Dissemination of technical information

153. The bureau distributed publications and reports and supplied data on specific subjects at the request of Governments or of their technical organizations. Three numbers of the *Flood Control Journal*, giving information on water resources developments in the region, were issued. The seventh and eighth numbers of the *Flood Control Series*, entitled *Manual of River Basin Planning and Survey of Water Resources Development (in Ceylon, China (Taiwan), Japan and the Philippines)* were published; the ninth, *Proceedings of the Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development* (Tokyo, May 1954) is in press.

Training Centre for Water Resources Development

154. The Government of India announced the establishment of a Training Centre for Water Resources Development at the University of Roorkee, India, which commenced operation in December 1955. It is open to trainees from many other countries of the region. The bureau assisted the Centre in the recruitment of trainees from the region.

Economic and Social Council resolution 533 (XVIII) on international co-operation with respect to water resources development

155. The bureau's programme of work fully takes into account the recommendations made in Economic and Social Council resolution 533 (XVIII). The Bureau has co-operated with the Bureau of Economic Affairs in the preparation of a report on water resources, in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING

Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East

156. The *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955*⁷ consists of two parts, divided into nineteen chapters: part I gives an assessment, in chapter 1, of the various rates of growth achieved in the post-war decade and, in chapter 2, of economic developments in the region during 1955; part II gives a review of developments separately for individual countries of the region. In part I, chapter 2, special emphasis is given to problems related to economic development in the region, under six headings, as follows: (a) agricultural production: a review of the changes in the production of, and trade in, cereals and other commodities; (b) industrial production: current developments in production and policies, with emphasis on fuel and power, iron and steel and cotton textiles; (c) transport, with the inclusion, for the first time, of a discussion on ocean shipping; (d) international trade and payments: highlighting exports of primary commodities and imports of capital goods, and also discussing trade policies; (e) monetary developments: a review of the monetary situation and aggregate effective demand and the impact of export fluctuations, development and defence expenditures and other factors, followed by an analysis of monetary and credit policies; (f) planning and implementation of development programmes: an analysis of various planning objectives, together with a discussion on the progress of implementation.

Quarterly Economic Bulletin

157. The publication of the quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East* was continued. The Governments of the region, especially their statistical offices and departments, co-operated in the regular supply of current data required for (a) the preparation of the half-yearly review of economic developments in the region, (b) the compilation of statistics on production, transport, trade, prices, money and banking, and (c) the compilation of information on trade agreements. The

May issue of the *Bulletin* included articles on "Acceleration of population growth in ECAFE countries since the Second World War" and "Economic indicators of inflation in ECAFE countries". The November issue—a special number entitled *Economic Development and Planning in Asia and the Far East: Problems and Techniques* (E/CN.11/412)—included the "Report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (first meeting) to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (twelfth session)" and two papers: "Problems and techniques of economic development planning and programming with special reference to ECAFE countries" and "Statistics required for planning in the ECAFE region".

Statistical compilation and series

158. Basic statistical series on national income, population, labour, production, transport, trade, prices, finance and such subjects are continuously maintained and expanded in collaboration with the statistical agencies of Governments and central banks of ECAFE countries, the United Nations Statistical Office and the specialized agencies, in particular the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the International Civil Aviation Organization. A comprehensive index of the major statistical series relating to ECAFE countries is being compiled for publication in 1956. Information on concepts, definitions and methods used in the collection and compilation of major statistical series is continuously gathered by the secretariat to facilitate various studies. Statistical analyses of different types were made in connexion with various work projects of the secretariat.

Statistical conference and workshop

159. A Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region was convened at Bangkok, Thailand, from 30 August to 10 September 1955, jointly with TAA and the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs. The Workshop discussed definitions and scope of the public sector and the economic and functional classification of Government accounts. The Workshop concluded that the supplementary classification of Government transactions into those categories, with a cross-classification of the two, would be found useful by any country wishing to improve the information at its disposal for formulating social and economic policies. The Workshop recommended that another meeting on budget statistics be held after about eighteen months, to review the progress made and the difficulties encountered in applying the suggested classification of Government accounts.

Economic development and planning

160. The first meeting of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning was held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 31 October to 11 November 1955. In addition to papers submitted by Governments and specialized agencies, the Working Party considered the following papers prepared by the ECAFE secreta-

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.1.

riat: "Problems and techniques of economic development planning and programming with special reference to ECAFE countries" (ECAFE/DPWP.1/2 and Corr.1), "Statistics required for planning in the ECAFE region" (ECAFE/DPWP.1/3), "Techniques of programming in India's first Five-Year Plan" (DPWP.1/14) and "Standard unit requirements of factors of production as a technique of resource budgeting (with special reference to Japan)" (DPWP.1/15).

161. The Working Party concluded that the interplay of population, natural resources, capital, social and economic institutions, and ties with the rest of the world must be kept in mind in considering the problems of programming and planning for a country's economic growth.

162. The Working Party noted the possibility of significant increases in capital formation through the introduction of techniques that might raise productivity substantially. It recommended that a study be undertaken of the extent to which net capital formation in ECAFE countries was limited by excessive repair and maintenance costs and by non-essential expenditures either on consumption or on building construction. It also recommended a closer study of the extent to which surplus labour could be utilized for capital formation, and of the problems of population growth and population policy in the ECAFE region. The importance of resources surveys was also stressed.

163. The Working Party noted that the objectives of development programmes went beyond the simple maximizing of the long-term rate of growth of output and income. The creation of employment opportunities and the improvement of the foreign-exchange situation were important desiderata in several countries. It also noted that, at present, few countries had adequate data for proceeding from the setting of aggregate or over-all targets of investment, output and so on, to the setting of detailed and comprehensive production targets for separate categories of final output.

164. With regard to the use of input-output analysis for securing inter-industry co-ordination, the Working Party felt that it would at present be virtually impossible for many ECAFE countries to have any detailed input-output tables. It was, however, important to develop such techniques although that should be done gradually. The Working Party noted that, for the time being, ECAFE countries would have to depend primarily on simpler devices such as "resources budgeting" and the securing of commodity balance in programming and planning. It suggested that the ECAFE secretariat might usefully study the question of the most suitable techniques to be used in family budget studies and other types of sample surveys for estimating the income elasticity of demand for consumption goods in the ECAFE region.

165. In the matter of co-ordinating the activities of the public and the private sectors, the Working Party felt that wherever a boundary between the two spheres of investment could be drawn, it should be clearly stated and, as far as possible, kept stable. The Working Party also considered that the recent formation of composite corporations in finance and industry in some

countries was a significant development in the direction of combining the resources of capital and organization of the two sectors.

166. The Working Party noted that for most ECAFE countries aiming at rapid development, external assistance, both financial and technical, was likely to be needed for a considerable length of time. It felt that the significance of loans would be lost if the benefits which the countries derived from them were smaller than the repayment obligations. With regard to the manner of assistance, the Working Party considered that while financial assistance might be tied to specific projects, these should be parts of an integrated programme.

167. With regard to the planning machinery, the Working Party recommended that the planning body should be close to the highest seat of executive authority, and while outside the normal machinery of government, should have high status among governmental organizations. It also felt that it would be useful to set up evaluatory sections in the planning organizations.

168. The Working Party gave special attention to the problem of statistical development for planning purposes. It emphasized the importance of basic data on subjects such as population, employment, output and trade. It felt that the improvement of such data should be given first priority. For planning, it was important also to secure data on key factors in the economy. Available data could be supplemented by special surveys. It was considered that unreliable data could be worse than no data, and that the process of improvement of data could be facilitated by the test of analysis. To that end, the Working Party recommended the setting up of a small research section in the central statistical agency of every country; and also the release of all available data, with notes on their scope and limitations. It also stressed the necessity of bearing in mind the special characteristics of the ECAFE region in the collection of new data. Finally, it felt that in view of the shortage of trained personnel in the region, the ECAFE secretariat could play a useful part in the improvement of statistics—for instance, by making the services of experts available to countries of the region.

169. The Working Party suggested that the next meeting of experts on the subject could usefully be concerned with the general problem of, and policies required for, implementation of development programmes, or with the problems of planning and implementation in separate major sectors of the economy—as, for instance, agriculture—or with industrial development with special reference to the private sector.

170. The secretariat participated in a seminar on organization of research and training of personnel in the field of population, convened in November 1955 by TAA and the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs.

AGRICULTURE

171. On the basis of an agreed work programme, the joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division continued its review of developments in food and agriculture in the region for the use of both FAO and ECAFE. The

division prepared chapters on agricultural production for the half-yearly and annual economic surveys of ECAFE. It participated in the meeting on the economic aspects of the rice industry convened by FAO. The division published a comprehensive report on the *Marketing of Major Edible Oils (Liquid) and Oil-seeds in the ECAFE Region* (E/CN.11/419).⁸ The report examines the main features of production, consumption and international trade in these oils and oil-seeds and deals with the salient characteristics of domestic marketing structures. It emphasizes the need for securing increased production of edible oils, suggests that in planning for increased production of oil-seeds, countries should also secure the production of desired varieties and prevent the admixture of different varieties, and indicates the desirability of an exchange between countries of information on research being done to evolve new varieties. The study points to the existence of a wide margin between the prices received by producers and the prices paid by consumers, suggests measures for improving the position of the cultivator through regulation of markets, provision of licensed warehouses and cheap institutional credit. In particular, the study brings out the need for a purposive and comprehensive analysis of existing marketing structures for oil-seeds and oils in the main producing countries with a view to determining the extent to which some of the market charges can be reduced. It also suggests that machinery should be set up in major exporting countries for the compulsory grading and testing of oil-seeds and oils entering the export trade.

C. Advisory services

172. The ECAFE secretariat continued and strengthened its advisory services within the framework of its work programme and in co-operation with TAA and the specialized agencies, in consonance with the recommendations made by the Commission at its eleventh session.

173. In the course of consultations with Governments of the region on economic development plans and programmes and with regard to the preparation of the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955*, requests for advisory services were received from Governments. To meet those requests, preliminary work was carried out in preparation for advisory services to be rendered in 1956 in connexion with the economic development plans of the Governments of Pakistan and the Phi-

lippines; in January 1956 two officers of the Research and Planning Division advised the National Economic Council of the Government of the Philippines in connexion with general economic legislation which the Council has under consideration for submission to the Government.

174. At the invitation of the Government of India, an expert of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development participated in the meetings of the Ganga River, the Brahmaputra and the North-West Rivers Commissions and advised them. Methods of co-ordinating local flood-control measures with a general flood-control and water-resources development plan were suggested by the Bureau. An expert of the Bureau was also associated, at the request of TAA, with the United Nations Economic Survey Mission to Viet-Nam.

175. In the field of industry, advisory services were rendered to the Government of Ceylon on legislation and institutions for the promotion of industrial development. Information collected for that purpose was also sent to the Government of the Federation of Malaya, at its request. Technical advice was given to the Government of the Union of Burma, at its request, on aided self-help methods in rural housing. The secretariat expert on electric power rendered advice to the Governments of Ceylon and Thailand, at their request, in the preparation of projects for rural-electrification demonstration centres. Advice was also rendered to the Government of Indonesia, on request, in connexion with its plan for developing the iron and steel industry in the country. The secretariat expert rendered advisory services to the Government of Afghanistan on the establishment of a geological survey department and related matters concerning mineral resources development in Afghanistan.

176. The advisory services rendered in the field of transport covered the economic and technical aspects of transport, including road construction and drainage, concrete platforms at railway stations, railways curves, axle-loads for rails, canting of rails, surveys of navigable rivers, dredging works, construction of vessels, modern docking and ship-repair facilities and radar equipment and buoys for inland navigation. More specifically, the secretariat staff rendered advice to Malaya and Thailand on railways; to Laos, Thailand and Viet-Nam on inland waterways; and to Indonesia and Thailand on highways. Three secretariat experts, one on highway and two on inland navigation, joined the United Nations Economic Survey Mission to Viet-Nam.

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. : 1956.II.F.5.

Part II

RELATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. Specialized agencies

177. During the period under review, co-operation with specialized agencies was increased and covered a wide area. Frequent informal meetings were held by the secretariat with representatives of specialized agen-

cies stationed at Bangkok, including those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as well as with representatives

of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Consultations were held with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), FAO, UNESCO and WHO, as well as with the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO), on all projects involving joint participation or mutual co-operation of a broader nature.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

178. The ILO participated in, and contributed papers to, the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development, the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, and the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing. The ILO and ECAFE co-operated in developing the national Training Centre for Diesel Marine Mechanics at Rangoon, Burma, into a regional centre. The ILO co-operated with ECAFE in providing assistance towards the development of regional housing centres for the humid and the arid tropical zones in the region. The ILO was represented at the third session of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

179. Working relations with FAO have continued to be very close, particularly through the joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division. The Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE had opportunities to review the work of the joint Agriculture Division, with a view to strengthening the working relations between the two organizations in the light of the directives indicated by the Commission at its eleventh session, and agreed to organize joint meetings or working parties to deal with specific subjects of common interest. They agreed that ECAFE should act as co-sponsor of the proposed FAO Centre on Agricultural Financing and Credit. The Food and Agriculture Organization co-operated with ECAFE in providing assistance towards the development of regional housing centres for the humid and the arid tropical zones in the region. The joint Agriculture Division assisted FAO in the FAO Meeting on Selective Expansion of Agricultural Production and Consumption.

180. The Food and Agriculture Organization participated in, and contributed papers to, the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials and the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East participated in the FAO Special Meeting on Economic Aspects of Rice Trade. The Food and Agriculture Organization advised with respect to the section on agricultural production for the *Economic Survey, 1955*. It was represented at the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, and at the twelfth session of the Commission.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

181. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contributed papers to the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, and co-operated with ECAFE in assisting in the development of regional housing centres for the humid and the arid tropical zones in the region. It participated in, and contributed papers to, the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development.

182. Consultations were held with UNESCO on ECAFE participation in the Seminar on Urbanization and the Seminar on Agricultural Financing and Credit. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East participated in the meeting of member States convened by UNESCO to advise on the establishment of a research centre for southern Asia on the social implications of industrialization and the UNESCO International Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Asia. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was represented at the twelfth session of the Commission.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

183. The World Health Organization participated in, and contributed papers to, the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials. It was represented at the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development, the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

184. The Fund continued to supply information on trade, conversion rates, balance of payments and financial statistics to the secretariat and furnished comments and data on the balance of payments section for the *Economic Survey, 1955*. The Fund was represented at the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

185. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) assisted the secretariat in its preliminary review of the current position and developments in the field of telecommunications in the ECAFE region and agreed to co-operate further with the ECAFE secretariat in the proposed studies of technical and economic aspects of telecommunications in the region.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

186. The International Civil Aviation Organization provided the ECAFE secretariat with material for use in the studies on "Refrigerator inland transport" and "Co-ordination of transport". With the establishment of the ICAO regional office in Bangkok, closer contacts were developed between it and the ECAFE secretariat. The International Civil Aviation Organization was

represented at the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, the fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee and the twelfth session of the Commission.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

187. Together with ECAFE, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) sponsored, and participated in, the Working Group of Experts on Hydrologic Terminology and Deficiencies in Hydrologic Data, and assisted ECAFE in preparing a questionnaire in relation to the study on the major deficiencies in hydrologic data in the ECAFE region.

INTERIM COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

188. The ECAFE secretariat continued to supply ICITO with advance copies of summaries of trade agreements concluded or negotiated by countries of the region. Consultations were held with the representatives of ICITO on projects concerning trade. The Interim Commission was represented at the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission.

B. Other inter-governmental organizations

189. Working relations between the ECAFE secretariat and the Consultative Committee for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia (Colombo Plan) were maintained. Under its technical co-operation scheme, scholarship facilities were offered by the Government of Pakistan to the trainees for the Training Centre for Railway Operating and Signalling Officials. The Executive Secretary attended, as an observer, the ministerial session of the Consultative Committee, held at Singapore in October 1955, and the secretariat participated in the officers' meeting which preceded that session. The ECAFE secretariat furnished material and data relating to economic development in South and South-East Asian countries at the meeting. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East was represented at the First International Coco-nut Conference, held at Manila, Philippines, in August 1955.

C. Non-governmental organizations

190. The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) at its tenth plenary assembly, held at Bangkok, Thailand, in September 1955, noted the valuable role played by ECAFE in the economic development of the region and recommended the United Nations Associations, particularly in that region, to bring that work to the notice of their peoples and to ensure that representatives of their Governments should give full support to the work and programmes of the Commission. The International Social Science Council (ISSC) co-sponsored with ECAFE and the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs a seminar on population problems at Bandung, Indonesia, in November 1955. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) appointed a permanent representative to ECAFE in Bangkok, and

by a resolution adopted at its XVth Congress in Tokyo in May 1955, decided to establish in Bangkok an International Arbitration Office, which will, *inter alia*, co-operate with the secretariat on projects relating to arbitration. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) appointed a liaison officer with ECAFE, and co-operated with the secretariat by furnishing information on standardization. Close working relations were maintained and consultations held with the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) on the organization and administration of industrial establishments and management institutes, with the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning (IFHTP) on projects concerning housing and building materials and problems of urbanization, and with the International Geological Congress (IGC) on the preparation of a regional geological map for Asia and the Far East.

191. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) was represented at the sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, the third session of the Highway Sub-Committee, the fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee, the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) was represented at the third session of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, at the fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee and the twelfth session of the Commission. The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) was represented at the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission. The International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU) was represented at the twelfth session of the Commission. The International Organization of Employers (IOE) was represented at the third session of the Highway Sub-Committee. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) was represented at the twelfth session of the Commission. The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) was represented at the sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, the eighth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the twelfth session of the Commission. The World Veterans Federation (WVF) was represented at the Population Seminar and at the twelfth session of the Commission. The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage was represented at the Working Group of Experts on Hydrologic Terminology and Deficiencies in Hydrologic Data. The International Law Association (ILA) was represented at the twelfth session of the Commission. The International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) was represented at the fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee and the twelfth session of the Commission. The World Power Conference (WPC) was represented at the Working Group of Experts on Hydrologic Terminology and Deficiencies in Hydrologic Data.

Part III

TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

OPENING AND CLOSING MEETINGS

192. The twelfth session of the Commission opened on 2 February 1956 at Sri Puttanna Chetty Town Hall, Bangalore, India. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. A. Khaleeli (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman of the eleventh session of the Commission, opened the twelfth session. His Highness the Rajpramukh of Mysore extended a welcome to the delegates and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime-Minister of India, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Dr P. S. Lokanathan, Executive Secretary of the Commission made statements at the inaugural meeting (see annexes I, II and III.)

193. The Commission passed a vote of thanks to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, for inaugurating the twelfth session of the Commission, and thanked the Government of India for inviting ECAFE to hold its twelfth session at Bangalore, India, and for the hospitality shown in that regard.

194. The closing meeting of the session was held on 14 February 1956. At that meeting the Commission unanimously adopted its report to the Economic and Social Council.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Attendance

195. Representatives of all member and associate member countries attended the Commission's twelfth session. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Commission's terms of reference, the representatives of Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia, at their request, attended the session in a consultative capacity. Also attending were representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization, and representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Co-operative Alliance, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the World Veterans Federation, the International Law Association and the International Union of Official Travel Organizations.

196. A full list of representatives and observers is attached as annex IV.

Credentials

197. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, the Chairman reported to the Commission that he and the Vice-Chairmen had examined the credentials of the delegations to the twelfth session and had found them to be in order.

Representation of China

198. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics moved that the Commission invite a representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China to participate in the work of the Commission and exclude the representative of the Republic of China.⁹

199. The representative of Thailand moved that "the Commission adjourn the debate, during the twelfth session, on any proposal to exclude the representative of the Republic of China and to seat a representative of the People's Republic of China".

200. The proposal of the representative of Thailand was seconded by the representative of the United States of America. The representative of India opposed the motion. The proposal of the representative of Thailand was adopted by 15 votes to 6, with 1 abstention.

Communication from the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic

201. The representative of the USSR proposed that the request received by the Executive Secretary from the Mongolian People's Republic (E/CN.11/423 and Add.1) for admission to membership in the Commission be included in the agenda of the twelfth session. After considerable debate, the Commission adopted, by 19 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the proposal, initially moved by the representative of Australia, that the Executive Secretary should be directed to transmit, without recommendation, to the Economic and Social Council the application of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic for membership in the Commission, together with the summary record of the debate on the question at the twelfth session of the Commission.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

202. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission, at its 153rd meeting, elected Mr. D. P. Karmarkar (India) as Chairman and Dr. Perfecto E. Laguio (Philippines) and Mr. Abdul Malik Abdurahim Zai (Afghanistan) as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, respectively.

203. The Commission appointed a Drafting Committee consisting of Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

⁹ See "Official Records of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, twelfth session" (E/CN.11/431), 153rd and 162nd meetings.

Northern Ireland and the United States of America to prepare the Commission's draft report to the Council. The Committee elected Mr. B. K. Nehru (India) as its Chairman. It held seven meetings and submitted a draft report to the Commission at its 168th meeting.

204. The Commission also appointed a Committee on the Programme of Work and Priorities for 1956/1957, consisting of Australia, Burma, China, France, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet-Nam. The Committee elected Mr. Ashraf Said (Pakistan) as its Chairman. It held five meetings and submitted a draft work programme to the Commission at its 168th meeting.

205. With a view to expediting its work, the Commission appointed an *Ad Hoc* Committee, consisting of representatives from all member and associate member countries, to consider agenda item 7: Activities of the secretariat in the field of statistics (ECAFE/L.99); item 8: Report of the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region (ECAFE/L.95); item 12: Activities of the secretariat in the field of flood control and water resources development (E/CN.11/414); and item 13: Activities of the secretariat in the field of agriculture (ECAFE/L.98); and to report to the Commission. The *Ad Hoc* Committee elected Mr. G. L. Bansal (India) as its Chairman. It held five meetings and submitted a report to the Commission at its 167th meeting.

B. Agenda and documentation

206. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening addresses
2. Election of the Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/CN.11/411 Rev.2)
4. Economic situation in Asia (*Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955*)
5. Report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (first meeting) (E/CN.11/412)
6. Technical assistance activities in the region (E/CN.11/420)
7. Activities of the secretariat in the field of statistics (ECAFE/L.99)
8. Report of the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region (ECAFE/L.95)
9. Reports of other specialized agencies (E/CN.11/418):
International Labour Organisation
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
10. Report of the Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East (E/CN.11/415)
11. Report of the Inland Transport Committee (E/CN.11/416)
12. Activities of the secretariat in the field of flood control and water resources development (E/CN.11/414)
13. Activities of the secretariat in the field of agriculture (ECAFE/L.98 and Add.1)
14. Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (E/CN.11/417)
15. Report of the Committee on Industry and Trade (E/CN.11/425)
16. Interregional trade consultations (E/CN.11/413)
17. Programme of work and priorities (ECAFE/L.100)
18. Date and place of the next session
19. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

C. Account of proceedings

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ASIA

207. The Commission considered the economic situation in the region with the help of the background information provided by the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955*,¹⁰ prepared by the secretariat. This included for the first time a chapter on post-war economic progress. The Commission commended the secretariat for the *Survey*, which was considered to be a highly useful document.

