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FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST**

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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 COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST
Annual report to the Economic and Social Council, covering the period
16 March 1958 to 19 March 1959 inclusive

INTRODUCTION

1. This annual report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), which covers the period 16 March 1958 to 19 March 1959, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 213th meeting on 19 March 1959. It is submitted for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council at its

twenty-eighth session 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."¹

Part I

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FOURTEENTH SESSION

2. During the period under review, the Commission has concentrated more and more on major problems of economic development, in particular, on industrialization, development of natural resources, population, intraregional and international trade, transport and communications.

3. This account of the work of the Commission is divided into three main sections: (A) activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission; (B) other activities; and (C) relations with specialized agencies and other organizations.

¹ The previous activities of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies 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 of 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, 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, twentieth, twenty-second, twenty-fourth and twenty-sixth sessions [*ibid.*, *Eleventh Session, 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); *ibid.*, *Twenty-Second Session, Supplement No. 2* (E/2821); *ibid.*, *Twenty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 2* (E/2959); *ibid.*, *Twenty-Sixth Session, Supplement No. 2* (E/3102)].

A. Activities of the subsidiary bodies

4. In their work, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission took into account the resolutions adopted, and the decisions taken, by the Commission at its fourteenth session. Attention was also paid to Economic and Social Council resolutions 664 (XXIV), 693 (XXVI) and 694 (XXVI), which stress the need for concerted action and concentration of efforts on projects that contribute directly to the economic and social development of under-developed countries. In doing so, the subsidiary bodies gave preference to projects of regional importance, to work bearing directly on the formulation and implementation of policy and to the promotion of co-operation among the member Governments.

1. INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

5. The following list gives in chronological order the dates of the sessions (together with the names of officers) held in the period under review by the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources and by bodies reporting to that Committee.

United Nations Seminar on Regional Planning,
28 July-8 August 1958

Chairman, Mr. H. Kano (Japan);

First Vice-Chairman, Mrs. P. M. Gonzales (Philippines);

Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. K. Vyasulu (India).

Working Party on Housing and Building Materials
(fifth session), 13-19 August 1958

Chairman, Mom Chao Prasomsvasti Suksavasti (Thailand);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. P. de Soyza (Ceylon);
Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. C. P. Malik (India).

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel (eighth session),
21-28 October 1958

Chairman, Mr. Vija Sethaput (Thailand);
First Vice-Chairman, Mr. V. W. Serrano (Philippines);
Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. G. Bureau (France).

Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources of Asia and the Far East, 3-16 December 1958

Chairman, Mr. D. N. Wadia (India);
First Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Rahman (Pakistan);
Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. Bautista (Philippines).

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (eleventh session), 5-12 February 1959

Chairman, Mr. Porn Srichamara (Thailand);
First Vice-Chairman, U Zaw Win (Burma);
Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. Nisibori (Japan).

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON REGIONAL PLANNING

6. The United Nations Seminar on Regional Planning was held at Tokyo, Japan, in July-August 1958 under the joint auspices of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA)² and ECAFE, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It discussed the current trends influencing regional planning, the application of regional planning techniques to the development of metropolitan and rural areas, and, in particular, the location of industries.

7. The Seminar recognized that the acuteness of demographic, economic and social problems and the deterioration in physical conditions in the urban and rural areas in the region called for a bold and imaginative approach. It agreed, however, that the solution must be worked out within the limits of economic and technical resources in Asia and the Far East, and that methods which had been successful in a developed country might well fail in Asia unless suitably adapted.

8. It noted that population in the ECAFE region was expected to increase, by 1980, to a figure equal to the present population of the entire world. Much of that population increase would be concentrated in the already overcrowded cities, since, partly under the national programmes for economic development, urbanization was being accelerated, and was giving rise to such evils as bad housing, poor community services, inadequate sanitation and utilities, congested city traffic, filth, squalor, disease, social disorganization, and group and personal maladjustments.