208. While the rate of development has been uneven, the year 1955 has been relatively a favourable one. Most countries in the region have achieved a substantial measure of progress, although some countries continue to experience great difficulties in their economic development. Agricultural and food production maintained approximately the same level as in the previous year, in which a post-war record had been achieved, and industrial production continued to increase, though at a lower rate than in previous years. Trade and payments on the whole improved in many countries of the region, and, with a few exceptions, a reasonable degree of monetary stability was maintained, even though most countries had to face the difficult problems of defence and rehabilitation.

209. What was really significant was perhaps that Asia seemed to have emerged from a long period of economic stagnation and was ready for a decisive march towards economic development. In many countries, development programmes were accelerated, and the development efforts of the Governments were more vigorous and resulted in a clearer formulation of development policies and goals. If, however, this economic and social progress in Asia is measured on a *per capita* basis, it can be seen that the gap between the developed countries of the world and the less developed countries of Asia has not been narrowed. In fact, it appears that, because the rate of progress in advanced countries is greater, the gap has become wider. As of 1954/1955, *per capita* agricultural production in the region (excluding mainland China) was still 14 per cent below its pre-war (1934-1938) level, and the *per capita* consumption of cereals in some countries would have been below safety levels but for timely supplies and assistance received at critical junctures from outside as well as inside the region. In some countries, *per capita* income failed to increase in some post-war years, while only four countries in the region, with a combined population of only about one-tenth of the total population, showed a rate of progress during 1948-1954 of more than 3 per cent a year on a *per capita* basis for gross domestic product.

210. The Commission considered the current economic situation in the region with a view to tackling the problems arising from the implementation of development plans and programmes. The problems related, to a notable extent, to the pattern of development, the determination of priorities as between different sectors of the economy, the expansion of labour-intensive areas of the economy as a means of reducing unemployment and conserving scarce capital, the importance of trade

¹⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.1.

and its expansion as the primary source of foreign-exchange earnings to finance development imports, and the necessary role of external aid and loans, as well as technical assistance, in promoting and accelerating the rate of development.

211. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by many countries of the region in the provision of basic services such as irrigation, transport, fuel and power—an essential step in economic development. It also noted the priority accorded by many countries in the region to the development of agricultural production. Such priority involved no denial of the vital importance of industrialization, taking into account the recognized interdependence of development in agriculture and in industry. The Commission felt that the development of industry was of special importance for the development of agriculture and other branches of the economy of the countries of the region. At the same time it was recognized that industrialization could not well proceed too far if agricultural production, from which many countries in the region derived their means of livelihood and necessary export earnings and the expansion of which provided the purchasing power to sustain industrial development, were to lag behind.

212. The potentialities for the peaceful use of atomic power, as pointed out by the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in 1955, held great promise for the industrial and economic development of the world at large, in particular for countries of Asia where power development was still limited and might become a bottle-neck in view of their limited fuel resources. It was felt that the availability of cheap power was necessary for rapid industrialization.

213. The Commission noted the increasing importance attached by many countries of the region to labour-intensive methods of production in community development, irrigation, road construction and other public works. Of these, community development projects embodied the ideal and spirit of self-help, and enlisted the energy of the people themselves, so essential to the success of any national movement. The Commission also noted that the use of these methods would help to release resources needed for the establishment of heavy industries.

214. The scarcity of foreign-exchange resources continued to obstruct the implementation of development programmes. Asian countries were unanimous in the belief that, of all shortages to be removed, that of foreign exchange was the most serious. Efforts should therefore be concentrated on the promotion of export industries and of those industries whose products could replace, partly or wholly, imported essential consumer goods. It was a somewhat disturbing fact that the export trade of the region had improved much less in recent years than had international trade in general, so that the share of the ECAFE region in world exports had markedly declined. The Commission attached importance to the expansion of trade, intra-regional and other, as a primary source of foreign exchange for the countries of the region, and noted with satisfaction

that during the year under review general progress had been made in liberalizing trade and payments arrangements, with a consequent movement in the direction of multilateralism. Some form of rationing of foreign exchange was inescapable in the circumstances. It was considered that non-discriminatory trade held a key to economic independence, particularly for under-developed countries, as the widening of markets and of sources of supplies would lead to greater choice and greater freedom in trade relations with the world.

215. Food-surplus countries in the region were able with some difficulty to adjust their exports and economy to changes in the world market. It was clear also that the concern expressed earlier by some countries regarding the possible adverse effects of agricultural-surplus disposal policies had been happily alleviated by the co-operative manner in which those policies were being carried out. Nevertheless, in spite of these favourable trends, it was noted that the stabilization of prices for major primary exports from countries of the region required a greater degree of international economic co-operation than had so far been achieved, so that those countries might be assured of a reasonable degree of economic stability and plan their programmes of economic development with better advance knowledge of the foreign-exchange earnings that could be obtained from their exports.

216. The Commission felt that the mobilization of internal efforts and resources was of decisive importance for rapid economic development. It was moreover recognized that, aside from trade, external aid was clearly essential to the successful implementation of the development plans in countries of Asia. Indeed, the extent to which external assistance would be made available would largely determine the rate of progress in the ensuing years. The Commission noted the steady progress achieved in the various aid programmes, both multilateral and bilateral. It welcomed the establishment in the near future of the International Finance Corporation, which would serve in some degree to supplement and reinforce the work of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It noted that the preparations for the establishment of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED), on which many members of the Commission have set their hopes, were moving forward, although rather slowly. The Commission expressed the hope that it would be possible to expedite and complete those preparations. Bilateral aid by various developed countries, including the relatively large United States programme, had been increasing, and had supplemented significantly the foreign-exchange resources available to the countries of the region.

217. An increasingly favourable climate had been created in several countries in recent years for the inflow of private foreign capital. Many countries had revised their foreign-investment laws and regulations, which now, among other things, provided guarantees against nationalization, permitted repatriation of the principal and profits and relaxed the requirements regarding the employment of nationals in foreign-owned enterprises. Some member States noted, however, that the

inflow of foreign investment had thus far responded but little to the liberalization of their laws and regulations.

218. The Commission recorded the fact that the various technical assistance programmes under the United Nations, as well as under the Colombo Plan and bilateral arrangements, had become of growing importance, and were considerably helping the Asian countries in the essential tasks of preparing the groundwork and of training their people to build on the foundations thus laid.

219. The Commission noted that, despite the hampering effect of international tensions, there was evidence from the meetings at Bandung and Geneva and elsewhere that gave promise of a powerful rising tide of international economic co-operation which, if it materialized, would greatly help Asian countries forward in their economic and social development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

220. The Commission endorsed the report of the first meeting of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (E/CN.11/412) and the recommendations contained therein, and commended the secretariat for the highly useful work it had done in a new field of activity.

221. The Commission attached special importance to capital formation among the determinants of economic development, and stressed the significant role of external aid and foreign investment in accelerating development. It noted the liberalization of foreign-investment laws and regulations in several countries of the region, looked forward to the early establishment of the International Finance Corporation, and urged that preparations for the establishment of SUNFED be expedited and completed.

222. The Commission noted with approval the realistic manner in which countries in the region were tackling the problems of economic development and techniques of programming, especially through self-help measures.

223. The Commission stressed the need for reliable data and trained personnel as prerequisites for the formulation of plans, and advised against the adoption, without suitable adaptation to local conditions, of advancing planning techniques.

224. The Commission noted the need for balanced economic development, as the different sectors of the economy, notably agriculture and industry, were considered to be inter-dependent. The co-ordination of planning for the development of different sectors of the economy was thus considered to be essential.

225. The Commission agreed that an exchange of information on the national plans of countries in the region and on experience in their implementation would serve a useful purpose.

226. The Commission therefore welcomed the convening of the second meeting of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning in the autumn of 1956, and approved the recommendations in the report that development policies and the means of

implementation of development programmes in the countries of the region should be considered at that meeting.

227. The Commission unanimously adopted a resolution on the subject. The text of the resolution, which had been sponsored jointly by Burma and Afghanistan, is given in part V of this report.

Statistics

228. The Commission noted the document, "Activities of the secretariat in the field of statistics" (ECAFE/L.99), as well as the section on statistics in the "Proposed programme of work and priorities of the Commission for 1956 and 1957" (ECAFE/L.100), and commended the quality of the work achieved by the secretariat in the improvement of statistical methods in countries of the region with a view to promoting international comparability.

229. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme of work for 1956 and 1957. It welcomed the convening of the fourth regional conference of statisticians on the world programme of population and related censuses to be held at Bangkok from 29 March to 7 April 1956, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office. It endorsed the proposal that countries in the region should submit to each future conference a report on the development of statistics in their respective countries, and that the ECAFE secretariat should attempt to prepare and present a consolidated report on the implementation by the countries of the recommendations of earlier conferences.

230. The Commission noted the secretariat's assurance that the work on the classified index of economic statistics would be completed in the current year.

231. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to enter into consultations with the United Nations Statistical Office and the specialized agencies concerned, with a view to undertaking, at an early date, within their respective spheres of competence, statistical studies for the ECAFE region on subjects of great interest to the Commission, including agriculture, unemployment and under-employment, standard and cost of living, social statistics, money and banking statistics.

Budget reclassification

232. The Commission noted the "Report of the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region" (ECAFE/L.95) and commended the excellent preliminary results achieved in a highly technical and complicated subject by the experts, the secretariat, TAA and the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs. It endorsed generally the recommendations of the Workshop; welcomed the adoption, on an experimental basis, of the simplified scheme of budget classification proposed by the experts; urged the early completion of the "Manual for the Classification of Government Accounts" by the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs; and recommended the convening of the second meeting of the Workshop two years after the date of the first meeting, that is,

about August 1957, to review the progress made, and difficulties encountered, in applying the simplified scheme of classifications and accounts suggested by the Workshop at its first meeting.

REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON POPULATION

233. The Commission noted the "Report of the United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East" (E/CN.11/415) and commended the seminar, which had been convened jointly by TAA, the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs and ECAFE, in collaboration with the International Social Science Council, for the results achieved.

234. The Commission noted that the seminar had been organized in partial implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 308 B (XI), in which the Council recommended that the Technical Assistance Board take into account the relationship of population to economic development in programmes of technical assistance for under-developed areas. It endorsed the recommendations of the seminar contained in the report, in particular sections 5, 6 and 7, dealing respectively with studies and data needed to provide basic demographic information for economic and social planning, demographic research and training, and intra-regional and international co-operation.

235. The Commission noted with concern that the rate of economic development was not much faster than the rate of population growth, and felt that consideration should be given to problems of economic development in the context of population trends. It was thought that a slowing down in the fertility rate might help to alleviate the pressure of population on available resources. Since the possibilities for emigration to countries outside the region appeared to be insignificant, many parts of the region would have to look to economic development and to measures such as family planning and resettlement for a solution of the problem. The Commission considered that there was a need for the exchange of data, information and experience and for the tabulation and correlation of data and information already available, as well as for the convening of seminars, in this field.

236. The Commission adopted unanimously a resolution submitted jointly by Indonesia and the Philippines, in which it recommends to the Economic and Social Council, in implementation of paragraph 55 of the report of the seminar, to consider appropriate measures for the early organization of a seminar on problems of transmigration and land settlement, on the basis of field studies from demographic, economic, social and technical points of view. The text of the resolution is given in part V of this report.

INLAND TRANSPORT

237. The Commission endorsed the report of the Inland Transport Committee (fifth session) (E/CN.11/416) and commended the Committee for the useful work it had done.

238. It was gratified that the work of the committee and its subsidiary bodies in the various fields of inland

transport was progressing satisfactorily, to the benefit of the countries of the region. While approving the further series of studies on co-ordination of transport, the Commission laid emphasis on the study of general principles for the calculation of comparative costs of all means of transport and methods for such calculations. It agreed that in carrying out such a study, due note should be taken of the work already done by the Economic Commission for Europe and other organizations.

239. With regard to inland waterways, the Commission noted that the Convention Regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed in Inland Navigation had been finalized. It noted that the Government of Indonesia had expressed its willingness to sign, subject to ratification, the convention when it was opened and that the matter of acceptance of the convention was under active consideration by other Governments of the region. The Commission commended the work done in designing a uniform system of buoyage and shore-marks for inland waterways for adoption by the Governments of the region. It also noted that progress had been made with regard to the organization of the ILO/ECAFE Regional Training Centre for Diesel Marine Mechanics at Rangoon and that it would start functioning as a regional centre in March 1956. The Commission noted with satisfaction that in regard to demonstration/pilot projects on the improved design and operation of craft, the Government of France, at the third session of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, had indicated its willingness to consider participating in the scheme, provided that assistance from other countries was also forthcoming and that the various contributions could be co-ordinated satisfactorily. It noted with satisfaction the announcement by the representative of the United States of America that his Government was actively considering the question of extending assistance in the form of equipment for the projects. Realizing the usefulness and importance of the projects for the countries of the region, the Commission expressed the hope that progress would be made in their implementation. The Commission noted the announcement made by the USSR to the effect that "the Soviet organizations invited IWT experts from the countries of the region to visit the USSR in 1956 for studying inland waterways". The Commission also noted similar invitations from the Governments of France and the Netherlands to study inland waterways in their respective countries.

240. The Commission attached great importance to the study of low-cost roads and soil stabilization and of highway safety and approved the holding of seminars on those two subjects.

241. With regard to railways, the Commission endorsed the resolution adopted by the Inland Transport Committee to ensure regular and adequate participation by the Governments of the ECAFE region in the work of the United Nations Regional Training Centre for Railway Operating and Signalling Officials. The Commission hoped that facilities provided at the centre would be fully utilized.

242. In the field of telecommunications, the Commission endorsed the resolution adopted by the Inland

Transport Committee, and stressed the necessity of ensuring that there should be no duplication of work by ECAFE and ITU. It also approved the inclusion of the following in the terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee:

"To make studies, in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union and any other appropriate United Nations specialized agency, on the development of domestic and regional telecommunications systems in the ECAFE region to meet the requirements of transport, industry and commerce, and to make recommendations to Governments."

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

243. The Commission noted the report on "Activities of the secretariat in the field of flood control and water resources development" (E/CN.11/414) and commended the high quality of the work undertaken by the bureau.

244. The Commission attached importance to the bureau's work project on flood control and water resources development of international rivers, and approved the carrying out of its work programme as defined in the secretariat report.

245. Concerning the reconnaissance survey of the lower Mekong basin, the Commission noted that preparatory work had reached an advanced stage and that a definitive programme of work was to be established after completion of consultations with the Governments concerned.

246. The Commission expressed the hope that, taking into account the need for appropriate integration to avoid unnecessary duplication with such surveys as were being undertaken at the request of the four riparian States or as might be undertaken by other organizations or countries, the project would be completed at an early date. The Commission noted the encouragement given with regard to this project and the willingness expressed by two non-riparian countries of the region to participate in this work.

247. The Commission approved the proposed group visit of experts in 1957 to water resources development schemes in Europe and America, in co-operation with TAA, and noted the invitation from the USSR delegation to include the Soviet Union in the study tour.

AGRICULTURE

248. The Commission took note of the document on "Activities of the secretariat in the field of agriculture" (ECAFE/L.98 and Add.1) and the proposed programme of work in the field of agriculture (ECAFE/L.100). It expressed gratification at the satisfactory working relations that existed between ECAFE and FAO and took note of the proposals made by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE and the Director-General of FAO for the further strengthening of practical collaboration through the convening of joint meetings on specific subjects of interest to both organizations. The Commission accepted the suggestion of the Executive Secretary and the Director-General that in the circumstances the setting

up of a joint ECAFE/FAO committee on agriculture was not necessary at that time.

249. The Commission noted with appreciation the work that was being done by the secretariat in the field of agriculture. In particular, it took note of the fact that the joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division had prepared a very useful analysis of the agricultural situation in the region, which was incorporated in the annual *Economic Survey*. The Division had also done preliminary work on price and income elasticity of demand for rice and had initiated a study on agricultural financing. It had completed a useful report on the marketing of major edible oils and oil-seeds, covering the main aspects of production, consumption, international trade and domestic marketing structures. In view of the importance of agriculture in the economies of Asian countries, the Commission considered that more attention should be given to work in that field. In particular, it endorsed suggestions made for more specific activities with relation to agricultural development planning and agricultural price policies.

250. The Commission agreed that the projected study of timber trends and prospects in the region was important and useful, and favoured participation in the study by the ECAFE secretariat. However, it was understood that the scope of ECAFE participation would depend on the availability of staff and finances. The Commission accepted the suggestion that the proposal for setting up a timber committee be referred to the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE for further consideration.

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

251. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Industry and Trade (eighth session) (E./CN.11/425) and commended the Committee for the useful work it had done. It noted that due attention was being given by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to important problems relating to the development of industry and trade in the countries of the region.

252. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the group study tour of geologists and mining engineers from the ECAFE region to western Europe and the USSR, sponsored by ECAFE and TAA in 1955, had been successfully completed.

253. The Commission considered that group study tours in the fields of mineral resources, electric power, iron and steel, cottage and small-scale industries, and housing and building materials as well as in other technical fields, were of great value to countries of the region. It was gratified to learn that the Governments of Czechoslovakia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States of America were prepared to receive the proposed study groups and to offer the necessary facilities to the Asian experts. It noted with appreciation that the United States Government had allocated special funds to cover the expenses of the study groups when they visited the United States.

254. The Commission stressed the need for an early publication of the *Iron and Steel Bulletin* and the collec-

tion of full data on the demand for iron and steel products in countries of the region.

255. The Commission considered that interregional and intra-regional co-operation for training technicians in techniques connected with the iron and steel industry was a matter of both urgency and importance. It noted with satisfaction that the Steel Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was particularly interested in the work of the ECAFE Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel and that there would be an intensification of co-operation between the two regional commissions in the future.

256. The Commission noted with appreciation that countries with a long experience in the field of mineral resources development had expressed their willingness to continue and increase their efforts to make their experience and co-operation available in adequate measure to the countries of the region.

257. It endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for the formation of a joint working group of experts from countries in the ECAFE and ECE regions to examine the possibility of establishing an international station for underground gasification of coal in the region.

258. The Commission felt that with the increase in research on the peaceful uses of atomic energy and with the construction of atomic power plants for electricity generation, the exploration and development of radio-active mineral deposits had become imperative. It therefore endorsed the Committee's recommendation that dissemination of information on prospecting for uranium and other radio-active minerals should be given high priority.

259. The Commission noted the great possibilities offered by atomic power, especially for countries with limited resources of cheap fuel. It felt that the work in that field should be considered in the light of the forthcoming establishment of an international atomic energy agency and that special attention should be paid to the possibility of using nuclear energy for generating electric power on an economic basis. It was further agreed that particular attention should be given to the training of technical personnel in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

260. The Commission endorsed the following resolution adopted by the Committee on Industry and Trade:

"The Committee on Industry and Trade of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

"Having considered the document on the activities of the secretariat in the field of mineral resources development (ECAFE/I&T/21),

"1. Emphasizes the urgency of rapid mineral development in the region, and therefore

"(a) Recommends that, in preparing the work programme for 1956/1957, careful consideration be given by the Commission at its twelfth session to those recommendations summarized in document ECAFE/I&T/21 which lend themselves to early action without further preliminary technical review; and

"(b) Requests the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development to review the report of the

study group of experts which visited western Europe and the USSR and to report thereon as early as possible in 1956;

"2. Believes that member Governments will give full and urgent consideration to the general observations of the study group as reflected in document ECAFE/I&T/21 in the light of the discussions thereon at the present session of the Committee on Industry and Trade;

"3. Trusts that countries with a long experience in the field of mineral development will continue and increase their efforts to make their experience and co-operation available in adequate measure."

261. The Commission noted that due emphasis was being given to the introduction and use, in countries of the region, of international standard reporting methods in the field of electric power.

262. The Commission stressed the importance of rural electrification for the development of industry in rural areas and for raising the standard of living of the rural population. It noted that the main obstacle in the way of rural electrification was its high cost and it felt that the economic aspects of rural electrification should be carefully considered.

263. The Commission emphasized the role of cottage and small-scale industries in the economic development of countries of the region.

264. It noted with appreciation the various measures taken by the Governments of the region to aid and promote the development of cottage and small-scale industries, and urged the necessity for more integrated efforts.

265. The Commission endorsed the following resolution adopted by the Committee on Industry and Trade:

"The Committee on Industry and Trade of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

"Having carefully considered the report of the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing (E/CN.11/I&T/121),

"1. Records its appreciation of the work of the working party in the field of small-scale industries and handicraft marketing;

"2. Notes with satisfaction that the recommendations of the study group that visited Japan have served as valuable guidance to several countries in the region in the development of small-scale industries;

"3. Believes that member Governments will make continuous use of the services of ECAFE in this field;

"4. Acknowledges the great importance of small-scale industries and handicraft marketing for the economic and social well-being of peoples in the region;

"5. Suggests that the ECAFE secretariat give high priority to this problem and assist member Governments by promoting the exchange of information and by such other means as may be found to be practicable."

266. The Commission considered trade promotion to be of vital importance for the economic development of countries of the region. It noted with appreciation that several countries were prepared to exchange information and knowledge relating to trade-promotion techniques as far as possible.

267. The Commission endorsed the view expressed by the Committee that the interest of individual countries and of the region as a whole could best be served by simplifying procedures, by rationalizing trade practices, and by widening both markets and sources of supply to the maximum extent.

268. The Commission noted the suggestion made by the USSR that trade in the region could best be developed to the advantage of the region on the basis of mutual benefit and equality. Some other members thought that the suggestion implied undue bias towards bilateral, as distinct from multilateral, trading methods.

269. The Commission noted with interest the statement by the representative of India that while the constructive manner in which the agricultural surpluses were being disposed of to the advantage of countries of the region was appreciated, care should be taken to ensure that the disposal of the surpluses should not in any manner hinder the expansion of intra-regional trade. Aid funds should be employed in such a manner as to promote, wherever possible, the expansion of intra-regional trade and to augment the resources available for the development of the region. The Commission noted with some concern the rising prices of steel and the increasing costs of freight, and thought that if the development plans for the region were not to be jeopardized, attention must be devoted to the question of augmenting the availability and lowering the costs of both steel and shipping.