9. The Seminar recognized, however, that a wide range of possible solutions was now available for the creation of settlements, and the distribution of population. Both the public and Governments had a definite responsibility in that regard. In countries of Asia and the Far East, there was a need for constructive practical policies and action before urbanization and industrialization froze land patterns and reduced flexibility. Regional planning could promote sound development by contributing to a more balanced growth of industry and

agriculture, closer relations between town and country, a better use of human resources and skills, and promotion of public enthusiasm.

10. The Seminar concluded that (a) physical planning should take its place in the activities of Governments of the region alongside economic, social and administrative planning, which were all parts of one continuing, but many-sided process; (b) in order to achieve an integration of plans and actions, planning should be on a regional scale, the region being a link between the nation and the local community; (c) it was important to use economic development and industrialization as a means of strengthening the economic basis of existing metropolitan cities, of canalizing new industries, and hence migration, to other less crowded cities (existing or new) and to rural areas; (d) there were no universally applicable models for regional planning; each situation required a specific solution; long-range plans should be reviewed and redefined periodically in the light of an evaluation of the social achievement of current investment and development programmes; (e) there was an urgent need for professional education, training at the intermediate level, refresher courses, and guidance for those engaged in planning without adequate training, and also for the average citizen who would thus be enabled to participate more usefully in his country's development; (f) the situation called for co-operation and the exchange of information, experience and personnel between the less developed and the highly industrialized countries and areas of the world.

WORKING PARTY ON HOUSING AND BUILDING MATERIALS

11. At its fifth session, held at Bangkok, Thailand, in August 1958, the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials reviewed the current housing situation in the region, measures for reducing building costs, activities of the two Regional Housing Centres and the future work programme of the Working Party.

The housing situation

12. The Working Party noted that, although progress had been made in the provision of housing in many countries, the situation had generally deteriorated, owing to the rapid increase of population in urban areas. Limited financial resources and other factors had prevented the housing programme from keeping pace with requirements, and Governments had been obliged to give priority to housing for those sections of the people whose needs were greatest. The importance of co-operative housing and aided self-help programmes was recognized. Generally, traditional methods of construction had been adopted, but there was a realization that the latest designs and construction techniques should be employed in order to save scarce materials and to lower building costs. The Working Party recommended that due consideration be given to economic, social and technical factors affecting housing and, for that purpose, a special housing and town and country planning ministry, department or organization should be established in each country. Preventive (as well as remedial) measures should be taken to improve poor housing conditions in urban areas. These might include the decentralization of industries, and the creation of amenities, such as communications, educational, sanitary and other facilities in smaller towns. The private sector should be encouraged to construct the maximum number of houses through the provision of technical services, developed land at cost, and credit and building

² As from January 1959, called Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (TAO).

materials at reasonable rates. Schemes for the development of new resources should include provision for housing. Housing standards for all houses should be in keeping with the means and social conditions of each country.

Building costs

13. The Working Party singled out the factors responsible for the differences in building costs in the countries of the region. These included location and availability of natural resources for building materials, communications, productivity of labour, degree of mechanization, standards of accommodation, and subsidies and credit. It recommended that the secretariat collect data on these factors and make a comparative study of building costs. The cost of land and of its development was also important, but required a separate study.

Study tour

14. The Working Party requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of arranging a tour of housing experts to Europe to study housing policy, including legislation, finance and subsidization, aided self-help, the planning, design and construction of projects, the production of materials, and building research.

Regional Housing Centres

15. During the session of the Working Party, the Advisory Committee of the two Regional Housing Centres met on 13 and 15 August 1958. The Committee felt that more effective arrangements in the countries of the region were necessary for the reception and dissemination of technical information supplied by the Regional Centres. It was felt that, in order to strengthen the international character of the two Centres, the countries of the region should make regular financial contributions to the centres' running costs, or should undertake to carry out suitable research projects. It also recommended that liaison officers be appointed by countries of the region in order to promote the flow of technical information to and from the Centres.