270. The Commission noted that the secretariat was making a study of the experience of the land-locked countries in the region, with a view to submitting a report for consideration at the second session of the Sub-Committee on Trade. In view of the interest of transit-trade facilities for land-locked countries and for countries without easy access to the sea, the Commission considered that, in the matter of transit trade, full recognition should be given by all member States to the needs of land-locked member States and members having no easy access to the sea, and that adequate facilities should be accorded.

271. The Commission endorsed the following resolution adopted by the Committee on Industry and Trade:

"The Committee on Industry and Trade of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

"Having considered the document regarding the activities of the secretariat in the field of trade (E/CN.11/I&T/120),

"1. Considers trade promotion to be of vital importance for the economic development of the countries of the region;

"2. Recommends that consideration be given by the secretariat to the possibility of establishing a study centre within the region for the training of

trade promotion personnel, and to the formulation of proposals therefor;

"3. Believes that countries with experience in the field of trade promotion will provide such assistance for the study centre and other trade promotion projects as may be required;

"4. Recommends that the needs of land-locked member States and members having no easy access to the sea, in the matter of transit trade, be given full recognition by all member States and that adequate facilities therefor be accorded in terms of international law and practice in this regard;

"5. Recommends further that in implementing the work programme for 1956/1957, particular attention be paid:

"(a) To expediting the investigations already being conducted by the secretariat regarding regulations, procedures and practices concerning the conduct of international trade with a view to their simplification and to the formulation of practical suggestions for the consideration of member Governments;

"(b) To completing the study of techniques for the organization of trade fairs and exhibitions and to proposing for the consideration of member Governments the measures to be adopted to facilitate the organization of such fairs and exhibitions in the region;

"(c) To consideration being given by the secretariat, in the course of the study of ocean freight rates which is being carried out under project 37-09, to the possibilities of increasing the availability of shipping facilities;

"(d) To assisting wherever necessary the development of commercial-arbitration facilities in the region;

"(e) To the problem of standards and specifications for consumer goods and capital goods."

272. With regard to trained personnel for economic development, the Commission noted the desirability of utilizing fully the facilities for management training available in the region and the need for providing training for technical and specialized personnel. Attention was also drawn to the need of management training in the private sector no less than in the public sector.

273. The Commission noted with interest that countries of the region were becoming increasingly aware of the importance of providing adequate housing. In view of the social and economic benefits arising from the provision of adequate housing to the low-income group of the population, the Commission felt that Governments should give due consideration to the need for subsidizing such projects.

274. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made by the regional housing centres in India and Indonesia, and expressed its appreciation of the assistance provided by TAA, the ECAFE secretariat and specialized agencies and also of the aid given to them under bilateral programmes.

275. In view of the great importance of the problems of housing and building materials to the countries of the region, and in view of the keen interest shown by

those countries in the work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Party, the Commission endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the scope and terms of reference of the Working Party should be widened and that its status should be raised to that of a Working Party composed of country experts.

276. The Commission approved the Committee's recommendation that the Working Party should be entrusted with the following functions:

(a) To provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information on problems relating to regional housing and building materials;

(b) To review and guide the work of the secretariat on housing and building materials in order to ensure maximum practical value to the countries of the region;

(c) To review the progress made by the countries of the region in the study of problems, both economic and technical, which have inhibited the rapid development of housing, particularly low-cost housing, and recommend ways and means of overcoming such problems;

(d) To suggest methods whereby regional research, pilot projects, exhibitions, study tours, etc., on housing and on building materials procurement, production and utilization might be carried out through international co-operation.

277. The Commission considered that the Working Party should co-operate closely with other expert working bodies of ECAFE and the United Nations, as well as with the specialized agencies.

INTERREGIONAL TRADE CONSULTATIONS

278. In accordance with resolution 579 B (XX) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission considered the question of interregional trade consultations.

279. The Commission noted that some countries were in favour of the proposed holding of interregional trade consultations as a means of promoting and expanding international trade. These countries pointed out that the participation in trade consultations was not compulsory and that countries which were not yet in a position to take a decision on participation in the consultations could join later if they wished.

280. The Commission noted that some other countries, while in favour of trade promotion, did not feel that the proposed trade consultations would assist trade. They pointed out that conditions in the ECE and ECAFE regions were different. They considered that other means of trade promotion, including those discussed by the Committee on Industry and Trade, would more effectively assist trade in the ECAFE region.

281. The Commission also noted that other countries were not clear as to the details of procedure used by ECE for such consultation and the results achieved in that region. They would also wish to have some appreciation of the trading problems which might be specially considered during those consultations.

282. In the circumstances, the Commission considered that no decision on the matter could be reached at that stage. It felt that a report should be prepared, giving information on the procedure used by ECE and the

results achieved and indicating the types of problems which could be usefully discussed in trade consultations with ECE or ECLA countries, for submission to the Sub-Committee on Trade at its next session.

REPORTS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

283. The Commission noted with appreciation the report of the International Labour Organisation (E/CN.11/418), the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (E/CN.11/417) and the report on "UNESCO activities in 1955 and work plans for 1956 of interest to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East" (E/CN.11/422), and the statements made by the representatives of those specialized agencies as well as of the International Monetary Fund, WHO and ICAO.

284. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities of the specialized agencies, particularly the technical assistance provided by them under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which contributed significantly to the general and social economic development of the countries of the region.

285. The Commission commended the close co-operation which had continued between the ECAFE secretariat and the specialized agencies in many projects of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. It noted that the practice of formulating an agreed work programme for each agency had been further advanced, and that useful results had been achieved thereby, in many projects, such as those on housing and building materials, training of personnel and man-power problems, study of timber in regard to the requirements of housing and railways, and hydraulic observation and terminology. The experience and knowledge of the agencies and the secretariat were together brought to bear upon the practical problems faced by the countries of the region.

286. The Commission felt that the secretariats of ECAFE and of the agencies should co-operate fully in the study of problems such as community development, in the translation of technical documents and literature into the languages used in the countries of the region, and in the studies relating to the general technical, economic and social aspects of problems of under-employment and unemployment, of aided self-help and voluntary labour, or urbanization and cottage and handicraft industries. In the opinion of the Commission, such co-operation would ensure the thorough examination of such problems in all their aspects. It noted with interest that agencies had initiated, or planned to initiate, studies to evaluate the results of their technical assistance work over the past few years in the countries of the region. Such an evaluation would provide useful material for policy-making and for planning development programmes, as well as for various ECAFE studies.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

287. The Commission noted with appreciation the TAA report, "United Nations technical assistance in Asia and the Far East, 1950-1955" (E/CN.11/420), and the information paper prepared by the secretariat of

the Technical Assistance Board, "Assistance provided under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to countries and territories in the ECAFE region during 1955" (ECAFE/INF/14).

288. The Commission noted that the programme of technical assistance was directly related to the economic development plans and programmes of the countries of the region and that the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance under the United Nations constituted useful aids to developmental work. It considered that the procedure for country programming was, in general, working satisfactorily and that the countries were utilizing the knowledge and experience acquired by the subsidiary bodies of ECAFE and resulting from ECAFE studies in preparing a balanced programme in which the entire resources available under the different technical assistance programmes could be well co-ordinated.

289. With the growing emphasis on industrial development, the Commission felt that technical assistance should play an even greater role. It therefore expressed the hope that all Members of the United Nations would not only increase their contribution to the Expanded Programme but also attempt to provide it on a continuing and assured basis.

290. In addition to the offers of assistance previously made, the Commission noted with interest the offers made during the session notably by Australia, France, Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, to provide scholarships to, and to invite experts from, the countries of the region to study the various aspects of the economy of the respective countries.

291. The Commission also adopted a resolution on exchange of experience and information on scientific and technical matters, the text of which is given in part V.

292. The Commission emphasized that, along with the provision of experts and training facilities, equipment for the projects was increasingly required in countries of the region. It stressed the need for combining technical and capital assistance. It felt that, with technical assistance, the scope for greater use of training within the region, especially through training institutes, was becoming more promising, particularly in dealing with the shortages of skilled personnel at the middle level.

293. The Commission recognized that the rehabilitation of the handicapped was directly related to economic and social advancement, and that national rehabilitation centres, such as the Solo Centre in Indonesia, could be of use to the region as a whole if adequate assistance could be provided.

294. The Commission was impressed by the evidence that the recipient countries were themselves increasing their contribution not only of funds to the Expanded Programme, but also of experts and training facilities. It believed that that development would significantly strengthen co-operation among countries of the region.

295. The Commission was glad to note that the Technical Assistance Committee had placed regional projects

on a permanent basis and had decided that 10 per cent of the funds available to it would be earmarked for that purpose. It stressed that regional projects, such as training and demonstration centres, group study tours and seminars, organized under TAA in co-operation with the ECAFE secretariat, were often more economical and effective than a series of separate schemes, and had the advantage of bringing countries together, which was one of the basic aims of the United Nations.

296. The Commission was gratified to note that the experience and knowledge available in the ECAFE secretariat had been of value to TAA, its experts and its missions, and that the ECAFE secretariat had briefed TAA experts, provided substantive comments on their reports and assisted TAA in locating experts, and sometimes assigned its staff members to work with TAA teams. The Commission too had benefited from such co-operation, which had also been of value to the countries of the region. The Commission noted that, in increasing further the co-operation between TAA and the regional commission secretariats, there would not be any duplication of effort, nor would the operational activities of TAA be in any way adversely affected. The Commission noted with interest the proposal made by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly¹¹ to the effect that social and technical assistance units be established in the ECAFE secretariat, and expressed the hope that it will be possible for the General Assembly at its next session to take appropriate action in that regard.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

297. The Commission considered the invitation of the Government of Thailand to hold its thirteenth session, and simultaneously to celebrate its tenth anniversary, at Bangkok, Thailand, in 1957. The Commission decided that, subject to the approval of the appropriate United Nations bodies, the invitation of the Government of Thailand should be accepted and that the session should open on 28 March, the date of the establishment of the Commission. The Commission also decided to hold the ninth session of the Committee on Industry and Trade at Bangkok, Thailand, immediately before the thirteenth session of the Commission.

PROCEDURES CONCERNING MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TRADE AND OF THE COMMISSION

298. The Executive Secretary submitted to the Commission, at its request, a note on procedures concerning meetings of the Committee on Industry and Trade and the Commission (ECAFE/L.107 and Add.1), which included the following suggestions:

(a) That the Committee on Industry and Trade should be renamed the "Committee on Industry and Natural Resources";

(b) That the status of the Sub-Committee on Trade should be raised to that of "Committee on Trade".

¹¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 47, document A/3041.*

(c) That the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources as well as the Committee on Trade should convene several weeks prior to the Commission's session, and not immediately prior to it;

(d) That the Commission should continue the practice it had adopted this year of assigning a certain number of agenda items to an *ad hoc* committee, open to all the countries, for consideration and report to the Commis-

sion during its session, so that the plenary session of the Commission might restrict itself to more general items.

The Commission approved suggestion (d). It also requested the Executive Secretary to consult with Governments in regard to the remaining three suggestions, and to submit to the Commission at its thirteenth session detailed proposals regarding its committee structure.

Part IV

REVIEW OF PROGRESS

299. The Commission at its twelfth session was aware that its report would be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its session marking the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Council, and, therefore, considered it opportune to record the main phases of its work since its inception.

300. In the initial period of its work, the Commission, in accordance with its terms of reference, concentrated mainly on the problems of economic reconstruction of the war-devastated areas of South-East Asia. One of the tremendous tasks before the Commission had been to assist in the assessment of the main reconstruction needs, with a view to promoting joint efforts between the member and associate member countries and in the earnest hope that large outside resources would be placed at the disposal of Asian countries which had become independent or were in the process of gaining independence. At the Commission's third session, in 1948, it became evident, however, that the Commission's function was primarily to act through co-operation between Asian countries and drawing upon the experience of other countries, rather than to serve as a body determining needs for outside assistance and channelling resources for reconstruction and for the building up of the economies of Asian countries.

301. Accordingly, at the early stages of its work, the Commission directed its efforts to fact-finding and to the gradual development of the economic analysis basic to any national or regional action. Many Asian countries were for the first time organizing national administrations, and had to set up an economic administration and related services, including statistics. The Commission made a significant contribution to the efforts of national Governments in the economic field. If the first reports and economic surveys of ECAFE were of necessity based on uncertain and incomplete data and only partial analysis, they nevertheless fulfilled an important role in the absence of any other suitable material on the ECAFE region.

302. Gradually, the Commission passed from fact-finding to analysis and from cataloguing the reconstruction needs to more purposeful reports on specific economic and technical problems relating to industry, trade, natural resources (including water), inland transport and other matters.

303. The Commission's terms of reference were revised by the Council in 1951 (Council resolution 414 (XIII),

section C. I (b)), and the emphasis in the Commission's mandate was switched from economic reconstruction to economic development; accordingly, a large number of secretariat studies and reports issued since 1951 related to various aspects of economic development, and served as a basis for the Commission's own recommendations to its member Governments. These activities brought the Commission to a stage, in 1955, where it became possible to concentrate more on the whole range of problems relating to economic planning in the region. The report of the first Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, held late in 1955, reflects the Asian countries' need for accelerating the rate of economic growth and emphasizes the importance of mobilizing all available national and other resources for economic development, especially by rapid industrialization, which is considered essential to the strengthening of national economies. The Commission's successive work programmes for the past several years have largely been directed to promoting economic development, and the successive issues of its annual *Economic Survey* have reflected the progress achieved in this regard from year to year. This evolution of the Commission's activities has been in line with the priority system established by the Council for all organizations and bodies within the United Nations family.

304. In directing its efforts towards economic development, the Commission has not lost sight of its basic task of promoting co-operation between Asian countries. Most of the problems dealt with by the Commission were common to all Asian countries; the experience of one country in its efforts to meet the problems was of value to others and the mutual exchange of information and experience led to regional co-operation and understanding. In this process of fostering regional economic co-operation, the experience of economically more advanced countries formed an important element. The results of this co-operation, though difficult to assess, were exemplified in the setting up of institutes serving regional needs for training, demonstration and research, in joint surveys of resources of neighbouring countries, seminars and study groups and in visits of expert groups in which Governments of countries both outside and within the region participated. Such co-operation has recently been extended to co-operative research, the exchange of laboratory tests and the exchange of expert personnel.

305. In the process of the development of the Commission's work, the staff of the secretariat has naturally increased in numbers and widened its experience, but the work assigned to it by the Commission has increased in even greater measure; the Commission recognizes that this lack of balance should be corrected. In this connexion the Commission noted the proposals made by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly¹² and expressed the hope that it would be possible for the General Assembly at its next session to take appropriate action to strengthen the secretariat of the Commission.

306. The development of the Commission's activities has been facilitated by the enlargement of its membership and of its committee structure.

307. At its inception the Commission included the only four Asian countries which were Members of the United Nations, and the countries of the region found themselves in a minority in their own regional body. In 1951, under the "Lahore Agreement", countries from outside the region resolved to refrain from voting on Asian economic problems if their vote was likely to go contrary to the wishes of the majority of the Asian countries. The inclusion of a large number of formerly associate members as full members of the Commission, and the admission to the United Nations of many of these Asian countries, have changed the situation. Now, among twenty-four members and associate members, seventeen Asian countries have voting rights in the Commission and twelve are Members of the United Nations. This brings the United Nations closer to universality, and enhances the representative character of ECAFE.

308. During the same period, the Commission established a large number of subsidiary bodies: committees, sub-committees, working parties and *ad hoc* conferences. Thus, at its annual sessions, the Commission offers a forum for consideration of broad and important policy questions and provides a technical organization under

whose auspices meetings are periodically convened at which national experts from various countries pool their experience and make recommendations for the solution of problems faced by the countries.

309. The Commission's structure may now be considered as reasonably well established but the Commission will undoubtedly continue to make necessary adjustments in the light of changing circumstances as reflected in the annual work programme.

310. The development of the Commission's work related it of necessity to the work of the United Nations technical assistance programmes, both through direct help to TAA and through the secretariat advisory services to the Asian Governments, undertaken in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference as amended by the Council in 1951. The Secretary-General's proposals to the General Assembly¹³ take full account of this situation and emphasize the need for integrated United Nations action in the region. The Commission has come to occupy a special position in the region as an instrument of economic co-operation, within the framework of policies established by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

311. The Commission received with profound regret the announcement by Dr. Lokanathan, its Executive Secretary, of his forthcoming resignation. It was unanimous in expressing its deep appreciation to Dr. Lokanathan for the outstanding services he had rendered during the Commission's formative years. His leadership and untiring devotion had immeasurably helped in making ECAFE a major instrument for the economic development and the well-being of the people of the region. The Commission conveyed its warmest good wishes to Dr. Lokanathan on his retirement and expressed its earnest hope that during the years to come it would continue to benefit from his wise counsel and active co-operation.

¹² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 47, document A/3041.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

Part V

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION¹⁴

Resolution 15 (XII)

Exchange of experience and information on scientific and technical matters

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Having considered the document prepared by the Technical Assistance Board (ECAFE/INF/14),

1. *Records* its appreciation of the scientific and technical information and experience and training facilities provided to countries of the region by the United Nations and the specialized agencies participating in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and by countries with special experience in particular fields;

2. *Believes* that exchange of scientific and technical

information and experience promotes economic development and strengthens economic co-operation;

3. *Recognizes* that all countries can make, each in its own way, useful contributions in this field, but that the under-developed countries are hampered in this respect by shortages of skilled personnel;

4. *Recommends* that economically advanced countries expand further, in the light of future needs and developments, their contributions in this regard for purposes of economic development and that the economically less advanced countries also make such contributions as may be practicable.

*161st meeting,
8 February 1956.*

¹⁴ Resolutions adopted by the Committee on Industry and Trade and endorsed by the Commission are included in part III, C, "Account of proceedings".

Resolution 16 (XII)

Economic development and planning

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Considering that it is of overriding importance to the countries of Asia and the Far East to increase the rate of economic growth,

Bearing in mind that economic planning is a necessary instrument for an optimum allocation of efforts and resources available and for accelerating economic development in the ECAFE region,

Believing that accelerated industrialization is of vital importance to the development of balanced economies of Asian countries,

1. *Notes* with satisfaction and approval the report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (E/CN.11/412) and further notes the various observations made during the discussion of the report in the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to make available to Governments information on the development plans in the region with a view to assisting them in taking into account developments in, and plans of, other countries in the region;

3. *Requests* the Working Party to deal with development policies and means for implementation of development programmes as well as with problems of planning and implementation in separate major sectors of the economies of the ECAFE region;

4. *Requests* the Governments of the countries in the region to continue and increase their co-operation within the framework of ECAFE in advancing studies of economic development problems, policies and plans and in the elaboration of techniques of programming adapted to the needs and problems of Asian countries.

*165th meeting,
10 February 1956.*

Resolution 17 (XII)

Report of the United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Having considered the report of the Seminar on Population (E/CN.11/415),

Considering that transmigration and land settlement are effective instruments of economic development and social amelioration,

Noting the results and progress already achieved in certain countries in the ECAFE area in making their landless citizens more productive and contented through resettlement,

Noting further that there are various resettlement schemes in the area which differ from one another to some extent in their major outlines and minor details to meet certain conditions and situations peculiar to each country,

Believing that there is a need for exchange of data, information and experience in this field of economic and social development and for the tabulation and correlation of data and information already available,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the implementation of paragraph 55 of the Report of the United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East, to consider appropriate measures for the early organization of a seminar "for the discussion of problems of transmigration and land settlement on the basis of field studies from demographic, economic, social and technical points of view".

*165th meeting,
10 February 1956.*

Part VI

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East for the period 8 April 1955 to 14 February 1956, of the recommendations contained in the account of proceedings of the twelfth session of the Commission and of the programme of work and priorities contained therein.

*168th meeting,
14 February 1956.*

Part VII

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

312. At its 168th meeting, held on 14 February 1956, the Commission unanimously approved the programme of work and priorities set forth below. The Executive Secretary had previously submitted a note on "Additional staff required for implementation of the work programme", which is given as annex VII to this report.

313. This programme was adopted in the light of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Industry and Trade (eighth session) (E/CN.11/425), the report of the Inland Transport Committee (fifth session) (E/CN.11/416), the report on the activities of the secretariat in the field of flood control and water

resources development (E/CN.11/414), the report of the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region (ECAFE/L.95), the report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (E/CN.11/412), and the programme of work of the joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division as agreed between the Executive Secretary and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and also in the light of inter-secretariat consultations with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Monetary Fund (the Fund).

314. As in the past, in reviewing its programme of work and priorities, the Commission continued to follow the directives and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding programmes and priorities, concentration of efforts and resources, control and limitation of documentation and related questions. Attention was given to the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 324 (XI), 362 B (XII), 402 B (XIII), 451 A (XIV), 497 C (XVI), 553 (XVIII), 557 A and B (XVIII), 560 (XIX) and 590 (XX).

315. The Commission noted that in response to General Assembly resolution 789 (VIII) the Executive Secretary had taken steps to limit the number and length of documents. Summary records of all subsidiary bodies, except the two main committees, have been eliminated. On a comparative sampling and examination of material produced over the last three years, it appeared that in 1955 there had been an over-all reduction of approximately 15 per cent in the number of documents and of about 17 per cent in the total volume as compared with the previous year. Studies and material available from such bodies as universities, national, private or public institutions, or non-governmental organizations were utilized whenever possible instead of such studies being undertaken by the secretariat itself. The Commission also noted that the Executive Secretary, with the concurrence of Governments, had deferred the sessions of two sub-committees, and submitted to the Commission or its subsidiary bodies progress reports on the work done by the secretariat in the fields concerned. He proposes to continue this policy unless work justifies the convening of such meetings.

316. The Commission noted that in the interest of the efficient and co-ordinated operation of the economic and social programmes of the United Nations as a whole and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 560 (XIX), an inter-secretariat meeting, attended by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, and the Executive Secretaries of the three regional economic commissions, was held at Bangkok in January 1956, to review the work programmes on industrialization and productivity under way or contemplated at the United Nations Headquarters and in the secretariats of the regional commissions.

317. The proposed programme of work is divided into five broad divisions:

- I. General projects (including research and planning, and technical assistance and advisory services);
- II. Agriculture;
- III. Flood control and water resources development;
- IV. Industry and trade; and
- V. Inland transport.