Pilot projects

16. The Working Party recommended the construction, as pilot projects, of full-scale houses, with new techniques and building materials which had proved successful in local laboratories or in other countries. Such projects would facilitate the appraisal of the new techniques under the working conditions of each country, and encourage the technical experts to try out these techniques, if successful, on a larger scale.

Co-ordination of work

17. The Working Party took full account of the activities of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as also of the conclusions of the United Nations Seminar on Regional Planning referred to in paragraphs 6 to 10 above.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON IRON AND STEEL

18. At its eighth session, held at Bangkok, Thailand, in October 1958, the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel reviewed the major developments in that industry in the

region. It considered the action required to implement the recommendations of the group of iron and steel experts after their study tour to Europe in 1957. It devoted special attention to the needs of the countries of the region for research and training facilities in respect of this industry and for a study of Asian steel consumption trends and future demand. It examined the question of iron and steel specifications and the development of the engineering or foundry industries.

Iron and steel industry

19. The Sub-Committee noted that progress, although slow in some cases, was being made in the development of the iron and steel industry in the region. The main difficulties encountered were still the absence of coking coal in some countries, and the lack of trained technical personnel, domestic capital and foreign exchange in most of them. The Sub-Committee suggested that countries should investigate the application of the techniques, recently developed in Europe, of making iron without coking coal, and of making metallurgical coke out of non-coking coal, and should take advantage of the assistance offered in that connexion by certain European countries and the United States of America. The Sub-Committee felt that there was scope for intra-regional trade in raw materials, pig-iron, semi-finished and finished steel, and that the possibility should be explored (a) of two or more countries of the region jointly establishing steel and allied industries by using their basic materials, and (b) of some countries specializing in the production of certain specific products. The Sub-Committee desired the secretariat to study means of promoting co-operation on those lines.

Recommendations of the group of experts on their study tour to Europe

20. The Sub-Committee noted the potential benefits to be derived by the countries of the region from the technological developments in the iron and steel industries studied by the group of experts during their visit to Europe. However, it stressed the need to consider the economic aspects of the question before a particular process or technique was adopted, and to bear in mind local conditions, the nature and quality of ores, coals, fuel, power or other raw materials, the skilled personnel requirements and the market for the products manufactured. It recommended that laboratory and pilot plant tests should be carried out in all cases, and that pilot plants being established in the region, or the facilities offered by several research institutions and firms in Europe, should be used for such tests by the countries of the region. The countries whose experts participated in the study tour were requested to keep the secretariat informed of the follow-up action taken by them as to the application of both the processes recommended, and the suggestions made, by the group. The Sub-Committee also recommended that a similar tour should be organized to study, for instance, methods of scrap collection, or techniques of iron and steel manufacture in Latin America, where conditions were similar to those of the ECAFE region. Seminars on specific questions might also be convened.

Research and training

21. The Sub-Committee considered ways and means of meeting the urgent need for a regional research institute for iron and steel. As adequate funds were not

likely to become available for a large institute, the Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of setting up a modest one with such assistance as the participating governments and the Special Fund might be able to provide. Pending the establishment of a regional institute, the secretariat was requested to help make available the facilities in the research institutions in Europe, India, Japan and elsewhere, and to organize in India or Japan, short-term training courses in steel production for the trainees from the region with the assistance of the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (TAO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

22. The system of education in the countries of the region should be modified with a view to giving young men in their teens an opportunity to learn a trade such as might be useful in the iron and steel industry, and in due course to obtain a diploma or a university degree. The secretariat was requested to assemble information on training facilities in the region (both at the universities and at the steel plants), and to study the possibility of expanding them.

Demand studies

23. The Sub-Committee considered that, in estimating consumption trends and future demand for iron and steel products in the under-developed countries, the "end-use" approach would prove more reliable. A detailed analysis of customs invoices for imports in recent years might be useful in demand studies needed for the preparation of plans for iron and steel production. An estimate of demand by category and size, covering both steel and engineering products, and other metals, might also be attempted. The Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to assemble the latest official estimates of the requirements from 1959 to 1965 of India, Japan and the Philippines, since the major part of the region's total demand was accounted for by those three countries. It felt that, at a later date, a forecast of the future pattern of intraregional and interregional trade in steel should also be undertaken.