It has not been found practicable or useful to attempt a determination of priorities as between these broad divisions or as between their sections.¹⁵

318. Within each division or section, projects are listed, in accordance with the established practice, in three groups, as follows:

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

Group 1 consists of projects and activities in which the responsibility of the Commission and its secretariat, pursuant to the Commission's terms of reference and resolutions, is of a continuing character. The studies and reports it contemplates are to be presented from time to time. Each study may differ from and supplement the others in scope (country coverage), substance (different aspects of major problems), and time (developments during a given period). No relative priorities are assigned to projects within this group, or as between group 1 and group 2.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

Group 2 consists of non-recurrent projects, for which an approximate duration can be estimated. It includes projects outside the broad scope of the continuing projects (group 1) as well as occasional topics within the scope of such continuing projects. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Council and its Co-ordination Committee, an estimate of the probable duration of virtually all projects in group 2 is indicated. No relative priorities are assigned to projects within this group, or as between group 1 and group 2.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

Group 3 consists of projects which, in view of staff and budget limitations, will have to be deferred for the time being and probably cannot be undertaken in 1956 or 1957. An estimated duration of work or date for completion is shown for virtually every project in this group. Projects are listed in the order of priority so that, if and as resources become available, they may be taken up, in each division or section, in the order listed.

319. The criteria used in proposing the distribution of projects in the above three groups include, among other factors, an assessment of the basic importance of each project concerned as well as the most effective way to utilize available resources.

¹⁵ Apart from advisory services and technical assistance, these broad divisions of projects correspond to work assigned to the five substantive divisions of the secretariat—namely, the Research and Planning Division, the joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division, the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development, the Industry and Trade Division, and the Transport Division.

320. The Commission noted that in accordance with the decision taken at its eleventh session, the work of the secretariat was expanding in the field of economic development and planning, and that the Executive Secretary had borne in mind Council resolutions 557 B (VIII), 560 (XIX) and 590 (XX), which give highest priority to projects that directly contribute to the economic and social development of under-developed areas and call for concentration of efforts and resources for that purpose. The secretariat has increasingly directed its work towards that goal, with particular reference to problems and methods of programming economic development in order to accelerate the rate of economic growth, and to accelerate industrialization and productivity. Apart from carrying out projects in this specific field, as approved by the Commission at its eleventh session, greater emphasis than heretofore has been placed, in carrying out the projects of all divisions, on the promotion of integrated economic development and the appraisal of development programmes, as well as on direct assistance to Governments.

321. With reference to Council resolutions 155 G (VII), 179 (VIII), 571 C (XIX) and 585 C (XX) and to the role of the regional economic commissions in carrying out projects relating to social aspects of economic development, the Commission noted the increasing emphasis given by the various United Nations organs to the essential interdependence of economic and social aspects of economic development and to the need for ensuring that social factors should be taken fully into account in the planning and execution of programmes. To meet this need, the Secretary-General has taken steps to establish a Social Affairs Unit in the ECAFE secretariat.

322. As in the past, the proposed programme envisages that, upon request by Governments, advisory services will be rendered by the secretariat within its available resources, in consultation with the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) and in connexion with approved projects in the work programme. This type of secretariat activity is referred to in project 04-01; to avoid repetition, the detailed description of each advisory service is not included under individual projects. Increasing assistance has also been given to TAA at its request, through substantive advice and assistance to TAA missions, study groups and experts, and through substantive comments on their reports and recommendations for the recruitment of experts. Staff members of the secretariat have also been assigned, at the request of TAA, to work with an Economic Survey Mission sent to a country in the region. The Commission also considered that in 1956 and 1957 more of the secretariat's resources might have to be devoted to rendering increased advisory services to Governments at their request, and also to co-operating with TAA in the manner referred to in projects 04-01 and 04-02, under technical assistance and advisory services.

323. The Commission was also gratified to note that, as in previous years, TAA had agreed to co-operate in various projects. Most of these are regional projects, which are usually initiated by Governments or recommended by the Commission, in accordance with Council resolution 222 (IX), such as training, research and

demonstration centres, seminars, study tours and pilot plants. In addition, at some ECAFE conferences and meetings of experts, TAA agreed to provide assistance in the form of services of experts from outside the region.

324. The Commission noted that many of the projects listed below were to be carried out jointly or in co-operation with specialized agencies. Overlapping with the work of the specialized agencies has been avoided by taking note of their work in related fields, and by planning work with them so that co-operation with appropriate agencies would take place wherever a co-operative approach promised better results and better utilization of international funds. The Executive Secretary has also had the opportunity of discussing work projects at meetings which he held from time to time with the heads of the regional offices of the specialized agencies and the Technical Assistance Board. It is also the established policy of the Commission, implemented by the Executive Secretary, that no request would be addressed to a specialized agency for a new study or project unless the groundwork has been laid and agreed upon by the respective secretariats. In the suggested work programme for 1956/1957, there are no projects which would require the specialized agencies to undertake any new studies or projects necessitating substantial changes in their work programmes or additional budgetary provisions.

325. As in the past, the Commission authorized the Executive Secretary, in dealing with the work projects, to convene, within available resources, such conferences, expert working parties, meetings or panels of specialists as he might deem necessary, subject to prior approval from the Governments concerned and appropriate consultations with specialized agencies. The Commission may wish to continue this practice.

326. The Commission recommended that five group study tours of experts be undertaken with the assistance of TAA (21-09—water resources survey; 33-04—electric power; 34-05—housing and building materials; 35-03—iron and steel; and 43-07—inland waterways). The Commission attached great importance to each of these projects and placed them all in group 2 to indicate that it considered that they should be undertaken as early as possible. In view, however, of the fact that TAA might not be able to finance all five study tours in 1956 or 1957, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convey to TAA the Commission's recommendation that, if all five group study tours could not be carried out at an early date, they should be undertaken in the following order of priority:

- (1) Group visit of electric-power experts from the region to manufacturers' plants and power-stations in Europe and North America;
- (2) Technical study of iron and steel manufacturing processes in Europe and North America;
- (3) Group visit of experts to water resources development schemes in Europe and North America;
- (4) Study tour of inland waterways experts to Europe and Africa;
- (5) Study tour by housing and building materials experts from countries of the region.

327. The Commission noted the statement by the Executive Secretary to the effect that the strengthening of the ECAFE secretariat, which had been recommended by the Secretary-General on the basis of the work programme adopted by the Commission a year before, had not yet been considered by the General Assembly and that the staff availabilities in 1956 were the same as in 1955, while the proposed programme of work would be substantially larger. The Commission recognized that the inclusion of new projects and expansion of old ones recommended by its subsidiary bodies during the course of 1955 were adding a significant burden to the workload.

328. The Commission considered the possibility of making such changes in the priorities assigned to projects as would ensure that the workload in 1956 should be within the capacities of existing staff; but it decided, after taking all factors into consideration, not to transfer any projects from groups 1 and 2 to group 3 solely because of staff limitations existing in 1956 but to assess priorities on the basis of merit, leaving it to the Executive Secretary to adjust the workload to the capacities of existing staff resources by delaying the commencement of some projects and by restricting the initial scope or delaying the completion of others. The Commission expressed the hope that, in view of the importance of expeditious implementation of the work programme set forth by ECAFE, the Secretary-General's request for additional staff would be given every possible consideration.

329. The Commission noted the statement by the Executive Secretary that the Commission might wish to ensure quicker and greater results by a further concentration of its efforts. This subject will be considered by the Commission at its next session. The considered comments of subsidiary bodies meeting during the forthcoming year are requested on this subject.

330. The Commission expressed the desire that each subsidiary body should in future list, in order of priority, all new projects proposed for inclusion in groups 1 and 2, and if certain new projects are to take priority over certain existing projects in these groups, the latter should be included in the table of priorities. This procedure is designed to provide the Commission and the secretariat with valuable guidance.

331. The Commission recognized that unforeseeable factors might later make it necessary to alter or abandon certain projects or establish different priorities. For that reason, the Commission, as in the past, left it to the Executive Secretary to modify or defer projects, or establish different priorities, if, in his opinion, developments made it necessary, provided such alterations remained within the framework of the approved programme.

Annotated list of projects for 1956 and 1957

(Note: The letter "s" indicates projects involving co-operation with one or more of the specialized agencies; the letter "t" indicates projects on which the co-operation of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration has been agreed to or is to be sought.)

I. GENERAL PROJECTS

A. RESEARCH AND PLANNING

1. Review and analysis of the current economic situation

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 01-01 *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East* (annual).
- 01-02 *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East* (quarterly). Includes periodic reviews of the economic situation in Asia and the Far East, current economic statistics, studies and reports from meetings on economic development and related subjects, and special articles.

2. Economic development

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 02-01 *Economic development and planning*:¹⁶
 - (a) Analytical survey of economic development in the countries of the ECAFE region, in agreement and co-operation with the Governments concerned;
 - (b) Studies of basic economic development problems and policies, including financial aspects, with special reference to the ECAFE region;
 - (c) Development of a body of techniques of programming economic development, including methods of economic projection, adapted to the conditions of the countries in the ECAFE region;
 - (d) Working Party on Economic Development and Planning: the first meeting was held in November 1955 to consider problems and techniques of economic development planning and programming; the second meeting is to be held in September 1956 to consider development policies and the means for implementation of development programmes.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 02-02 *Agricultural financing and credit seminar*. A seminar on agricultural financing and credit will be organized, jointly with FAO, in 1956.¹⁷
- 02-03 *Relationship between population growth and economic development*:
 - (a) Analysis of the interrelationship between population growth and economic development in Asia. Duration, three years. Preliminary work was started in 1955; progress expected in 1956;
 - (b) Participation in a joint United Nations/UNESCO seminar on urbanization in the ECAFE region to be convened in 1956.
- 02-04 *Economic and legal aspects of foreign investments*:
 - (a) Revision of earlier secretariat study (*Foreign Investment Laws and Regulations of the Countries of Asia and the Far East*, United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1951.II.F.1) with an introductory analysis. Date of completion, 1956.
 - (b) Studies of actual foreign capital participation in combination with domestic private capital, and government or public capital. Date of completion, 1957 or 1958.

¹⁶ In co-ordination with projects 11-02 and 31-01.

¹⁷ In co-ordination with project 11-03.

- 02-05 *Role of expanded self-help measures in economic development.* Analysis of the actual and potential contribution to capital formation and to economic development generally of community development and other similar measures of co-operation. With the assistance of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs. Date of completion, 1957.¹⁸

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

- 02-06 *Dissemination of data on foreign investments.* Collection and dissemination of information to be supplied by Governments on foreign investments in the countries of the region. Duration of work, two or three years.

3. Statistics

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

03-01 *Statistical compilation:*

- (a) Maintenance of basic statistical series on population, national income, production, transport, trade, labour, prices, finance, etc., in ECAFE countries, including those regularly published in the *Economic Bulletin*;
- (b) Compilation of statistics for special analyses required for various projects of the secretariat.

03-02 *Statistical methods:*

- (s, t) (a) Study of methods used in the collection and compilation of statistics in ECAFE countries, and evaluation of statistics, with special reference to comparability and conformity to international standards. Close liaison with statisticians in the region with a view to effecting methodological improvements. The above activities to be carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office and other units of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as well as with specialized agencies. The fields of statistics to be covered include production, prices, trade and balance of payments, currency and banking, public finance, national income, labour and population.
- (b) Clearing house for exchange of information on statistical techniques. Collection and dissemination of information on statistical methods in various fields, especially those already developed in countries of the region. Dissemination of information on statistical techniques used in countries outside the region to ECAFE countries may also be undertaken, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office, the ECE and ECLA secretariats and specialized agencies concerned.

- 03-03 *Statistical organization and activities.* Survey of changes in statistical organization and activities in ECAFE countries with special reference to improvements in the availability of statistics, in methods of collection and in coverage. First report issued in 1951, second in 1953. Third report to be issued in 1956.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 03-04 *Regional Conference of Statisticians.* Three conferences have been held: on trade and payments statistics in 1951, on price and production statistics in 1952, and on national income statistics in 1954. A fourth conference will be held in March 1956, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office, to consider the proposed 1960 world programme of population and related censuses with reference to countries of Asia and the Far East.

- 03-05 *Budget reclassification workshop.* A workshop on budget reclassification was convened in August 1955 in co-operation with the Fiscal Branch of the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs and TAA; a second workshop on the same subject will be convened in 1957.

- 03-06 *Index of Asian economic statistics.* Arising from projects 03-01 and 03-02. A preliminary study of concepts, definitions and methods relating to major economic statistical series has been completed for use by the secretariat. A comprehensive classified index of statistical series regularly published in the ECAFE region is in course of compilation in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office and FAO, the ILO, the Fund and other specialized agencies concerned. Date of completion, 1956.

- 03-07 *Methods for the estimation of capital formation.* Study of problems and techniques of the estimation of capital formation in countries of the ECAFE region, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Office. A working party or regional conference of statisticians may be convened after completion of the study. Date of completion, 1957.

B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 04-01 *Advisory services.* The secretariat, within available resources, and in consultation with TAB, TAA and the specialized agencies, will, upon request of Governments and in connexion with projects in the work programme, provide expert advisory services to countries of the region. At the request of a country, a team may make a visit to render advisory services especially on the formulation and implementation of their economic development programme.

04-02 *Co-operation in the technical assistance programme*

- (t) (a) Assistance in the development of the technical assistance activities of the United Nations upon request of the competent bodies, as appropriate.¹⁹
- (b) Co-operation with TAA on the planning and implementation of regional technical assistance projects recommended by the Commission;
- (c) Assistance to Governments, at their request, in the preparation or formulation of their applications for technical assistance.

II. AGRICULTURE

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 11-01 *Continuing review of current developments in the field of food and agriculture in Asia and the Far East.* Supply of information on food and agricultural matters required for:

- (a) All ECAFE studies with food and agriculture implications, particularly the annual *Economic Survey* and the quarterly *Economic Bulletin*;
- (b) FAO Regional Office and Headquarters, including material for *State of Food and Agriculture* and regional conferences;
- (c) Occasional reports on significant developments in agrarian reforms in individual countries of the region;

¹⁹ The scope of such activities in the future will be determined in accordance with action taken by the General Assembly at its next session.

¹⁸ In co-ordination with project 11-02.

- 11-01 (d) Studies on the disposal of agricultural surpluses, with special reference to the utilization in the region of agricultural surpluses for economic development. (In co-ordination with projects on trade.)
- 11-02 (s) *Agricultural development and planning.*³⁰ Studies of agricultural development and plans, including:
- (a) The agricultural aspects of economic development planning;
 - (b) Relation between agriculture and industry, taking into account the necessity for rapid development of the countries of the region;
 - (c) The role of the village community in agricultural development and economic aspects of community development;
 - (d) Study of methods of agricultural planning being followed at present in countries of the region. Joint FAO/ECAFE Working Party on Agricultural Development Planning in 1957.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 11-03 (s) *Agricultural development financing and agricultural credit.*³¹ Studies on agricultural credit and on the financing of agricultural development. Joint FAO/ECAFE Seminar on Agricultural Finance and Credit. Date of completion, 1956.
- 11-04 (s) *Studies of the price and income elasticity of demand for rice and other cereals in the region.* Date of completion, 1956.
- 11-05 (s) *Food and agricultural price policies in Far Eastern countries.* Supplement to document ECAFE/L.87. Joint FAO/ECAFE seminar in 1957. Date of completion, 1957.
- 11-06 (s) *Study of timber trends and prospects.* Study of production and consumption of timber in Asia and the Far East and working out of probable trends for 1960-1970 in the light of anticipated economic development, increase of population, etc. Joint FAO/ECAFE project commencing 1956. Main ECAFE contribution commencing 1957.³² Date of completion, 1958.
- 11-07 (s) *Marketing of agricultural products.*³³ Studies of marketing problems of selected agricultural products, including the role of the middleman, the co-operative, etc. Collection and study of selected successful regulations and practices in the marketing of major commodities.

III. FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 21-01 (s) *Multiple-purpose river basin development.*³⁴ Investigation and promotion of multiple-purpose river basin development in the region.
- (a) Country-by-country survey of water resources, present status of utilization and future plans of development and study and analysis of problems and difficulties encountered;
 - (b) Preparation of detailed reports on various specific subjects;

- 21-01 (s) (c) Analysis of planning and execution of selected multiple-purpose projects in the region—e.g., the Damodar Valley Project, India.
- 21-02 *Flood control and water resources development of international rivers.*³⁴ Study of:
- (a) Technical problems of flood control and water resources development of international rivers in the region and promotion of co-operation among the countries concerned;
 - (t) (b) Reconnaissance survey to be undertaken by a team of experts with a view to working out a preliminary plan for water resources development, including flood control, irrigation, drainage, water power and navigation on selected international rivers, at the request and with the co-operation of a country or countries concerned; in co-operation with TAA.
- 21-03 (t) *Flood control methods.* Improvement of flood control methods, including joint study with technical organizations of the region on various specific problems. The 1956 work programme will be a continuation of the study, initiated in 1954, of methods employed for earth-work construction, with particular emphasis on the use of labour, with a view to increasing efficiency and reducing costs. It is proposed to organize a working group of experts in 1956, for which the co-operation of TAA will be sought.
- 21-04 (s) *Hydrologic observations and hydraulic research stations*
- (a) Study of major deficiencies in hydrologic data (Joint ECAFE/WMO project);
 - (b) Publication of hydrologic terminology finalized by the Working Group of Experts;³⁵
 - (c) Promotion of existing facilities in hydraulic research work and programmes of hydraulic research stations.
- 21-05 *Dissemination of technical information on flood control works and water resources development.* Publication of *Flood Control Series* and *Flood Control Journal*, and distribution of technical reports and publications.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 21-06 [This project number is reserved for future regional technical conferences. No conference is contemplated for 1956.]
- 21-07 *Training centre for water resources development.* Co-operation in the operation of the training centre set up in 1955 at the University of Roorkee by the Government of India.
- 21-08 *Organizations for the execution of river basin development in different countries of the region.*³⁶ Study of existing organizations for the planning of river basin development and administrations for the construction and operation of river valley projects in the region. Work started in 1955. (Related to project 21-01.)
- 21-09 (t) *Group visit of experts to water resources development schemes in Europe and North America.* Co-operation of TAA to be sought. Duration of work, four months, with a view to undertaking visit in 1957.

³⁰ In co-operation with projects 02-01 and 02-05.

³¹ In co-ordination with project 02-02.

³² The scope of ECAFE participation will be determined by the amount of funds which appropriate bodies may decide to make available for this project.

³³ In co-ordination with project 37-07.

³⁴ In co-ordination with projects 33-03 and 43-01.

³⁵ Preparatory to the formulation of a terminology on a global basis; see Economic and Social Council resolutions 345 (XII) and 417 (XIV).

³⁶ In co-ordination with project 31-01 (b).

IV. INDUSTRY AND TRADE

A. INDUSTRY AND MINING

1. General

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

31-01 *Industrial development and planning.*²⁷

- (a) Study of the plans for, and problems of, developing or expanding specific industries of major importance to the region, to cover metal and engineering industries, chemical industries, cement, etc.
- (b) Dissemination of technical information on organization and administration of industrial establishments.²⁸

31-02 *Trained personnel for economic development.* Assistance to the ILO, UNESCO and other specialized agencies in man-power and training-facilities surveys, including the furnishing of economic data about countries in the region having a bearing on their respective activities in these fields.

In co-operation with the ILO, UNESCO and other specialized agencies, to explore measures for training artisans in techniques of manufacture, and management, and training of personnel for development of industrial co-operatives.

Inter-Secretariat Working Party, sixth meeting, to be held in 1956; participation by experts from member and associate member countries to be explored. Co-operation of TAA to be sought.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

31-03 *National management institutes and training centres.* Assistance to countries of the region in the establishment of national management institutes and training centres in co-operation with the ILO, UNESCO and TAA. Duration of secretariat work: 1956-1957.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

31-04 *Study of productivity and efficiency in industrial enterprises.* Co-operation of TAA and the ILO to be sought if necessary. Possibility of organizing a working party to be explored. Duration of work, two to four years.

31-05 *Study of training facilities available in the countries of the region on rural electrification.*

2. Cottage and small-scale industries

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

32-01 *Dissemination of technical information concerning methods of production, equipment, lay-outs, processes and standards used in various industries.* Emphasis to be given to pilot plants and research centres.

32-02 *Promotion and co-ordination of research and experiments by countries of the region.* Reports on manufacturing and marketing aspects of the tanning and leather industry to be submitted by countries to the next meeting of the working party, 1956.

32-03 *Economic aspects of cottage and small-scale industries.* Studies of the economic aspects of the tanning and leather industry, including the problem of organization and management, protection from imports, and studies of competitive relations with large-scale domestic manufactures; in co-operation with the ILO. Statistical data, information and memoranda to be furnished by Governments at an early date.

²⁷ In co-ordination with project 02-01.

²⁸ In co-ordination with project 21-08.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

32-04 *Common-facility services for cottage and small-scale industries.* The report covering the potentialities of common-facility services for groups of independent producers as a technique for the improvement of quality, standardization, expansion of production and reduction of cost of selected cottage industries, has been completed in 1955. Further report to include studies of experience gained and difficulties encountered in selected small-scale industries, in 1956.

32-05 *Studies on production and marketing techniques.* Studies on production and marketing techniques of selected handicrafts and small-scale industries. With the assistance of TAA. Report on ceramics completed, 1955; report on the tanning and leather industry to be undertaken in 1956.²⁹

32-06 *Standardization.*³⁰ Study on possible methods of standardizing materials used by, and finished products of, selected cottage and small-scale industries.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

32-07 *Short training courses for workers and mobile units for training purposes.* Exploration of the possibility of providing short training courses for workers and mobile units for training. In co-operation with TAA and the ILO.

3. Electric power

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

33-01 *Review of progress of electric power development in Asia and the Far East.* To include preparation of tables of comparable statistics and data on generation and capacity by types of plants, transmission lines, by length and voltage, the availability, production, consumption, stocks, exports and imports of fuels by types and quantities, efficiency and load factors attained, and utilization by heavy and light industries. To be published in the *Electric Power Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*. Emphasis to be given to the introduction and use within ECAFE countries of international standard reporting methods. Progress of rural electrification to be covered by population and area, and special articles of regional interest also to be included from time to time in the *Bulletin*. Dissemination of information on uses of atomic energy for industrial purposes.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

33-02 *Rural electrification.* Follow-up action on the secretariat's reports on technical and economic aspects of rural electrification. Assistance to countries in preparing programmes of rural electrification with particular reference to the application of electricity in rural industries. TAA co-operation on specific schemes to be sought by the countries concerned. Probable date of completion, 1956.

33-03 *Hydroelectric potential of each country of the region and its gross, technical and economic limits.*³¹ Study of the basic principles and methods for assessing "theoretical gross potential", "technical potential" and "economic potential". Assistance to countries of the region in the development of techniques for the assessment of the hydroelectric potential. A preliminary report setting forth the principles and methods of assessing the hydro-power potential to be presented for discussion at the next session of the

²⁹ In co-ordination with project 37-10.

³⁰ In co-ordination with project 37-12.

³¹ In co-ordination with projects 21-01 and 21-02.

33-03 Sub-Committee on Electric Power. In the second stage, these principles and methods would be applied to the basic data collected by the countries to determine the hydroelectric power potential of the countries of the region. Proposal for the carrying out of this work by a working party of experts of this region to be considered. The period required for completion of this work would depend in a large measure on the assistance and co-operation extended by the countries. Total estimated duration, three years.

33-04 *Group visit of electric-power experts from the region to manufacturers' plants and power-stations in Europe and North America.* The broad objectives of the group visit would be:

- (a) Review of the heavy electrical power-plant manufacturing capacity of the European countries and North America;
- (b) Study of the standards and specifications adopted by the various European countries and North America with a view to:
 - (i) Reconciling them with Asian purchasers' specifications;
 - (ii) Considering the feasibility of the proper co-ordination that will be necessary if different items of a major power-plant are purchased from several manufacturers, each of whom may be able to make attractive offers for one or more items of the plant;
- (c) Study of latest technical developments in power-plant design and operation;
- (d) Study of the modern methods and system practices adopted by the European countries and North America in the field of electricity-supply industry designed to facilitate construction, operation and maintenance, improve efficiency, and reduce costs. In co-operation with TAA.

33-05 *Standards for electrical plant and equipment and standardization of system practices.* The imperative need for adopting appropriate standards for equipment (including voltages, frequencies), methods and practices in all fields of the electricity industry is to be brought out. A comparative survey of the present practices in the region would be made and suggestions for appropriate general standards for equipment, methods and practices would be formulated, taking into account the progress and development in the industrially advanced countries. Estimated duration, two years.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

33-06 *Economic loading of power systems and power apparatus.* Review of the principles and methods of operation of generating, transforming and transmission equipment so as to obtain the maximum efficiency and economy. Determination of the principles of a sharing of the load demand as between the different power-stations of an interconnected system and of the scheduled loading of individual plant units in a power station with reference to (a) the fuel consumption, (b) the pattern of daily load demand, etc. Duration of work, two years.

33-07 *Electricity in mining.* Study of the possible exclusive application of electricity in deep mining and of potential benefits in increasing production and improving product quality. Duration of work, two years.

33-08 *Regulation and control of public-utility electricity industry.* Comparative study of the legal and legislative enactments controlling and regulating the electric-power supply industry in the countries of the region. The regulations

to be studied with reference to (a) safety of persons operating or handling electrical equipment, (b) development of power as a means of promoting economic progress, and (c) financial and other related measures. Duration of work, two years.

4. Housing and building materials

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

34-01 *Housing and town and country planning and building:*

- (s, t) (a) Convening periodic working parties of experts from member and associate member countries to review the technical and economic problems on housing and building materials, to recommend measures for the promotion of housing and building materials industries (and to promote international co-operation in this regard), in co-operation with the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, TAA, the ILO, UNESCO and WHO.
- (b) Co-ordination at the regional level of the work of various agencies on the basis of work projects and programmes of the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council, through working parties as above.
- (c) Collection and dissemination of information on technical problems of housing and building materials, results of research, experimentation and demonstration on building materials, construction methods, types of houses, standardization, aided self-help methods, capital cost and other details concerning manufacture of new building materials. In co-operation with the United Nations agencies referred to in (a).

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

34-02 *Guiding principles for housing standards and building codes for ECAFE countries.* Completion of the regional study related to the global study being undertaken by the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs at the request of the Social Commission. Preliminary ECAFE study completed in 1955. Estimated date for completion of the ECAFE study, December 1956.

34-03 *Study of building materials in the ECAFE region.* Final editing and printing of the study on the basis of further information, data and comments on technical analysis of the manufacture and uses of various building materials received from experts of the countries of the region. Proposed date of publication of the printed report, August 1956.

34-04 *Regional housing centres:*

- (s, t) (a) Follow-up action and reporting on the regional housing centres for the arid and humid tropical zones of the region. Further TAA co-operation to be sought if required by the countries concerned. Co-operation of other agencies also to be sought;
- (b) Work in consultation with the governments concerned on details of composition and terms of reference of a regional housing centre advisory committee, including provision for participation in programming and use of research by various sectors of private industries.

34-05 *Study tour by housing and building materials experts from countries of the region,* to observe and study the latest development in countries visited in respect of methods and techniques of programming for housing in newly industrialized areas, methods and techniques of building constructions on a mass scale, progress in the building materials industries and in the organizational, administrative and research aspects of building development in the countries visited.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

- 34-06 *Periodic review of the housing situation and housing and building programmes in the region, in relation to economic and social developments.*

5. Iron and steel

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 35-01 *Survey of iron and steel industry and trade in ECAFE countries.* Continuing study of plans and problems and dissemination of technical and economic information relating to such plans and problems. To include:

- (a) Annual review of the iron and steel industry, including production plans and problems of development of the iron and steel industry and allied industries in countries of the region;
- (b) Survey of detailed demands by product;
- (c) Survey of existing facilities and possibilities of manufacture of alloy steels, ferro-alloys, fluxes and refractories;
- (d) Iron and steel foundries;
- (e) Re-rolling mills;
- (f) Scrap classification—formulation of uniform methods;
- (g) Laboratory and research facilities; preparation of a directory and a list of main technical libraries and selected bibliography of relevant iron and steel publications, in co-operation with UNESCO;
- (h) Formulation of uniform statistical reporting methods;
- (i) Steel fabricating and processing industries, including manufacture of agricultural implements and various light steel products;
- (j) Dissemination of technical information relating to the foregoing and also concerning ore beneficiation and processes for manufacture of iron and steel, small rolling mills, refractories manufacture and the techniques of scrap collection and scrap preparation;
- (k) Important aspects of intra-regional and interregional trade development in iron and steel;
- (l) Survey of existing and proposed steel-transforming industries. Will include forging, welding, machine and heat-treatment shops.

Reports on the above items to be issued from time to time.

- 35-02 *Iron and Steel Bulletin.* Annual publication of latest developments and practices of iron and steel processing techniques of interest to ECAFE countries, current activities and major developments in the iron and steel and allied industries in the region and production data on raw materials and finished products.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 35-03 (f) *Technical study of iron and steel manufacturing processes in Europe and North America.* Processes of iron manufacture without coking coal, steel manufacture, ore beneficiation and training of technicians. Study and, if possible, a group visit to Europe and the United States. The second report of the secretariat will be submitted to the seventh session of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel. Co-operation of TAA to be sought for the group visit in 1956.
- 35-04 *Iron and steel specifications.* Study of possible methods of simplification and/or standardization of specifications for manufacture and use of iron and steel and their products. Duration of study, three years.

- 35-05 (f) *Pilot plant.* Co-operation among countries on pilot plants making iron without coke. Co-operation of TAA to be sought by the countries concerned.

- 35-06 *Market research.* Study of existing market research and possibilities of applying systems used in more advanced countries. Co-operation between the steel industry and other consuming industries. Efficiency in steel utilization, etc. Duration, two years.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

- 35-07 (f) *Scrap-collection drive.* Arranging for scrap experts to assist in the classification and preparation of scrap. At a later stage, if necessary, organization of a scrap-collection drive. Co-operation of TAA to be sought.

- 35-08 *Uniform standards of terminology in the iron and steel industry.* Study of existing procedure and promotion, in the region, of uniform standards of terminology, classification and definition for raw materials and finished products of the iron and steel and allied industries, within the framework of such global standards as may be established by the United Nations. Duration, two years.

6. Mineral resources development

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 36-01 *Regional mining development review.* Periodic review of current mining activities in the region including discoveries of new mineral deposits, development of new mines including small mines, installation and expansion of mineral processing plants, and economic aspects of mineral production, including its co-ordination with electric power developments. Earlier secretariat reports have reviewed progress from 1945 to 1955.

Report on organization and methods of compiling mineral statistics of the region to be prepared in conjunction with the mining development reviews.

- 36-02 *Technical studies and dissemination of information on selected mineral resources and mineral discovery and extraction methods.* Studies limited to resources basic to the industrial development of the region or in short supply in the world market. Studies already made on coal, iron ore, aluminium, sulphur and kaolin. Study of ilmenite resources of the region to be completed in 1956. Studies of copper, lead, zinc and tin to be undertaken. Report on coal and iron-ore resources including data on coking-coal resources, to be brought up to date. Dissemination of information on the planning, prospecting and development of uranium and other radio-active mineral deposits.

- 36-03 *Study of aerial survey methods and equipment.* To be commenced in 1957.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 36-04 *Exploration, exploitation and utilization of lignite and other low-grade coals in the region.* Comprehensive study covering exploration, availability and extraction, including distribution, quantity, quality, mining, beneficiation and utilization, and economic aspects; country studies, including recommendations for development in each country. First interim report on lignite completed in July 1952; report on lignite utilization for power generation completed in September 1953. Further reports on lignite exploitation and utilization to be completed in 1956. Study of exploitation and utilization of peat and low-grade coals to follow.

- 36-05 *Integrated study of the fuel economy of the region.* Study to cover current and potential production and consumption of fuels of countries of the region, cost of production and market prices, comparison of advantages and disadvantages of utilization of various kinds of fuels and best methods of utilizing known fuel resources. Review of the fuel policies of countries of the region. Work started in 1954. First report completed in 1955. Final report to be completed in 1956/1957.
- 36-06 *Compilation of existing regulations governing the mineral development of the region.* Compilation started in 1954. First report in 1955. To be revised and brought up to date in 1956/1957.
- 36-07 *Regional geological map.* Follow-up action arising from the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Party of Senior Geologists on the Preparation of a Regional Geological Map for Asia and the Far East; in co-operation with the International Geological Congress and the United Nations Cartographic Office. The second Working Party of Senior Geologists to be held in 1956.
- 36-08 *Standard classification of coal for regional use.* Preliminary report presented to the Committee on Industry and Trade at its third session. Second report completed in 1953. This was also considered by the ECE Working Party in connexion with the international standard classification of coal. Date of completion of third report, 1956. International exchange and laboratory investigation of coal samples to be promoted in co-operation with ECE.
- 36-09 *Study tour of mining experts and geologists from Asia and the Far East to Europe, including the USSR.* Study tour took place in 1955. Printed final report to be available in 1956.
- 36-10 *Underground gasification of coal.* Convening of a joint (f) ECAFE/ECE expert working group to investigate the possibility of establishing an international experimental station in the region for underground coal gasification. Co-operation of TAA to be sought.
- 36-11 *Basic types of mining equipment.* Compilation and dissemination of comprehensive lists of basic types of mining equipment appropriate for use in the region, including prices.
- 36-12 *Ad hoc working group on expansion of the aluminium industry in the region.* To examine plans which countries are now undertaking or contemplating for the expansion of their aluminium industries; with the assistance of international experts if necessary. Co-operation of TAA to be sought if required.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

- 36-13 *Documentation centre.* To explore the possibility of establishing a documentation centre for translating technical literature concerning geology and mining.
- 36-14 *Compilation and publication of a map showing the distribution of mineral resources in the region.* Compilation of the map to be based on data received from countries. Duration, two years.

B. TRADE

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 37-01 *Development of trade and trade promotion services,* including review of trade and commercial policies of ECAFE countries, assistance to national trade promotion agencies by furnishing them with information and advice on problems confronting them, namely, organization of training courses in trade promotion techniques and services; organization

- and arrangement of international trade fairs and exchange of trade visits between countries; simplification of customs, facilities for transit trade of land-locked countries, licensing and remittance procedures; and development of improved commercial intelligence services and marketing research activities. Progress report to be submitted to the Sub-Committee on Trade.
- 37-02 *Clearing house for collection and dissemination of commercial information not generally available to the countries of the region.* Publication of *Trade Promotion News*, incorporating *Trade Promotion Series* and *Calendar of International Conferences, Seminars, Fairs and Exhibitions*.
- 37-03 *Intra-regional trade.* Study of possibilities of expanding (s) intra-regional trade within the context of world trade.
- 37-04 *Trade in selected commodities,* including studies of trade in capital goods. Date of completion of first report, 1956.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 37-05 *Interregional trade consultations.* Report to be prepared by the secretariat for submission to the Sub-Committee on Trade.
- 37-06 *Regulations, procedures and practices concerning the conduct of international trade.* A study, in co-operation with Governments and interested commercial and inter-governmental organizations, of the regulations, procedures and practices concerning the conduct of international trade with a view to their simplification. Practical suggestions to be formulated for the consideration of member Governments. Date of completion of first report, 1956.
- 37-07 *Market analysis.*²² Surveys of selected products of countries of the ECAFE region. Report on coco-nut and coco-nut products to be completed in March 1956; report on spices, in 1957.
- 37-08 *Examination of the possibility of establishing a study centre* within the region for the training of trade promotion personnel, and formulation of proposals therefor for consideration by the Sub-Committee on Trade. Efforts also to be made to obtain experts from outside the region.
- 37-09 *Commercial arbitration facilities:*
- Promotion, in co-operation with the national and appropriate international organizations concerned, of arbitral facilities in the region, including dissemination of information concerning commercial arbitration and assistance to countries in the formulation of laws, rules and regulations on arbitral procedure, incorporation of standard arbitral clause in trade contracts and enforcement of international arbitral awards;
 - Convening in 1956, in co-operation with national and appropriate international organizations, of a working party of experts on arbitral procedures to examine the existing facilities and legislation on commercial arbitration in the countries of the region and to make recommendations.
- 37-10 *Domestic and export marketing of handicrafts.*²³ Assistance (f) to countries in the development of domestic and export marketing. In co-operation with TAA. Duration of secretariat work, two years.
- 37-11 *Study of ocean freight rates* affecting the countries of the region, including consideration of the possibilities of increasing the availability of shipping facilities, in co-operation with national and international agencies, particularly the United Nations Transport and Communications Commission. Date of completion, 1957.

²² In co-ordination with project 11-07.

²³ In co-ordination with project 32-05.

- 37-12 *Standardization:*³⁴
 (s, t) (a) Survey of merchandise standardization and certification marking procedures and problems confronting the countries of the region;
 (b) Convening of special working parties of the agencies concerned with this project. Co-operation of TAA, FAO and the International Organization for Standardization to be sought.
 Duration, two years.
- 37-13 *Study of the problems of trade of land-locked countries.*³⁵

V. INLAND TRANSPORT

A. GENERAL

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 41-01 *Collection, analysis and dissemination of information, with regard to railways, highways, and inland waterways, including transport statistics, library service, quarterly Transport Bulletin, and annual Railway Statistics Bulletin.*

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 41-02 *Co-ordination of transport.* Further studies on specific aspects of the co-ordination and integrated development of inland transport as recommended by a working party to be convened. In co-operation with ICAO as necessary. Duration, 1956-1957.
- 41-03 *Statistical study of performance of transport systems* with a view to obtaining maximum efficiency and full utilization of all available resources. Progress report issued in 1954; interim report issued in 1955; final report, 1956.
- 41-04 *Refrigerator inland transport,* including refrigeration on transport vehicles and at terminal stations. Preliminary report issued in 1955; interim report, 1956; final report, 1957.
- 41-05 *Mechanization of accounts in transport undertakings.* Duration, 1956-1957.

B. HIGHWAYS

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

(See also project 41-01.)

- 42-01 *Road construction and maintenance.* Economics of highway engineering; final report and detailed studies and recommendations on the following aspects:
 (t) (a) Seminar on methods of construction and maintenance of low-cost roads and soil stabilization, 1957; TAA co-operation to be sought;
 (b) Bituminous construction; report, 1956;
 (c) Current methods of highway financing in the ECAFE region; date of completion of report, 1957;
 (d) Current methods of highway administration in the ECAFE region; date of completion of report, 1957.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 42-02 *International highways.* Study, review and recommendations regarding national systems of highways for promotion of the development of international highways connecting the countries of the region for economic development. Date of completion of interim report, 1956; final report, 1957.

- 42-03 *Highway safety.* Studies and recommendations with particular reference to traffic congestion and accidents in urban areas, for a seminar on engineering and traffic aspects of highway safety, 1956. TAA co-operation to be sought.
- 42-04 *Uniform design standards and specifications, for:*
 (a) Roads;
 (b) Bridges.
 Date of completion of first report, 1956; final report, 1957.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

- 42-05 *Mechanization of road construction and maintenance.*
 (t) Examination of the possibility of a demonstration project using mechanized equipment. Co-operation of TAA to be sought. Duration, two years.
- 42-06 *Road life studies and control sections.* Duration, two years.
- 42-07 *Uniform standards of specifications for machinery for road projects.* Duration, two years.

C. INLAND WATERWAYS

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

(See also project 41-01.)

- 43-01 *Improvement of inland waterway transport:*³⁶
 (t) (a) Examination of improved methods of river and canal conservancy for navigation;
 (b) Dissemination of information regarding methods of improving efficiency of inland waterway transport.
 Co-operation of TAA to be sought, if necessary.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 43-02 *Improved design and operation of craft, including use of pusher craft and towing methods.* Demonstration/pilot projects. In co-operation with TAA. Proposed duration, 1956-1957.
- 43-03 *Training centre for IWT personnel.* Assistance in developing the regional centre for the advanced training of diesel marine mechanics. A national training centre opened in 1955 in Rangoon, Burma, and it is planned to expand it into the regional centre as from March 1956. In co-operation with the ILO. Duration, 1956-1958.
- 43-04 *Inland ports.* Recommendations regarding financing, construction, organization and management of inland ports in the region, on the basis of studies of inland ports in Europe and the United States of America. Date of completion of report, 1956.
- 43-05 *Model government organization to deal with IWT and river and canal conservancy.* Study of advantages and disadvantages of existing systems; recommendations of suitable structure and terms of reference for government organization. Date of completion of report, 1956.
- 43-06 *Siltation in small ports.* Study of various methods of combating siltation in small ports for coastal vessels, in order to stimulate intra-state transport. Date of completion of interim report, 1957; final report, 1958.
- 43-07 *Study tour.* Exploration of the possibilities of arranging for a team of experts from countries of the region to study technological advances in inland waterway transport in Europe and Africa. Co-operation of TAA to be sought. Tour to take place in 1957.

³⁴ In co-ordination with project 32-06.

³⁵ In co-ordination with project 44-07.

³⁶ In co-ordination with projects 21-01 and 21-02.

43-08 *Dredging of inland waterways.* Study of dredging equipment and methods suitable for use in inland waterways and inland ports. Proposed duration, 1956-1958.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

43-09 *Model IWT legislation.* Study of advantages and disadvantages of existing IWT legislation; formulation of model legislation. Duration, two years.

43-10 *Classification of inland waterways.* Study of the possibility of establishing a standard schedule for classification of waterways and determination of desirable standard dimensions of waterways, structures and craft for each class. Duration, two years.

D. RAILWAYS

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

(See project 41-01.)

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

44-01 *Railway Training Centre for Operating and Signalling Officials.* In co-operation with TAA. Annual report to be submitted to each session of the Railway Sub-Committee. Duration, 1956-1958.

44-02 *Diesel locomotives and railcars.* Further studies in accordance with such recommendations as might be made by the Railway Sub-Committee at its fourth session. Duration, 1956-1958.

44-03 *Improved turn-round of rolling-stock.* Study and recommendations on measures to improve turn-round of rolling-stock, thereby increasing the carrying capacity of the railway system. Interim report, 1955; final report, 1956.

44-04 *Railway track sleepers.* Study and recommendations on:
(s) (a) Wooden sleepers. In co-operation with FAO (working party, 1956).

(b) Concrete sleepers.

(c) Preservation of steel sleepers.

Date of completion of report, 1956.

44-05 *Incidence of railway accidents and measures for prevention.* Date of completion of report, 1956.

44-06 *Repairs and maintenance of rolling-stock in workshops.* Study and recommendations. Date of completion, 1956.

44-07 *Study of railway freight rates* affecting the trade of land-locked countries. (See also project 37-13.)

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

44-08 *Standardization of rolling-stock,* with a view to facilitating production, improving availability, reducing costs per unit and facilitating interchange of traffic between certain railways of the region. Duration, two years.

44-09 *Hot axles of wagons.* Study of causes and remedies, with special reference to construction, materials used, lubricating practices and automatic warning devices. Duration, one year.

44-10 *Study on the feasibility of introducing container transport on railways,* with special reference to operating costs, and financial aspects. Duration, two years.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

Address by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, at the inaugural meeting of the twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

I am here both on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of India to bid you welcome to this conference in Bangalore. You have just been reminded that eight years ago this Commission held its third session in Ootacamund and I had the opportunity of being present there also. I am happy to have this second opportunity of being present at one of your conferences and to meet the distinguished representatives of various countries of Asia.

Eight years have passed since then, and these eight years have seen many developments in the world and in Asia. Naturally, I am more connected with what has taken place in this country during this period. During these eight years I hope we have learnt something both from our successes and from our failures.

If we want to go ahead, to achieve things, to put ourselves in line with dynamic currents, then, inevitably, we shall sometimes succeed and sometimes fail, but we must learn from both. We have, I believe, already learnt something, achieved something, and we are on the eve of achieving even bigger things.

I should like, first of all, to express my gratification at something which is not directly connected with this conference—the fact that some members of ECAFE have recently been admitted to the United Nations—Cambodia, Ceylon, Laos and Nepal. I am sure every country in Asia has welcomed their admission, as this wider association in the United Nations will be helpful to us in Asia and I hope to the larger causes of the world.

I would have wished that two other countries, one represented here and one not, had also been admitted to the United Nations—the great countries of Japan and Outer Mongolia. And I hope that their admission will not be long delayed. I hope anyhow that in this Commission, which seeks to have the largest measure of co-operation in the region, Outer Mongolia will also find its place.

Indeed it has struck me as very odd that, while we seek such co-operation, a very large area of this vast continent should not be represented here, the area known as China. I am not referring to this matter from any political point of view—politics can be discussed in other places—but from the economic point of view, from the point of view of knowing what the resources of Asia are. In any larger schemes of development we surely must have the largest measure of co-operation; and to leave out a very large part of this continent must necessarily be disadvantageous to your own activities and even, if I may say so, to your own integrated thinking on this great problem.