Iron and steel specifications

24. The Sub-Committee emphasized the importance of evolving, as early as possible, standard specifications for the region for certain shapes and types of iron and steel products, since those consumed in the region had many common characteristics. An *ad hoc* working party on the standardization and rationalization of such specifications should be convened at a later date. Countries of the region should take steps to ensure economy in the use of steel by the adoption of such specifications as those evolved by the Indian Standards Institution.

Engineering and foundry industries

25. In view of the important part played by the engineering and foundry industries in the manufacture and repair of plant, machinery and equipment, the Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to make a survey of these industries—particularly those using ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and those making machine tools, engineering goods, ships, automobiles and rolling-stock. The Sub-Committee also unanimously adopted a resolution recommending the expansion of its terms of reference to cover not only iron and steel, but also foundries, the steel-consuming industries and those producing other metals, with a view to promoting the sound development thereof in conjunction with iron and steel.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

26. The Symposium, which was held at New Delhi, India, reviewed the petroleum industry of the region, and suggested measures for standardizing petroleum industry statistics and reports on petroleum exploration activities. In the light of the geological and geographical distribution of known petroleum deposits of the region, the Symposium drew attention to areas to which future exploration might be directed. It considered the need for introducing recent methods calculated to give greater current, as well as ultimate, recovery of petroleum from each oilfield. It reviewed the technical manpower, training facilities, and equipment for petroleum resources development in the region, and suggested measures for their improvement. It recommended that the secretariat take a number of measures designed to foster petroleum resources development.

Petroleum statistics

27. The meeting recommended that, wherever possible, statistics of oil production should be reported in terms of volume measurements, but that these, if given in United States barrels, should be accompanied by a statement of the corresponding specific gravity in order to permit conversion to weight units. If some countries could not supply the figures in volume units in the first instance, weight units might be used, supplemented by the average specific gravity. In statistics of gas production, a distinction should be made between gas produced in association with oil, and gas produced from gas horizons alone.

Geology of petroleum deposits and petroleum potentialities in the ECARE region

28. The Symposium suggested a number of possible approaches in the search for petroleum. As an aid to geological investigation and to the development of petroleum resources in the sedimentary basins of the region, the compilation of case studies of the history of the discovery, subsurface structure, and of the exploration of fields would provide a valuable reference work. The secretariat should collect such case histories and submit them to the second Symposium, to be held in 1962 or 1963. It considered that the co-ordination of the stratigraphic correlation between many sedimentary basins of the region was important, and to that end requested the secretariat to get in touch with suitable organizations.

Petroleum exploration, survey and development methods

29. The Symposium considered the various problems encountered in oil exploration, namely, inaccessibility, extremes of climate, limitations of methods applicable, and difficulties in interpreting geological data; these problems were gradually being overcome by better techniques, and there was reason to expect that technical progress would continue. No arbitrary rule could be applied in the choice of geophysical methods of oil exploration. All approaches should be given consideration on a case-by-case basis.

30. The Symposium recommended the extensive use of photogeology and the exchange of microfossil material among countries of the region for use in comparative studies. It considered that both stimulation and secondary recovery methods should be introduced in the early stages of the exploitation of oilfields in order to ensure maximum recovery of crude oil at minimum cost.

Oil and natural gas map of Asia and the Far East

31. The meeting considered that governments and industry would welcome the preparation of an oil and natural gas map of Asia and the Far East showing (a) known areas, (b) areas in which oil and natural gas deposits were likely to be found, (c) other sedimentary basins and (d) areas where there was little or no possibility of finding oil and natural gas deposits. It requested the Working Party of Senior Geologists to consider, at its next session, further details of this scheme. If possible, the map should be available before the second Symposium.

Petroleum development programmes

32. The meeting noted that, in some ECAFE countries, petroleum activities were undertaken by the government, while in others private enterprise was encouraged, either with or without direct participation by the government. Basic requirements for the development of petroleum resources included availability of sufficient prospecting areas, flexibility in the pursuit of long-term programmes, and adequate financial incentives.