Many of you are experts in the matters that come before you. All of you are distinguished representatives of your Governments connected with the tackling of these economic and social problems. I speak rather as a layman, though one intimately interested in, and also somewhat connected with, these problems in India. I would not presume to offer you any guidance in the matters about which you perhaps know more than I do. But I would venture to place some considerations of a wider nature before you, because I do feel that unless we keep these wider considerations

in mind, we may not perhaps be able fully to understand the nature of the limited problem that we are considering. Limited problem, I said, but the economic and social progress of Asia's millions is no small problem. It is a terrific problem. I can conceive of no bigger problem in the world today than this problem of the millions who inhabit various parts of Asia and who are bent on economic and social progress, which is of the greatest importance to them.

But there is something which is almost as important for the rest of the world as what happens in these great countries of Asia, and that is what is happening in the minds of these millions of people. I suggest, therefore, that while you consider the industrial or the agricultural or the economic aspects of this problem, there is something more that you must keep in mind in order to be fully aware of this problem; because behind all great problems there is something much more than the professors' data—though these are important—than the statisticians' material—which is necessary—than the economists' approach—which is also necessary. There is the tremendous urge and passion of millions of people wanting to do something, wanting to get something which they have lacked and that is a tremendous force. If rightly applied, it takes you forward in the right direction; if wrongly used, it not only hinders your going forward far, but may take you in the wrong direction. Therefore it is of the most vital importance that there should be some adequate conception among the statesmen of the world of the vital urges that move the peoples of Asia today. Many of you know all this. It is not for me to remind you of what is so patent to every person who comes from Asia. But perhaps it is not so obvious or patent to others who are wrapped up in their own important problems and who have not been used to thinking of the countries or the peoples of Asia in that vivid and important way which has become necessary now.

The problems of Asia were often decided elsewhere without any reference to Asia or Asia's people. Now that old practice is out of date. Yet there is a hang-over which continues, and attempts are made to decide Asia's problems in places far away from Asia and without much regard to what Asia feels or thinks. I submit that from the point of view of practical politics, apart from any other approach to this question, that is not a very helpful way of dealing with a problem of this nature, because the fact is that hundreds and hundreds of people in Asia exist; they not only exist, but they think; they not only think, they think passionately; they have strong urges, strong opinions, and they refuse to be ignored; that is the basic fact of the matter.

Whether you think in economic terms, industrial terms or any other terms, Asia's fate cannot be decided by others, without Asia's concurrence, goodwill, association and co-operation. In this basic awareness of the problem, something new has happened in Asia, something enormously important after hundreds and hundreds of years. A new awakening has come to the peoples of Asia. They have a sense of having been kept back for hundreds of years by the process of history, if you like, by various things that happened when their economy was governed by other countries and in favour of other countries. Politically, many of these countries of Asia have got out of that confining structure and they want to progress, to go ahead. Why is this so? Not only because progress is good—of course, it is good—but rather because they lack the primary necessities of life, because they sometimes lack food, clothing, housing, education and health—the basic needs

of every human being. That is not a question of academic debate for them but a matter of survival. It may be said that they lacked them previously. That is true, but it is here that the new political and economic awakening and consciousness come in. Today, they refuse to submit to this continuing lack, and naturally do not like the vast disparity in economic and social conditions between the countries of Asia and the countries of some other parts of the world.

So their approach to this problem is very far from being academic. There is a dynamic and a passionate urge behind it. And if we fail to understand that, then we are not wholly aware of this problem, and if we are not fully aware of it, we are apt perhaps to fail to find suitable remedies for it.

I referred to disparity. The point is that this disparity in the well-being and economic progress of nations is becoming greater and greater. Countries in Asia are advancing, I believe, but the distance that separates them from other, industrially more developed countries, is becoming much greater. Even in the last ten years or so since these new organizations came into existence after the Second World War, the disparity between these countries has grown and not lessened. That is understandable, because of the ancient rule that unto those that have, even more shall be given and from those that have not, even what they have might be taken away. Of course that might not be wholly applicable, but in the very nature of things, the dynamic process of social progress is greater in those countries that have already gathered momentum and is much slower in the under-developed countries which have had a static economy for a long period and which somehow have to extricate themselves from the vicious circle confining them.

They have little surplus available for development just when they require it. They cannot normally put greater burdens on their own people because they have already too many burdens. And yet, if there is no surplus, no capital formation, how are they to progress? That is the basic problem.

In this connexion, it seems to me that most of the very eminent people in Western countries—economists, statisticians and planners—who have dealt with problems of economic development have usually, and naturally, considered these problems from the point of view of their own industrially developed countries, and not so much from the point of view of under-developed countries, because the nature of the problems changes, whether you are dealing with an industrially developed country with large resources at its disposal or with an under-developed country which has had a rather static economy in the past.

And therefore it is for this Commission and for all of us to consider these problems of under-developed countries in a somewhat different light. It is no good copying the maxims or the methods or the procedures of the highly developed countries, because they do not apply, because the problems in the under-developed countries are somewhat different.

We are not going to spend the next hundred years in arriving gradually, step by step, at that stage of development which the developed countries have reached today. Our pace and tempo of progress have to be much faster.

How is that to be done in the circumstances? We have to do it at a moment of great political consciousness in the people. We have to do it at a time when scientific developments and advances have, at any rate in theory, made it perfectly clear that the world has enough energy, enough resources, enough capacity to satisfy every need of every human being in the world. It may take a little time but it can be done; the people recognize that and they are not agreeable to remaining where they are. So these social forces impinge upon us, this pressure from the masses of people who are utterly dissatisfied with the conditions they have to face.

So the problems of under-developed countries have to be viewed from a very special point of view. To some extent, I believe there is a tendency to understand them in their special

context. I have no doubt that this Commission has endeavoured to deal with them in that way. Nevertheless I have ventured to emphasize this because I find, even in my own country, a certain tendency to look at these problems from the point of view of distant countries, far more developed countries, whose background is completely different. Obviously, the under-developed countries have to learn from the developed countries. We have to learn the basic, the very basic, things—science, for example, which has led ultimately to all industrial and technological development. We have to learn technology and much else. Nevertheless, I submit that we, in Asia, will have to solve our problems ourselves, learning from others. If we seek to imitate them or to copy what has happened there—in any sphere, whether political, economic or social—I don't think we shall succeed, because somehow we shall become rootless and try to find sustenance from something which has no roots in our country and which may not fit in. It is one thing to learn from, and have the closest co-operation of, the more developed countries; it is another thing merely to imagine that, by a certain process of imitation of what is happening there, we are benefiting our country.

Ours is a vast area, a little world, in fact, with a tremendous historical, moral and spiritual background which is in our blood and in our veins, and which conditions us. We have been left far behind, no doubt ultimately through our own faults, but also because of historical forces and conditions. We have now broken that shell that prevented us from growing; and we want to grow, we want to expand in such a way as to benefit our people and not to create more trouble and convulsion.

We want above all to expand peacefully. But we want to grow, that is the main thing, and we resent everything that is likely to come in the way of our growth. That is also why the way of thinking of peoples in Asia who clamour to satisfy their primary needs is somewhat different from that of people in the more developed countries whose primary needs, broadly speaking, have been satisfied and who can play about with other problems. We have no time to play about with other problems. If they are thrust upon us, naturally, we have to play such part as we can. But our objective, our basic objective, is to satisfy the primary needs of our people, and I venture to say that that is the objective of people in many other parts of Asia too. The approach to this question thus becomes somewhat different; it becomes a less political and much more social and economic approach, for the basic and primary needs of our people have to be satisfied.

The Chairman referred to the need for industrialization. True, we have become backward, because we have been lacking in industry. Even such industry as we had—industry of the old, not highly mechanized type—has often been wiped out. And so it has become very necessary for us to industrialize. In industrializing our countries, are we to go through that painful process which accompanied the early industrialization of some of the Western countries? Obviously not, first, because we should learn from experience; secondly, because our people will not tolerate that today. They are conscious, politically conscious, and we cannot repeat what happened a hundred years ago in Western Europe. We just cannot do it and it would be folly to do it. Therefore we have to think of the process of industrialization in different terms today—above all, in human terms. And that is why I say the problem before us is essentially a human problem.

For instance, we can never forget in India—and perhaps many of you cannot forget in your own countries—the large-scale unemployment and under-employment. How are we to achieve fuller employment? Obviously we cannot pursue out-of-date methods; if we want to progress, we have to progress with the latest technique, with the latest machines. That is essential. At the same time, if the latest technique and the latest machines, far from solving our employment problem, worsen it, we are in a great quandary. What are we to do about it? Many problems

come up—problems of the balance of heavy industry and light industry, of cottage industry and household industry, and the like—which one has to deal with from day to day and there can be no fixed rule about them, applying to every country. Each country has to solve its own problems, no doubt in co-operation with others, but essentially in the context of its own past and present conditions.

We are facing these problems daily in drafting our Five-Year Plans. As you know, we are nearly at the end of our first Five-Year Plan, and, by and large, we have met with considerable success. Most heartening is the fact that the plan has given self-reliance and a measure of self-confidence to our people, and that is a tremendous fact because no great economic or social progress can be made in a country through governmental effort only, or merely by financial means. It can only be done when the people themselves are on the move, are co-operating and sharing in the great burden. And therefore, speaking for myself, I would say that the most hopeful feature in India at the conclusion of our first Five-Year Plan is not that we have come to grips with, and largely solved, our food problem—that is of basic importance—it is not that we have done many other things, but it is this: that we have awakened our hundreds of millions of people and made them realize that it is up to them to do these things—and they are doing them.

I attach more importance in India today to our community schemes, to our community projects, and to our National Extension Service than to almost anything else. I think of all these things in a revolutionary context, because they are producing a new climate in the minds of hundreds of millions of our rural people. Revolution is not necessarily concerned with violence and breaking of heads. We have brought about some major revolutions in this country by peaceful methods. We propose to bring about other revolutions, social and economic, in this country by peaceful methods also. And I think that these community schemes and others are bringing about a revolutionary change in our peasant masses, which have been largely static for many, many generations. It is a tremendous thing.

Naturally, I cannot speak of the future; but I am fascinated and excited about this change that is taking place in these people, whom it has been my privilege to serve for these many years. Then again, we in India are faced with the problem—and no doubt others in Asia have the same type of problem—of trying to balance this rapid growth of industry and this betterment of the peasant masses. We are an agricultural country; we want a greater shift towards industry, but inevitably we remain an agricultural country. And how are we to raise their standards?

I shall not go into these various questions, which you will no doubt consider, except to tell you that our own approach to these questions is very far from static. We are trying to learn at every step—and we have learnt. We are not afraid to discard anything that does not hold good, and one of the lessons that we have to learn is that we need not follow the example of any other country in the economic or any other field, though we must learn from it. We have to learn that our conditions are different and that we and we alone can solve them. And it is those who are acquainted with conditions in our country who can probably understand the problem. Not even the ablest man, if he is not acquainted with our conditions, can offer us much help. That, I take it, applies to others and that is why I feel that it is of the highest importance that people of countries similarly situated—under-developed countries in Asia—should confer together, as you do here. Our problems and theirs are not the same but they are similar and we can learn more from each other perhaps than from more highly developed countries. This habit of comparing experiences, of learning from the work done in each country, has, apart from its practical value, if I may use the term, a moral and spiritual value bringing us together.

A year ago all the Asian countries represented here and countries from Africa, and some others too, met at the Bandung Con-

ference. That conference was, I believe, a very significant and historic event from the point of view, more especially, of the countries of Asia and Africa. Among other things, a certain approach was made in it towards economic and cultural co-operation. It did not go very far—naturally, we could not discuss details there—but I hope that this Commission will heed some suggestions made at the Bandung Conference in regard to economic and cultural matters, and perhaps take some steps to further the aims and views set out there.

One fact that strikes me when I consider these countries, all these countries of Asia—and I judge again from my own country—is the lack of adequate information about minerals, power resources, etc. Obviously, the very first thing that is essential, before you plan for a country's development, is to know, as accurately as possible, what your resources are—under ground and above ground. Unless you know that, you may move in a wrong direction and have to retrace your steps. One of the difficulties of the planner is that he comes up against private and vested interests, say in minerals, and it is very difficult to plan if you have to leave out large areas of your country's surface which cannot be fitted in with the plan, because of certain private interests. Anyhow, the point I wish to make is that this careful survey of minerals as well as power resources is a thing in which, I imagine, this Commission can be of the greatest help. I believe some good work has been done by this Commission in the past, but the problem is a much bigger one and it should be tackled in that way.

Another very important aspect of this problem is flood control and the use of water resources. We have been, in India, very much concerned with them. We have great rivers. We have built up a great irrigation system, one of the biggest in the world. Nevertheless, it is small compared to what we really want and, to push our big river valley schemes, we have developed electric power also. These are many of the matters in which surely this Commission could particularly help.

Many countries present here were represented at the atomic energy conference in Geneva and many decisions were made there. Among the subjects discussed—I do not know whether there was a decision or not—was the necessity of knowing whether the raw materials for the production of atomic energy were available. Again, Asia is, from that point of view, largely an undiscovered continent. ECAFE started its work trying to find out what the world contained but it seems to think that the world does not contain the huge territory called China, and it does not know what resources it has. That, I submit, is an unscientific approach—I am not speaking politically. We want to know how much of a particular mineral for atomic energy is available, or likely to be available, in the world but we leave out one-quarter of Asia. That is totally unscientific and that is one difficulty: if we consider social and economic problems and if we are constantly being pushed in one direction or the other by political considerations, then those social and economic problems suffer. They suffer—from the scientific, the objective point of view—quite apart from whatever we may do. But they suffer much more from the point of view of the mental approach to these problems. Perhaps that applies not only in Asia, but outside too.

The world hankers after constructive effort. All our activities are in the nature of building up something, building up resources, building up the well-being of a country or a people. So we work hard for construction. Yet the prospect of working for destruction is also always heavily present in our minds. And so we have this dilemma of construction and destruction in the shape of preparations for war, armaments, etc., constantly with us side by side. Quite apart from the tremendous amount of wealth and energy that is taken up in these works for destruction, armaments, etc., which might go towards raising the whole level of the human race and solving many of its present-day problems, the mental conflict is probably even more dangerous than the money involved. In other words, we have the closest co-operation all the time, while on the other hand there is the element of conflict and so the

world has developed a kind of split personality. I am not referring to great Powers, or great groups which may be opposed to each other in ideologies or otherwise; that is a different matter. But in each country, in each individual, this kind of split personality comes up, wanting co-operation, wanting construction, building up on the one hand and on the other, because of fear, because of suspicion, because of hatred, because of various reasons, all the time thinking in terms opposed to construction and co-operation. I think that probably one of the world's chief maladies today is this split personality in the mind of almost every thinking person, apart from nations.

Now I do submit—I am too humble a person to offer suggestions as to how to solve these problems—I do submit that we should at least in the social and economic domain get out of these political conflicts. Let us view them as social problems, as human problems unaffected by the political conflicts of the day. But I realize that this is not wholly possible. We cannot divide ourselves into compartments—social, economic, political, spiritual and moral. There has to be some integration in individuals and countries. Nevertheless, one might, I think, in a measure consider social and economic problems, such as the problems before this Commission, apart from the political conflicts that unfortunately oppress the world today. Maybe that itself will create a certain helpful atmosphere in the consideration of political problems. I submit this thought to your consideration. It does seem to me a very odd approach that all our energy and all our wishes are diverted in a certain way and that we pursue another path which leads us back in another direction, in the way of obstruction. That is why I think that social and economic problems the world over should be considered apart from political considerations.

If aid, financial or technical, is given by countries which are in the happy position of giving it to countries which require it, and if this aid is connected with some political problem, with some political consideration, then the aid loses its value and its virtue. It may do some local good but, basically, it is vitiated by the motive behind it and the way it is given.

Aid from one country to another is necessary; other countries in the past have grown up through such aid. More especially today it should be in the interest of the world to see that the growing disparity ceases, because this disparity itself might be the cause of all kinds of future troubles and difficulties. Therefore, aid is necessary, but at the same time, speaking for my own country, we have felt that no country grows except by its own efforts, by its own labours, trials and tribulations and experiences. We have been generously helped and aided by many friendly countries and we have thankfully accepted that aid. But that aid has been ultimately a very small fraction of our effort. Our effort has been very largely based on our own strength and resources, whatever they are. More for psychological reasons than for any other, I do not want my people to think for an instant that they can get things without working hard and suffering for them. That is a bad way for a nation to grow. I want them to labour, to work hard and then to achieve and to value the achievement because it has come through their hard work; and that labour and work and suffering itself will train the nation to higher efforts later.

If even economic and social aid becomes the plaything of political considerations and all these issues are confused, this creates not a helpful psychological atmosphere, but indeed an atmosphere of conflict. That is why we welcome the proposed setting up of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development.

I think that that approach is the right approach; and for the United Nations—this great Organization representing the world community—to help a part of that world community is the proper approach to the problem. Of course, everybody knows that certain countries which may be considered wealthy or capable of giving help will give it. But I submit that it is far better for this to be organized through the United Nations, better for the giver

and better for the taker, and better in the results it produces. Therefore, I earnestly hope that this proposal about SUNFED will be accepted by the countries which have been approached. With their acceptance, this will in future be the method employed for helping undeveloped areas.

Now, my colleague, the Maharaja of Mysore, in his concluding remarks referred to the *Pancha Shila*, in old Indian or Sanskrit the “five principles”, which we have used in connexion with a certain approach we have made to international problems, an approach of non-aggression, non-interference, mutual respect and recognition of sovereignty and peaceful coexistence. I submit that if we discard war, there is no other way but to adopt the approach of peace and there is no other approach to peace except to live peacefully with each other. We can't have an approach to peace with warring designs.

In particular, again, whatever the politicians may say or do, or however they may be driven by circumstances on the social and economic plane, I do earnestly hope that our approach will be one of peace and co-operation and coexistence and that we shall get rid, in this domain at least, of that split personality to which I referred.

I am very grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me to address you.

ANNEX II

Address by Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the inaugural meeting of the twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

It is a great privilege for me to attend this, the twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. It is a privilege which I value all the more highly because of the most welcome presence of the Prime Minister of India, whose devoted service to the aims of the United Nations, as well as his counsel, is a source of strength and encouragement to us. This is the second time that he and his Government have extended their gracious hospitality to the Commission and the second time that he himself has addressed the Commission. May I take this opportunity of expressing to him my warmest gratitude.

The tenth session of the General Assembly, which concluded its deliberations in December of last year, marked a development of historic importance. Through the breaking of the dead-lock on membership by the admission of sixteen new Members, the United Nations moved much closer to universality. I sincerely hope that the years ahead will witness further progress in this direction.

The recent increase in membership is of special interest to this Commission as, among the new Members of the United Nations, there are many Asian countries which already have been members of ECAFE. I would like to take this opportunity of extending my most heartfelt congratulations to their representatives present at this Commission session. When ECAFE was established, it included only four Asian countries Members of the United Nations. That number has since then increased to twelve. This development is not only important to the United Nations as a whole, but may be considered as symbolic of the self-realization and awakening in Asia itself, especially when we recall that so many Asian countries emerged on the international scene as independent nations only in the immediate post-war period. An adequate representation of Asia in the United Nations is essential to our Organization because it gives a fuller sense of reality to our deliberations and actions; it is also, of course, a part of the realization of the high purposes of the United Nations Charter.

In a few months it will be one year since a number of Asian and African Governments convened their first conference, in Bandung,

Indonesia. Regarding that conference, may I recall today what I stated in the introduction to my last annual report on the work of the United Nations:^a

"In the Far East, the Bandung Conference of Asian and African nations reflected an attitude and approach that may bear increasing fruit in the future and affirmed the strong support of all the peoples represented there for the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations."

More recently, the General Assembly—in its resolution on disarmament^b—emphasized the importance of the Bandung Conference in efforts to relax tensions and promote world peace.

It is, I believe, appropriate to remark here that the Bandung Conference enhanced both Asian consciousness of the United Nations and the desire of Asian Governments to participate fully in the work of the world Organization, and increasingly to bring the problems arising in the region within the orbit of its deliberations. ECAFE, being the United Nations organ for this region, is at the same time your own Asian economic body, specifically conceived, within the principles of the United Nations Charter and the policies established at a global level in the United Nations by all Member countries, large and small, to promote, assist and inspire the economic development of this part of the world.

At the global level in the United Nations, the past twelve months have also seen developments in the economic sphere which are of direct interest to this Commission. I have in mind particularly the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held some six months ago in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations. This new source of energy has been discovered at a crucial stage in world history. Dr. Bhabha, of India, the distinguished and imaginative president of the Geneva Conference, has pointed out that known reserves of conventional fuels "shows the absolute necessity of finding some new sources of energy if the light of our civilization is not to be extinguished because we have burnt out our fuel resources"; nuclear fuels, on the other hand, are available in sufficient quantity to support an expanding world power programme for many centuries. For the countries of this and other economically under-developed regions—and indeed for the whole world—this is an immensely heartening conclusion. While not detracting in any way from the importance of developing conventional fuels, it does suggest that nuclear energy is likely to become, in due course, a primary factor in accelerating the economic growth of countries which at present have to bear the heritage of centuries of poverty. It may indeed become possible for these countries to short-circuit some of the stages of development through which the economically advanced countries have had to pass. The unexpected speed with which the peaceful application of nuclear energy has so far developed augurs well for the future. Optimism on this score is reinforced by the universal recognition, manifested in the Geneva Conference, that the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy—no less than the prevention of its use for destructive purposes—is essentially a subject for international co-operation. As you are aware, draft statutes are being prepared for an International Atomic Energy Agency, and the question of the relation of this agency to the United Nations is being studied. Precise areas of responsibility will have to be worked out and may I here stress the importance of proceeding in an orderly way. But it is, I think, a safe prediction that the impact of this new source of energy will be felt throughout the activities of the United Nations family. In your Commission, for example, you will undoubtedly wish to consider the economic and related implications that it has for your countries.

Global and regional activities supplement and support each other mutually and harmoniously within the United Nations. During my period of service as Secretary-General, I have become

increasingly convinced of the importance of the regional work of the United Nations. It is clear that the regional commissions have been constantly aware that their work is part of a global attack on problems of world-wide significance and, in often spear-heading this attack, they have strengthened immeasurably the efforts of the United Nations as a whole. Your Commission is indeed uniquely fitted to serve as the instrument of an all-Asian pattern of economic co-operation. Owing to its wisely conceived membership, it has the additional advantage of being able to draw directly on the experience and co-operation of economically advanced countries outside the ECAFE region.

In ECAFE, you have not allowed yourselves to be frustrated by the seemingly overwhelming initial difficulties, such as shortage of data and lack of experience in economic policy-making and planning and in modes of international co-operation. Thanks to the patience and determination of your Commission and its member Governments, these difficulties are now substantially behind you. The main problem now is no longer how to advance but how to advance more rapidly. In this context, I should like to refer to a significant and encouraging development. This is the establishment of your Working Party on Economic Development and Planning. Some of your member Governments have progressed further than others in the techniques of planning and programming. Through the Working Party, they can share their skills and experience with others; for economic planning in national isolation is, as you know, not sufficient and may even present certain dangers. I am confident that the newly established Working Party will not only promote exchange of information on national planning methods and targets but will also, in due course and on governmental initiative, bring into focus the relationship between various national targets against a much wider background, bearing in mind that economic, even more than political, isolationism is a thing of the past. The work of your Commission in promoting and assisting in the planning of economic growth in countries of your region is, I believe, of great importance and of profound interest to the whole of the world. For this work, we in the Secretariat will regard it as an obligation to provide all available resources which Member countries may require individually and collectively.

Among the documents before you at this session is the latest *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*,^c on the basis of which you will be discussing the economic situation in this region. The *Survey* describes in some detail the efforts which many countries of the region are making, with so far very limited external assistance, to improve their appallingly low standards of living. Although I believe that, in the long run, the economic and social progress of any nation has to be mainly of its own making and based on its own exertion, this problem is nevertheless one of the greatest challenges facing the economically advanced countries and the United Nations as a whole. I would be the first to admit that our achievements fall far short of the needs. But the achievements of the United Nations in this field depend to a very large extent on the resources available to it and, as you are well aware, one sector where the need is great, namely external capital for national economic development, is one where the resources of the United Nations family are weakest. Nevertheless, some progress is being made. The International Finance Corporation, whose establishment in the near future was welcomed by the General Assembly, will serve in some degree to supplement and reinforce the work of the International Bank. The concept of SUNFED, on which many members of this Commission set high hopes, is also slowly moving forward.

In mentioning this problem of external financing, I do not wish in any way to belittle what is being done by the United Nations in regard to other aspects of economic development; on the contrary. While the process of construction can only advance as capital is made available from various sources, both domestic

^a Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 1.

^b Ibid., Supplement No. 19, resolution 914 (X).

^c United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.1.

and external, the greater part of the United Nations' work is concerned with the essential task of preparing the groundwork and plans and training the builders. This work of ours is greatly assisted by your own self-help, especially through measures of regional co-operation, served and promoted by the secretariat of your Commission. The work programme of ECAFE evidences the wide range of subjects for which you are using the resources of the secretariat. If I mention only one of the many projects, it is because it seems to me to be a particularly happy example of how self-help can be supplemented by United Nations activities. I am referring to the analysis of the contribution of community development to capital formation and economic development. Community development is, of course, nothing new in this region, where it probably has deeper roots than anywhere else in the world. From an enlightened point of view, this must be regarded as a sphere of activity which seems to offer great potentialities and where much can be done with relatively little capital. Community development is based on the principle that poverty-stricken villagers can and will improve their lot through their own efforts if they are encouraged to exercise their own initiative and are provided with some expert guidance and material help. Its essence lies in involving the people themselves in an increasingly conscious stimulation of their own growth. Community development, encouraged and supported by governments, aims at raising the entire plane of living in local communities by tackling the most pressing problems in agriculture, crafts, communications, education and health. It is already significantly changing the condition of the rural parts of this region, and as a corollary, the economic and social benefits which it is securing for the millions of people inhabiting rural areas are laying a sure foundation for more ambitious and more comprehensive plans of economic and social development. Hitherto, the method of community development has been applied most effectively in rural areas. In what sense and to what extent it can also be applied to urban areas poses problems which we must face. The rapid growth of urban areas in countries launching extensive programmes of economic development constitutes a new challenge to social planning. The United Nations, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, is now taking the first steps towards developing a comprehensive programme in the field of urbanization.

It would, I think, be appropriate at this stage to say a few words about resolution 560 (XIX) of the Economic and Social Council, which relates to the acceleration of industrialization and the raising of productivity in the economically under-developed countries. This resolution envisages, for the first time, what may be described as a combined operation, within a specific field, by the United Nations as a whole, the specialized agencies and, in due course, the technical assistance programme. So far as the United Nations is concerned, we have taken a first step by convening, at the headquarters of your Commission, in Bangkok, an inter-secretariat working party, which was led by Mr. de Seynes, the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, and included the Executive Secretaries of the three regional commissions. We hope that, at the next session of the Economic and Social Council, further progress will be made in the concentration and integration of our activities in this field. While existing regional projects will be continued, we must envisage a joint attack on selected problems combining the resources and experience of Headquarters and the regional secretariats. I regard this as a logical step forward in our efforts to make the best possible use of our available resources in direct service to member Governments.

These references to what the United Nations can do to assist the process of economic development would be incomplete without mention of technical assistance. The technical assistance programme of the United Nations and other similar programmes are indeed playing an increasingly vital role in this region and in many other parts of the world. I need not say more on this, but would rather leave it to the Executive Chairman of the Technical

Assistance Board, under whose guidance the United Nations programme is gradually extending its range and effectiveness, as well as to the representative of TAA, who will make a contribution to your deliberations at the proper time.

I spoke earlier of our limited resources. I should add that in the course of last year I carried my study of the organization of the United Nations Secretariat a stage further by requesting a Survey Group, consisting of senior United Nations officials and some national experts, to examine the work and organization of the secretariats of the regional economic commissions as well as the Technical Assistance Administration. This group came to the conclusion, which I fully share, that the secretariats of the commissions established in the less developed regions, namely ECAFE and ECLA, require significant strengthening to deal adequately with their existing work programmes. It also proposed the establishment of social affairs units within the regional secretariats and ways of making better use of the regional staff in substantively supporting the technical assistance operations within the framework of the established machinery. In particular, technical assistance units in each commission secretariat, responsible to and directed by Headquarters but closely associated with, and drawing upon the experience accumulated in, the regional secretariats, could, I believe, improve our services and enhance a profitable use of funds. On the basis of the Survey Group's report, I made certain proposals to the General Assembly, amongst other things for a substantial strengthening of the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Assembly required further time for consideration and accordingly deferred the matter until its next session. I look forward to action by the General Assembly at that time and am confident that, as a result, the staff resources of your Commission will be made more adequate to the tasks which you have entrusted to the secretariat.

In many ways this is likely to be an important session in the history of ECAFE. But it has one very sad undertone. I refer, of course, to the forthcoming retirement of your Executive Secretary, Dr. Lokanathan, whose leadership dates back to the earliest days of the Commission. He has seen ECAFE through its most difficult formative years. Thanks largely to him, it now commands universal respect, and his name will always be identified with it. The achievements of ECAFE are in no small measure the outcome of his wisdom, independence, courage and perseverance, and I want to take this opportunity of paying him the warmest tribute for all that he has done for the Commission and in wider service to the United Nations as a whole. I am sure that the Commission will wish to join me in this tribute and extend its sincere good wishes to Dr. Lokanathan for the future.

May I conclude by thanking Mr. Nehru and the Indian Government once again for their generous hospitality and by wishing the Commission all success in its deliberations.

ANNEX III

Statement by Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Executive Secretary, ECAFE, at the inaugural meeting of the twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

We are deeply conscious of the great honour and privilege extended to us by the Prime Minister, who has come here in the midst of his heavy duties to inaugurate our session and to spend some time with us. We are grateful for his address and inspired by his counsel. May I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the Government of India for having made such excellent arrangements for our official deliberations and for the comfort of delegations and for its splendid hospitality, which has been appreciated by all delegations. In particular, I would say how much we admire and appreciate the enthusiasm of the government officials who have, here in Bangalore, built up a whole United Nations conference area around the city's Town Hall.

This is the second time that the Commission has met in India; it held its third session in Ootacamund in June 1948, nearly eight years ago, and much has happened since then. The geographical scope of the Commission and its membership have widened. Associate membership, a special method adopted by the Commission to bring countries not otherwise eligible within its orbit of deliberations, has well served its purpose. Today, all eligible countries have become full members of the Commission. With the admission into the United Nations of four new countries from the ECAFE region, the number of United Nations Members in ECAFE has increased to nineteen, of which twelve are Asian countries. May I take this occasion to extend my congratulations to Cambodia, Ceylon, Laos and Nepal. The Commission has grown significantly in its status and its deliberations increasingly bear the stamp of this widened membership and larger responsibilities.

The Ootacamund session in 1948 was historic in its own way. At that session it became clear that the function of ECAFE was not to determine the measure of aid needed but that the Commission's main role would be that of an organ primarily designed to study, identify and analyse economic problems in their national, regional and international setting, to stimulate activities that would promote direct co-operation among its members and thus help countries in formulating sound policies and improve their economic, technical and administrative machinery. In short, the Commission decided that its success lay mainly in following closely its own terms of reference.

The establishment of appropriate subsidiary organs to fulfil those objectives in several economic fields followed naturally, and the machinery which the Commission has established through its committees, sub-committees and working parties, in addition to *ad hoc* conferences, has enabled it to deal with economic problems effectively and in a variety of aspects.

Between the Tokyo session and the present session, the working year has been reduced to ten months; nevertheless, the number of meetings that have taken place is about as many as were found necessary or practicable at the present stage of our work. The Executive Secretary has, with the concurrence of member Governments, continued the practice of deferring meetings whenever he felt either that the agenda and documentation did not warrant a meeting, or that questions were not ripe for consideration. This has contributed to wider and better participation in the meetings. Considering the limited budgetary and personnel resources available to ECAFE countries, one cannot fail to be struck by the degrees of participation and co-operation in the work of the Commission. All of the meetings have been well attended, generally by senior officials and highly qualified experts.

At the last session in Tokyo the Commission felt, looking at the region as a whole, that the vast and important area of development planning should be brought within the purview of the Commission and, in particular, that more elaboration was needed of the techniques of programming economic development adapted to the needs of the countries and based on their experience. The Commission pointed out that the stage had been reached when it could undertake an analytical appraisal of factors and problems of economic growth in the region, and it therefore welcomed and supported the establishment of the Economic Development and Planning Section in the ECAFE secretariat. The practical value of the work of this section had been well manifested in the course of the past year, and the section may in due course assume the importance and status of a new division of the secretariat. In pursuance of the policy and objective set forth above, the secretariat convened a Working Party on Development and Planning in November 1955, which was attended by officials and experts who, in their own countries, were directly concerned with planning and planning machinery as well as with the execution of the plans. It had for its consideration three principal secretariat papers, one on "Problems and techniques of economic development planning and programming with special reference to ECAFE countries",

one on "Statistics required for planning in the ECAFE region" and a third on the first Five-Year Plan of India. In addition, the Working Party had the benefit of a number of valuable working papers prepared by member Governments and others supplied by specialized agencies. Against the background of these papers, the discussion was focused on some highly important aspects of development planning; the results achieved are embodied in the report before you. The interest in, and response to, this first meeting fully justified the expectations of the Commission and the priority and importance given to this activity. Further work and meetings on economic development and planning are envisaged and I have no doubt that they will be highly fruitful and rewarding.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Commission expressed the view that ECAFE, by reason of the experience gained in its work and of its knowledge of conditions in the countries of the region, was in a good position to render certain advisory services to Governments and that it should continue and strengthen its advisory services to be performed within the framework of its work programme and in co-operation with TAA. I am happy to report that these services, which I would prefer to call consultative services (for they are in their nature consultations of an intimate and informal kind between government officials and their counterparts in the ECAFE secretariat), were rendered upon request in the following fields: economic development planning, iron and steel, electric power and mineral resources development. There are, of course, clear and well-defined limits to such services. Nevertheless, these services have a very definite place in the work and activities of the Commission and its secretariat. Their particular value arises out of their informality and their being a useful preliminary to the more extensive form of technical assistance which is outside the direct scope of ECAFE.

The relations between the Commission's secretariat at Bangkok and the Headquarters Secretariat in New York, especially that of TAA, have become increasingly close. Fuller use of the knowledge and data available at the headquarters of ECAFE is being made by TAA, its experts and its missions. ECAFE has briefed experts passing through Bangkok, has helped TAA in locating experts, contributed staff to TAA missions in ECAFE countries, and advised TAA on the substantive aspects of technical assistance including comments on experts' reports. These functions are not only mutually helpful; they are in reality basic, arising as they do from the very concept of a unified and integrated United Nations Secretariat under the direction of the Secretary-General, and in the area of activity delegated by him to the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs. Any other arrangement would leave available resources and knowledge unutilized. The fact that not only technical assistance experts but others interested in the work in this region avail themselves of the advice of the United Nations staff in Bangkok and the library facilities—recently considerably extended thanks to a gift from the Ford Foundation—illustrates the value of close co-operation between the Technical Assistance Administration and ECAFE.

ECAFE has played an important role in the promotion or establishment of training facilities in the region, be they under the auspices of the United Nations or specialized agencies or of national Governments. The Lahore Training Centre is fulfilling its purpose of training railway signalling and operating staff, and ECAFE is providing continuous advisory assistance in its working. The Rangoon Training Centre has been established for diesel marine mechanics by the ILO in co-operation with the Government of the Union of Burma. ECAFE has contributed its share towards its establishment and its successful operation. Instances of training and research facilities in which ECAFE has helped include housing research centres in Indonesia and India, and the Roorkee Training Centre in Water Resources Development.

It has been a basic purpose of the Commission to strengthen the economic co-operation of countries in the region both among themselves and with other countries of the world. To this end,

several work projects have been included in the work programme established by the Commission in the field of trade, mineral resources development, water resources development and others. Larger resources are being devoted to the implementation of such projects. In this connexion I would specially mention the secretariat's programme of work in the current year on the study of the problems of the Mekong river. Work on the river, which started as early as 1952, had to be deferred for a short period pending more favourable conditions but it was recently resumed. I am glad to report that, with the full concurrence and co-operation of some of the countries concerned, we expect to utilize a substantial portion of the resources in the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development with further assistance from other units of the secretariat in completing the survey of the river by the end of the year, so that Governments may be able to plan the development of the river on a rational basis and to utilize it to the maximum in its manifold aspects by mutual co-operation and understanding.

Looking ahead at possibilities of regional co-operation through the efforts of ECAFE, it is wise not to take an extreme position. On the one hand, it would be unrealistic to expect most of the ECAFE countries, which have only recently become independent, to have had sufficient time to explore all avenues of regional co-operation, especially when recognition is given to the fact that even in Europe, with conditions so much more favourable, regional activities have been relatively limited. On the other hand, the view that there is no scope or desire in Asia for strengthening regional economic co-operation would be not only pessimistic but essentially untrue. The Commission's own activities and programmes of work belie any such view. Opportunities for greater regional co-operation will grow as each country strengthens its own basic economy; indeed, regional co-operation is indispensable, as the development of Asian countries can be quickened only by co-operative effort, and regional co-operation is only an advanced form of self-help.

It is gratifying to note that, although regional action and co-operation may be developing slowly, they are following sound lines. ECAFE has not encouraged, indeed it has set its face against, any tendency to foster regionalism or regional action conceived in any narrow spirit inconsistent with broader international obligations and needs. The membership of ECAFE and the development of its activity are a safeguard against any such tendencies. Among its members are to be found the major trading countries of the world. In all its deliberations and operations, countries of the region have benefited greatly from the deliberations and experience of, and the technical assistance and capital aid and loans from, many of those outside the region. Thus the efforts of ECAFE to strengthen regional economic co-operation are within the international framework and consistent with the broader international economic co-operation which is one of the essential purposes of the United Nations.

The most important task of the present session is to review the current economic situation in Asia, the progress achieved by the countries of the region in post-war years and the many urgent problems they face, and to outline policies and formulate recommendations designed to speed up progress. The documents placed before you, in particular the *Economic Survey*,^a the report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning and the report of the Population Seminar, provide you with an idea of the nature of some of the most important problems to which you may wish to give attention. These documents may provide ground for moderate optimism. That some progress has been achieved during the last seven or eight years and that the foundation has been laid for further progress seem to be beyond doubt, but it is equally clear that this progress is not yet adequate or sustained and that the levels of living in many countries are still

lower than before the war. Political and other instabilities have also retarded progress in certain areas.

The problems faced by our countries are not new. Reduction in the instability of demand for the region's exports, further development of trade between countries of the region, more adequate mobilization of domestic, financial, physical and manpower resources for development, larger and more assured flow of foreign aid and foreign capital, improved technical and administrative machinery, a need for a population policy related to economic development, and above all social changes and adaptations to economic growth—all these are the main determinants of progress. Within the last ten years, the theory of economic growth of under-developed countries has been more systematically analysed, and there is broad agreement among experts on the basic approach and on essentials, as recent ECAFE studies have demonstrated. What is required now is action designed to remove bottle-necks, including statistical deficiencies, to aggregate planning, to frame and adhere to policies which would improve the execution of plans and generally quicken development and increase employment and productivity.

Interest in Asian economic conditions has become more and more wide-spread within and outside the region, as is manifest in the convening last year of the conference of Asian and African nations in Bandung and in the establishment, on a more permanent basis, of the Colombo Plan. There is a place in this region not only for these organizations but also for various specialized technical bodies. There is no doubt that, in their own ways, they all can help to promote economic co-operation; the benefits add up to a total which should continue to expand at an increasing rate. It is, however, evident that these organizations can in no sense be a substitute for the United Nations regional economic commissions, or for the functions which ECAFE is uniquely in a position to undertake. Indeed, the contrary is true; ECAFE will remain the widest possible regional base in which all activities of the other organizations and regional groupings will have to seek a common ground for understanding and co-operation. It is the sole United Nations organ in the region which provides an opportunity for countries belonging to different political and economic philosophies to meet, and deliberate, reconcile differences and help one another despite such differences. The co-ordinating function of ECAFE is well demonstrated by its various working parties, which comprise not only government experts but also representatives of specialized agencies.

The Commission's activities and operations cannot reach their full height unless the staff is made more adequate to its current work programme and responsibilities. As the Secretary-General's Survey Group has recently pointed out, no criticism can be made of the Commission's objectives and activities but the staff position is still rather weak to fulfil the Commission's task. The secretariat is subjected to an almost unbearable strain; its enthusiasm and its readiness to undertake work in a spirit of devotion and dedication cannot be strained further; the work programme has seen no diminution, and the Executive Secretary's efforts to ensure higher quality and efficiency encounter difficulties because of insufficient staff. New functions have come to the ECAFE secretariat, not by choice, but by the very success of the Commission's work. Once studies have been analysed, action follows naturally, and this in turn brings in new functions and new responsibilities. Furthermore, the effective co-ordination of the work of all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and the obvious necessity of making our knowledge and experience available when it is sought to provide technical assistance to countries of the region, inevitably increase the work-load. I hope, therefore, that the most urgent consideration will be given to strengthening the staff of the Commission sufficiently to meet the needs of the minimum responsibilities which it has to bear in discharging the work assigned to it. I am looking forward with hope to the action of our supreme organ, the General Assembly, at its next session, when it will consider the Secretary-General's recommendations.

^a *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.1).

I am confident that the Commission shares the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly.

Finally, may I conclude my address on a personal note. It has been a great joy and privilege for me to have served the United Nations in the cause of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and to have shared in the great and challenging problems entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council. Nothing that I have done before has filled me with such a sense of purpose and fulfilment. Such success as has attended my labours has been due almost entirely to the magnificent co-operation I have received from Governments, and the high degree of their confidence and trust which it has been my good fortune to enjoy. My burdens and responsibilities have been lightened by the consistent support and help which had been extended to me in all my work by the Secretary-General and the successive heads of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Altogether, these years of service to the Commission have been a rich and rewarding experience, and I thank you from the depth of my heart.