Safety in petroleum exploration and development

33. The Symposium considered that, in countries of the region, existing regulations concerning the handling of explosives should be modified, wherever necessary, to take into account the special requirements of geophysical operations, and should be brought into line with those of other countries where such geophysical operations were being carried out on an extensive scale. It hoped that, through the secretariat, industrially advanced countries would make information on their safety regulations available to those countries of the region requesting it.

Technical manpower and equipment for petroleum resources development

34. The Symposium stressed the importance of basic training for technical personnel in petroleum resources development. At a higher level, various specialists were required, but only by building up a large pool of technical personnel could a proper selection be made of those suitable for training as specialists.

35. In view of the acute need for qualified and experienced technical personnel in this field, the Symposium requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of establishing a regional petroleum institute or institutes for Asia and the Far East. The offer of several countries outside the region to assist in setting up such an institute or institutes was noted with appreciation.

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

36. The Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, at its eleventh session held at Bangkok, Thailand, in February 1959, reviewed the progress and problems of industrialization in the region, the work of its subsidiary bodies and of the secretariat, and the programme of work and priorities.³

Industrialization

37. The Committee noted that the index of industrial production for the region had risen from 143 in

1956 (1953 = 100) to 157 in 1957, despite shortages of capital, foreign exchange, and technical manpower. Basic metals, metal products, chemicals, textiles, paper and paper products, food and beverages made the largest contribution to this increase. However, the Committee felt that the rapid rise in population in the region rendered imperative a faster rate of industrial progress.

38. The countries of the region continued to rely heavily on foreign assistance for their capital requirements. The amounts so available, however, were inadequate; the Committee therefore stressed the need for an increase in domestic savings. Several countries desired to attract private foreign capital, and practical measures had been initiated by some of them to that end. The Committee suggested that each country in the region might create an Industrial Information Centre to give potential investors information on the conditions under which industries could be set up.

39. The Committee felt that countries could make a start with the manufacture of simple machines, and gradually work up to larger and heavier types of capital goods and thus help to meet, from domestic production, the demand for such goods. It also recognized the possibility that countries could tie exports of certain primary products to imports of capital equipment.

40. The Committee noted that an inadequate supply of experienced managerial personnel would slow down the rate of industrialization. A few countries had employed firms of foreign consultants or experts to assist or take part in the management of their enterprises. It was vital to accelerate training programmes and, to that end, international co-operation on an increasing scale was essential. Trade unions could play an important role in industrialization, as could better management-labour relations.

41. There was scope for increasing the exports of the products of cottage industries of the region. While mechanization of cottage industries would increase production and lower costs, the artistic attractiveness of the products should not be lost in the process.

42. There was a growing need in the countries of the region for demand surveys, studies of marketing, and methods of stimulating demand. The exchange of information on industrial development plans between the countries of the region might be of mutual benefit, by avoiding overproduction, especially for export markets in the region.

43. Moreover, as the fourth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning had noted in its detailed discussion of industrialization, the development of certain industries required bigger markets than those provided by most countries individually.⁴ The Committee therefore welcomed the suggestions by the Working Party for promoting greater intraregional co-operation and for sharing markets. In this connexion, it would be helpful if long-term projections of demand were made and relevant data collected.

Development of petroleum resources

44. The Committee endorsed the report and recommendations of the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources of Asia and the Far East (E/CN.11/I&NR/13) and the proposal to hold a seminar

³ For action taken by the Commission on the report of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources at its fifteenth session, see paragraphs 280 to 291.

⁴ See paragraph 100; also the report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fourth session) (E/CN.11/L.61).

in 1959 on aerial survey methods and equipment, with particular reference to mineral resources development, and a second Symposium in 1962 or 1963.