ANNEX IV

List of representatives and observers at the twelfth session of the Commission

MEMBERS

Afghanistan

Representative: H.E. Mr. Abdul Malik Abdurahim Zai

Alternates: Mr. Abdul Karim Hakimi, Mr. Hamidullah Tarzi, Mr. Mohammad Aref Ghaussi

Adviser: Dr. M. Yonos Babori

Australia

Representative: Mr. D. J. Munro

Alternates: Mr. K. G. Brennan, Mr. R. T. M. Rose

Burma

Representative: U Aung Gyaw

Alternate: U Thet Tun

Cambodia

Representative: H.E. Mr. Var Kamel

Ceylon

Representative: H.E. Sir Edwin A. P. Wijeyeratne

Alternates: Mr. R. A. Wijekoon, Mr. J. R. Samaranyake

China

Representative: Mr. Ching-Men Chen

Alternates: Mr. Kwoh-Ting Li, Mr. Sherman Wang

Advisers: Mr. Teng-Kao Chu, Mr. Hsing-Ling Hu

Secretary: Mr. Henry S. C. Young

France

Representative: H.E. Mr. P. Abelin

Alternates: H.E. Mr. P. Bouffanais, Mr. J. P. Brunet, Mr. F. Geoffroy-Dechaume

Advisers: Mr. E. Mayolle, Mr. A. G. Bureau, Mr. B. Capdeville, Mr. G. Chaumet, Mr. P. Hunt, Mr. Gruot, Mr. Charrière, Mr. J. Roussillon

Secretary: Miss J. Montagne

India

Representative: Mr. D. P. Karmarkar

Alternates: Mr. B. R. Bhagat, Mr. H. Siddaveerappa, Mr. Manuhhai Shah, Mr. V. B. Gandhi, Mr. G. L. Bansal, Mr. N. C. Kasliwal, Mr. C. S. Jha, Mr. B. K. Nehru, Mr. L. K. Jah, Mr. C. V. Nara-

simhan, Mr. K. B. Lall, Mr. R. R. Bahl, Mr. A. R. Khanna, Mr. S. Subramanian, Mr. B. K. Kochar, Mr. M. K. K. Nayar, Dr. R. N. Poduval, Dr. K. S. Krishnaswami

Advisers: Mr. Goverdhanlal, Mr. Padmanabhan Mudaliar, Dr. A. K. Ghosh, Dr. B. K. Barpujari

Secretary: Mr. V. K. Ramaswami

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Representative: H.E. Dr. Ali Budiardjo

Alternates: Dr. Harsono Reksoatmodjo, Mr. Achmad Sunartadirdja, Dr. Wiratno, Mr. A. P. Lolong, Mr. Soepardjono, Mr. A. R. Gontha, Mr. Godjali

Secretary: Mr. Suwastoyo

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Alternates: Mr. Kyu Hah Choi, Mr. In Sang Song

Secretary: Mr. In Han Paik

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Representative: H.E. Mr. Nith Singharaj

Alternate: Mr. Khamphouy Soukrisak

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Representative: Mr. Nara Pratap Shamsher Thapa

Alternate: Mr. Kumar D. Shrestha

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Representative: H.E. Mr. H. Jonker

Alternate: Mr. J. C. van den Berg

Alternate and Secretary: Mr. E. J. Korthals Altes

New Zealand

Representative: Mr. R. G. J. Phelan

Pakistan

Representative: Mr. Abbas Khaleeli

Alternates: Mr. Abbas Ashraf Said, Mr. C. H. Shaikh, Mr. Abdul Sattar Gandhi, Khwaja Abdul Hamid, Mr. Abul Khair, Mr. Aminul Islam Chowdhry

Secretary: Mr. Saeed Malik

Philippines

Representative: The Hon. Dr. Perfecto E. Laguio

Alternate: Mr. Anastasio B. Bartolomé

Thailand

Representative: H.E. Mr. Rak Panyarachun

Alternates: Mr. Sa-ard Hongsayonta, Mr. Somchai Anuman Rajadon, Mr. Bhusana Abhorn Krairiksh, Mr. Banyat Kulananan, Mr. Bundhit Kantabutra, Mr. Vicharn Nivatvongs

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Representative: Mr. P. A. Maletin

Alternates: Mr. G. P. Veliky, Dr. K. N. Plotnikov

Advisers: Dr. V. Y. Aboltin, Dr. K. M. Popov, Mr. N. S. Vasilenko, Mr. A. I. Korolev, Mr. F. A. Kononov, Mr. A. S. Matalasov, Mr. Y. A. Pekshev, Mr. P. F. Safonov, Dr. G. N. Ilinsky, Mr. L. V. Khlebnikov

Secretary: Mr. D. A. Sokolov

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Representative: Mr. A. A. Dudley

Alternates: Mr. G. J. MacMahon, Mr. D. W. S. Hunt, Mr. H. A. N. Brown, Mr. A. F. Maddocks

United States of America

Representative: Mr. Howard P. Jones

Alternates: Dr. Eugene M. Braderman, Dr. Walter M. Kotschnig

Advisers: Mr. Harry Conover, Dr. William W. Diehl, Mr. J. Robert Fluker, Mr. James P. Grant, Mr. Edward A. O'Neill, Mr. Michael B. Lustgarten

Secretary: Mr. Roger C. Brewin

Viet-Nam

Representative: Mr. Vuong-Van-Quang

Alternates: Mr. Nguyen-Huu-Tan, Mr. Dang-Tran-Ha, Mr. Nguyen-Van-Thanh, Mr. Bui-Van-Thinh, Mr. Dao-Van-Mien

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Hong Kong

Representative: The Hon. Mr. Ngan Shing-Kwan

Alternate: The Hon. Mr. C. E. M. Terry

Alternate and Secretary: Dr. E. Stuart Kirby

Malaya and British Borneo

Representative: The Hon. Mr. Mohamed Khir bin Johari

Alternates: The Hon. Mr. J. M. Jumabhoy, Mr. Yap Pheng Geck, Mr. D. T. Assomull, Mr. Philip Lee Tau Sang, Mr. Teng Tung Hsin

Advisers: Mr. V. E. Davies, Mr. J. B. Clegg, Mr. I. A. C. Kinnear, Mr. A. F. G. Morrison, Mr. Sim Kee Boon

OTHER STATES, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS *

Bulgaria

Representative: Mr. A. Mladenov

Canada

Representative: Mr. George Hampson

Colombia

Representative: Mr. A. Tavera García

Czechoslovakia

Representatives: H.S. Mr. Jaroslav Kohout, Dr. Miroslav Kadlec

Hungary

Representatives: H.E. Dr. Peter Kos, Mr. E. Zador

Israel

Representative: Mr. Avshalom Caspi

Poland

Representatives: H.E. Mr. Juliusz Katz-Suchy, Mr. Aleksander Welynski

Romania

Representatives: Mr. Jacob Magura, Mr. Pavel Silard

Yugoslavia

Representative: Mr. S. Smole

* Participating in a consultative capacity under paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mr. R. Livchen, Mr. P. K. Das

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. A. H. Boerma

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah

World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr. A. Barkhuus

International Monetary Fund

Dr. H. L. Dey

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Mr. W. Makowski

Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization (ICITO)

Mr. J. Royer

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD

Mr. A. D. K. Owens, Sir Alexander MacFarquhar

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category A

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Mr. Shantilal Mangaldas, Mr. R. Ramanathan Chettiar, Dr. Francisco J. Garay, Mr. Masuzo Fujimuro, Mr. Masayoshi Ariyoshi

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

Mr. M. A. Khatib, Mr. G. Mapara, Mr. S. P. Dave, Mr. R. A. Khedgikar

International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

Mr. S. Srinivas

International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU)

Mr. Dam-Sy-Hien

World Federations of Trade Union (WFTU)

Mr. Ma Chun Ku, Mr. Jan Dessau, Mr. B. N. Mukherji, Mr. M. C. Narasimhan, Mrs. Lin Pei Ming

World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

Mr. T. L. Kantam

World Veterans Federation (WVF)

Mr. Jacques Katel, Mr. E. J. Tavanlar

Category B

International Law Association (ILA)

Mr. Samuel K. C. Kopper

International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO)

Mr. S. N. Chib

National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

Dr. Francis E. McIntyre

ANNEX V

List of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

8 APRIL 1955—14 FEBRUARY 1956

Commission

Twelfth session: Bangalore, India, 2-14 February 1956

Committee on Industry and Trade

Eighth session: Bangalore, India, 24-31 January 1956

Inland Transport Committee

Fifth session: Bangkok, Thailand, 9-14 January 1956

ECAFE/ILO/UNESCO Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development

Fifth meeting: Bangalore, India, 19-21 December 1955

Highway Sub-Committee

Third session: Manila, Philippines, 21-27 November 1955

United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East

Bandung, Indonesia, 21 November-3 December 1955

Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing

Fourth meeting: Bangkok, Thailand, 14-21 November 1955

Working Party on Economic Development and Planning

First meeting: Bangkok, Thailand, 31 October-11 November 1955

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee

Third session: Dacca, Pakistan, 24-30 October 1955

Working Group of Experts on Hydrologic Terminology and Deficiencies in Hydrologic Data

Bangkok, Thailand, 12-26 September 1955

Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region

Bangkok, Thailand, 30 August-10 September 1955

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel

Sixth session: Bangkok, Thailand, 24-29 August 1955

Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials

Third meeting: Bandung, Indonesia, 20-28 June 1955

ANNEX VI**Tentative calendar of events for 1956 and 1957**

<i>Meeting</i>		<i>1956</i>	
		<i>Date</i>	<i>Site</i>
1. Sub-Committee on Electric Power (fifth session)		7-12 March	Bangalore
2. Railway Sub-Committee (fourth session)		29 March-5 April	New Delhi
3. Fourth Regional Conference of Statisticians (on 1960 world programme of population and related censuses) (Sponsored jointly by ECAFE and the United Nations Statistical Office)		26 March-4 April	Bangkok
4. Working Party of Senior Geologists on the Preparation of a Regional Geological Map for Asia and the Far East (second meeting)		22-28 May	Tokyo
5. Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development (second session)		30 May-4 June	Tokyo
6. Working Party on Housing and Building Materials (ECAFE/UN.ESA/ILO/FAO/UNESCO/WHO) (fourth meeting)		30 July-6 August	Bangkok
7. Seminar on Urbanization (Sponsored by UNESCO; ECAFE participating)		8-18 August	Bangkok
8. Working Party on Railway Track Sleepers		5-12 September	Bangkok
9. Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (second meeting)		17-29 September	Bangkok
10. Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development (ECAFE/ILO/UNESCO) (sixth meeting)		15-21 October	Bangkok
11. FAO Seminar on Agricultural Development Financing and Credit (ECAFE acting as co-sponsor)		October *	Out of Bangkok
12. Sub-Committee on Trade (second session)		29 October-5 November	Tokyo
13. Seminar on Highway Safety		12-22 November	Open
14. Working Party on Industrial Efficiency and Productivity ^b		November	Bangkok
15. Working Party on Arbitral Procedures		Open	Open
<i>1957</i>			
1. Inland Transport Committee (sixth session)		January	Bangkok
2. Committee on Industry and Trade (ninth session)		Open	Open
3. Commission (thirteenth session)		Open	Open
4. FAO/ECAFE Joint Seminar on Food and Agricultural Price Policies		February	Open
5. Fifth Regional Conference of Statisticians		June	Bangkok
6. Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel (seventh session)		June	Indonesia
7. Working Party on Housing and Building Materials (fifth meeting)		July	Bangkok
8. Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region (second meeting)		July	Bangkok
9. Working Party on Cottage and Small-Scale Industries (sixth meeting)		August	Open

* Date not yet fixed by FAO.

^b The question of holding this meeting is subject to consultation with United Nations Headquarters and with the specialized agencies concerned.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Site</i>
10. Second Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development	August	Open
11. Sub-Committee on Electric Power (sixth session)	September	Open
12. Seminar on Low-Cost Roads and Soil Stabilization	September	Out of Bangkok
13. Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (third meeting)	September	Bangkok
14. Joint FAO/ECAFE Working Party on Agricultural Development Planning ^c	Open	Open
15. Inland Waterway Sub-Committee (fourth session)	October	Indonesia
16. Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development (third session)	October (first half)	Open
17. Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development (seventh meeting)	October (second half)	Bangkok
18. Railway Sub-Committee (fifth session)	November	Out of Bangkok
19. Sub-Committee on Trade (third session)	November	Bangkok
20. Highway Sub-Committee (fourth session)	December	Bangkok

^c It may be found desirable, when the calendar of events for 1957 is finalized, to combine this meeting and that of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (item 13).

ANNEX VII

Additional staff required for implementation of the work programme

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to the additional staff required for the work programme as adopted by the Commission's Work Programme Committee.

This work programme, as it is, leaves a certain amount of flexibility to the Executive Secretary, who is given the right to adjust the work programme to the available staff resources within certain limits. If fuller implementation of the work programme was expected by the Commission, it would be indispensable to provide for additional resources, which can be roughly estimated as follows.

The additional staff requested by the Secretary-General on the basis of his Survey Group's findings would only cover the implementation of the programme as it stood at the end of the eleventh session, a year ago. It is indeed doubtful if the follow-up of some projects would even be covered by this addition.

The Commission has decided that a substantial number of new projects would be of urgent importance and that a number of existing projects should have their scope expanded.^a Only a very few projects have been moved down from group 2 to group 3 in the work programme. In order to implement the additional new projects and the expansion of old projects recommended by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, the Executive Secretary considers that the additional staff, as listed below, would be required as a minimum.^b

(a) *Established posts:* 2 Economic Affairs Officers (P. 4)
4 Economic Affairs Officers (P. 3)
2 Economic Affairs Officers (P. 2)

(b) *Consultants:* 3 experts for six months each.

^a Research and planning: 03-07; Agriculture: 11-02 (expanded), 11-05, 11-06; Flood control and water resources development: 21-09; Industry and trade: 34-04 (b), 35-02, 35-06, 36-02 (expanded), 36-03, 36-10, 36-11, 36-12, 37-01 (expanded), 37-05, 37-06 (expanded), 37-08 (expanded), 37-09, 37-11 (expanded), 37-13; Inland transport: 41-04, 41-05, 43-06, 43-07, 43-08, 44-05, 44-06, 44-07.

^b The requirements for the study of timber trends (11-06) are not included in the present note.

ANNEX VIII

List of publications and principal documents issued since the eleventh session

A. PUBLICATIONS

MAJOR STUDIES (*printed*)

Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East, vol. VI, Nos. 1-3 (May, August and November 1955)

Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.1)

Selected Plans of Inland Waterway Transport Vessels (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.VIII.2) (E/CN.11/409)

Mining Development in Asia and the Far East (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.4) (E/CN.11/421)

Multiple-Purpose River Basin Development, Part 2-A (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.2)

Marketing of Major Edible Oils (Liquid) and Oil-seeds in the ECAFE Region (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1956.II.F.5) (E/CN.11/419)

PERIODICALS (*mimeographed*)

Flood Control Journal, ST/ECAFE/SER.C/22-25, March-December 1955 inclusive

Trade Promotion Series, ST/ECAFE/SER.J/119-121, March-September 1955 inclusive

Trade Promotion News, ST/ECAFE/SER.H/42-47, January-December 1955 inclusive

Transport Bulletin, ST/ECAFE/SER.E/16-19, January 1955-January 1956 inclusive

Railway Statistics Bulletin, ST/ECAFE/SER.K/4, May 1955

Industrial Development Series, ST/ECAFE/SER.M/5, March 1955

B. PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS

COMMISSION

E/CN.11/408

Official records of the eleventh session

Twelfth session

E/CN.11/410

(E/CN.11/FLOOD/14)

Report of the Working Group of Experts on Hydrologic Terminology and Deficiencies in Hydrologic Data

E/CN.11/411 and Rev.1 & 2	Provisional agenda	ECAFE/L.101	Draft annual report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.11/413 and Add.1	Interregional trade consultations		
E/CN.11/414 (E/CN.11/FLOOD/15)	Activities of the secretariat in the field of flood control and water resources development	ECAFE/L.102	A review of the economic situation of Chinese mainland provinces—Communication from the Republic of China
E/CN.11/415 and Corr.1	Report of the United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East	ECAFE/L.103	Achievements in the People's Republic of China in economic construction in the past six years—Memorandum from the Government of the People's Republic of China
E/CN.11/416 (E/CN.11/TRANS/118)	Report of the Inland Transport Committee (fifth session)		
E/CN.11/417	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	ECAFE/L.104	Post-war economic progress in Taiwan (Government of the Republic of China)
E/CN.11/418	Report of the International Labour Organisation		
E/CN.11/420	United Nations technical assistance in Asia and the Far East, 1950-1955	ECAFE/L.107 and Add.1 ECAFE/L.110	Note by the Executive Secretary
E/CN.11/422	UNESCO activities in 1955 and work plans for 1956 of interest to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	ECAFE/L.111	Report of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee appointed by the Commission on agenda items 7, 8, 12, and 13
E/CN.11/423	Communication from the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic	ECAFE/L.112	Indonesia: draft resolution on technical assistance activities in the region
E/CN.11/424	Communication from the Government of the People's Republic of China		Additional staff required for implementation of the work programme: note by the Executive Secretary
COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TRADE			
E/CN.11/425	Report of the Committee on Industry and Trade (eighth session)	E/CN.11/I&T/116	Official records of the seventh session
E/CN.11/426	Statement by the International Civil Aviation Organization		<i>Eighth session</i>
E/CN.11/NGO/11	Memorandum on the economic situation in Asia, submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions	E/CN.11/I&T/117	Report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials (third meeting)
E/CN.11/NGO/12	Statement on the economic situation in Asia, submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	E/CN.11/I&T/118 (E/CN.11/I&T/Sub.2/2) and Corr.1	Report of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel (sixth session)
E/CN.11/NGO/13	<i>Déclaration de la Confédération internationale des syndicats chrétiens</i> (Statement by the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions)	E/CN.11/I&T/119 and Rev.1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.11/NGO/14	Statement by the World Veterans Federation on the report of the Committee on Industry and Trade	E/CN.11/I&T/120 and Add.1	Activities of the secretariat in the field of trade
E/CN.11/NGO/15	Statement by the World Veterans Federation on the report of the United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East	E/CN.11/I&T/121	Report of the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing (fourth meeting)
ECAFE/L.95	Report of the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region	E/CN.11/I&T/122	Report of the ECAFE/ILO/UNESCO Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development (fifth meeting)
ECAFE/L.97	Report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (first meeting)		
ECAFE/L.98	Activities of the secretariat in the field of agriculture	E/CN.11/I&T/Sub.2/2 (E/CN.11/I&T/118)	Report of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel (sixth session)
ECAFE/L.99	Activities of the secretariat in the field of statistics	ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/1 and Corr.1	Classification of iron and steel scrap
ECAFE/L.100	Proposed programme of work and priorities	ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/2	The manufacture of steel in converters with top-blown high-purity oxygen
		ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/3	Re-rolling mills
		ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/4	Processes of iron manufacture without coking coal and their applicability in ECAFE countries

ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/5	Review of the plans and problems of the iron and steel industry and allied industries in the ECAFE region	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/11	Incidence of railway accidents and measures for prevention
ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/6	Techniques to be studied during the proposed group visit of Asian iron and steel experts to Europe and the United States of America	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/12	Railway track sleepers—Concrete sleepers
ECAFE/I&T/Sub.2/7	Possible programme of work and priorities in iron and steel	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/13	Railway track sleepers—Preservation of metal sleepers from corrosion
WORKING PARTY ON SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES AND HANDICRAFT MARKETING		HIGHWAY SUB-COMMITTEE	
<i>Fourth meeting</i>		<i>Third session</i>	
ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/1	The ceramic industry	E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/25	Macadam construction
ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/2	Common-facility services for cottage and small-scale industries	E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/26	Engineering aspects of highway safety—Lay-out of junctions and other aspects of road design in relation to highway safety
ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/3 and Rev.1 and Rev.1 Corr.1	Provisional agenda	E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/27 (E/CN.11/TRANS/116)	Report of the Highway Sub-Committee (third session) to the Inland Transport Committee (fifth session)
ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/4 and Corr.1,2 and Add.1,2 and Add.1 Corr.1	Production and marketing of ceramic products of cottage and small-scale industries	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.2/3 and Corr.1	Low-cost roads and soil stabilization
ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/5	Some economic aspects of cottage and small-scale industries	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.2/4	Bituminous construction
ECAFE/I&T/CIWP.4/6	Possible programme of work and priorities in cottage and small-scale industries	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.2/5	Possible programme of work and priorities in highways
WORKING PARTY ON HOUSING AND BUILDING MATERIALS		INLAND WATERWAY SUB-COMMITTEE	
<i>Third meeting</i>		<i>Third session</i>	
ECAFE/I&T/HBWP.3/2	Building materials and construction methods in Asia and the Far East	E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.3/14 (E/CN.11/TRANS/113)	Report of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee (third session) to the Inland Transport Committee (fifth session)
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.3/15	Convention regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed on Inland Navigation—Final text as adopted by the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee at its third session
<i>Fifth session</i>		ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/26	Draft Convention regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed in Inland Navigation: comments from the Government of India
E/CN.11/TRANS/112	Refrigerator inland transport	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/27	Uniform system of buoyage for inland waterways in Asia and the Far East
E/CN.11/TRANS/113 (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.3/14) and Corr.1	Report of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee (third session)	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/28 and Add.1	Uniform system of shore marks for inland waterways
E/CN.11/TRANS/114	Library service	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/29	Draft Conventions regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed in Inland Navigation: comments from the Government of the Republic of China
E/CN.11/TRANS/115	Statistical study of performance of transport systems with a view to obtaining maximum efficiency and full utilization of all available resources	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/30	Possible programme of work and priorities in inland waterways
E/CN.11/TRANS/116 (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/27)	Report of the Highway Sub-Committee (third session)	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/31	Final draft for the Convention regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels Employed in Inland Navigation: note by the Executive Secretary
E/CN.11/TRANS/117 and Add.1	Assistance provided by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in the field of inland transport in 1955	ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/32	Study of model government organization to deal with inland waterway transport and river and canal conservancy
E/CN.11/TRANS/118 (E/CN.11/416)	Report of the Inland Transport Committee (fifth session) to the Commission (twelfth session)		
RAILWAY SUB-COMMITTEE			
<i>Fourth session</i>			
ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/9	Railway track sleepers—Wooden sleepers		
ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.1/10	Possible programme of work and priorities in the field of rail transport		

ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/33	Demonstration/pilot project
ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/34	Current inland waterway developments
ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/35 Add.1,2	Study on inland ports
ECAFE/TRANS/Sub.3/36	Establishment of a regional training centre for diesel marine mechanics —Progress report

WORKING PARTY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

First meeting

ECAFE/DPWP.1/2 and Corr.1	Problems and techniques of economic development and programming with special reference to ECAFE countries
ECAFE/DPWP.1/3	Statistics required for planning in the ECAFE region

ANNEX IX

Terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session and amended by the Council at its fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and seventeenth sessions (E/CN.11/29/Rev.7)

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46 (I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly “recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of . . . an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East”, and

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Far East, for raising this level of economic activity in Asia and the Far East and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Far East as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connexion with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance.

2. The territories of Asia and the Far East referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, the Federation of Malaya, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Nepal, North Borneo, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sarawak, Singapore, Thailand and Viet-Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet-Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include Hong Kong and Malaya and British Borneo (i.e., North Borneo, Brunei, the Federation of Malaya, Sarawak and Singapore).

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any inter-governmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 288 (X), parts I and II.

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at the seat of the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Far East. Until such time as the site of the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Far East shall be determined, the working site of the Commission shall remain in Bangkok.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

ANNEX X

Rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

as drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at the third, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and eleventh sessions of the Commission (E/CN.11/2/Rev.11)

CHAPTER I. SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Far East. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least thirty-five days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 46.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

CHAPTER II. AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

- (a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;
- (b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;
- (c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;
- (d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;
- (e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category A, subject to the provisions of rule 6; and
- (f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category A may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

CHAPTER III. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

CHAPTER IV. OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

CHAPTER V. SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its sub-commissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its sub-commissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

CHAPTER VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 23

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 24

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 25

During the discussion of any matter a representative may raise a point of order. In this case the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 27

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 28

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 29

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 30

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 31

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 33

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 34

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

CHAPTER VII. VOTING

Rule 35

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 36

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 37

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 38

The Commission shall normally vote by show of hands. If any representative requests a roll call, a roll call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 39

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 40

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

CHAPTER VIII. LANGUAGES

Rule 41

English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 42

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

CHAPTER IX. RECORDS

Rule 43

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other Government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 44

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in category A and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category B and on the register, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 45

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 46

As soon as possible the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in category A and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category B and the register.

CHAPTER X. PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 47

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

CHAPTER XI. RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 48

Non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the register may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission.

Rule 49

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories A and B on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete—e.g., those dealing with matters already disposed of.

Rule 50

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category A or B will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the two working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) The Executive Secretary may invite organizations on the register to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) above shall apply to such statements;

(f) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 51

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category A or B either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or the subsidiary body or on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the register may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 52

The Commission may recommend that an organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 50 (d) shall not apply in this case.

CHAPTER XII

Rule 53

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting

sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 54

The Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 55

Sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees and sub-committees shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

CHAPTER XIII. REPORTS

Rule 56

The Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

CHAPTER XIV. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 57

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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