45. The Committee emphasized the need for uniformity in the presentation of statistics and in the form of reporting on petroleum exploration activities. Standardization of stratigraphic nomenclatures should be furthered by co-operation between the appropriate national and international organizations. It endorsed the recommendation of the Symposium that the secretariat should explore the possibility of establishing a regional petroleum institute, or institutes, for Asia and the Far East.

46. The Committee recognized that the development of petroleum resources should be viewed in the context of over-all fuel and power resources development, and requested the secretariat to make a study of the co-ordinated development of such resources.

Iron and steel

47. The Committee, in reviewing the work of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel and the report of the eighth session thereof (E/CN.11/I&NR/12), felt that there was great scope for intraregional trade in raw materials, pig-iron, semi-finished and finished steel, and for the production, jointly, by two or more nations, of these materials. To meet the need for trained technical personnel, the secretariat should explore the possibility of setting up a regional training centre and organizing short-term training courses, and should give priority to seminars on specific problems, such as the manufacture of iron without coking coal. The countries of the region should try to ascertain whether they could specialize in the manufacture of specific products.

48. In view of the close relationship between (a) the iron and steel industry and (b) engineering and industries using other metals, the Committee, at its 119th meeting on 10 February 1959, adopted the following resolution widening the terms of reference of the Iron and Steel Sub-Committee:

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

"Having taken due note of the unanimous recommendation made in paragraph 49 of the report of the Iron and Steel Sub-Committee (eighth session) to expand the scope of its activities to cover foundries, steel consuming industries and other metal industries in addition to iron and steel,

"1. Decides that the title of the Iron and Steel Sub-Committee be changed to the 'Metals and Engineering Sub-Committee' in order to reflect the expanded scope of its activities and the terms of reference contained in the resolution adopted by the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel;

"2. Further decides that, in the context of priorities and limits of anticipated budgetary resources, it concentrate its activities in the near future on iron and steel, the foundry industry and selected steel consuming industries."

Housing and building materials

49. The Committee endorsed the report and the recommendations of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials at its fifth session (E/CN.11/I&NR/10). As the housing situation, particularly in

the metropolitan areas of the countries of the region, was deteriorating, the Committee felt that the public, as well as the private, sector should intensify its efforts. It emphasized the desirability of the establishment, by governments, of a special housing authority or department or ministry to give comprehensive consideration to the social, economic and technical aspects of the housing problem.

50. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Party on the organization of a study tour in 1960 to Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

51. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the work of the Regional Housing Centre at Delhi (India) and Bandung (Indonesia). It emphasized the usefulness of pilot projects which could test and demonstrate the new techniques of construction under working conditions before they were adopted in large-scale building.

52. Noting the need to focus the attention of housing experts on environmental hygiene in tropical climates, the Committee suggested that the work programme of the secretariat should give priority to the question of the provision of protected water supply, drainage and other community facilities.

Electric power

53. The Committee reviewed the activities of the ECAFE secretariat in the field of electric power, particularly in regard to (a) the dissemination of technical information and data through the "Electric Power Bulletin" and technical articles in the "Industrial Development Series"; (b) the continued study of the problem of rural electrification, with particular reference to the proposed joint ECAFE/FAO working party meeting on the rational utilization of wood poles for power and telecommunication lines, to be held in 1959; (c) the study of modern developments in thermal power plants; (d) techniques for the estimation of future power demands; and (e) standardization in the field of electric power.

Small-scale industries

54. The Committee took note of the preparations for the sixth session of the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, to review the progress and problems of the fruit and food canning and preserving industry in the countries of the region, and of the surveys by the secretariat of the various research and training institutions in the region serving cottage and small-scale industries.

2. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

55. During the period under review, the following meetings were held at Bangkok, Thailand:

Working Party on Customs Administration, 12-19 November 1958

Chairman, Luang Bisuchna Banijalak (Thailand);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. A. Rangaswamy (India);

Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. Lam-Van-Hai (Viet-Nam).

Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks,⁵ 8-16 January 1959

⁵ The Executive Secretary acted as Chairman at the opening and closing plenary meetings; during the talks no officers were required.

Committee on Trade (second session), 23 January-2 February 1959

Chairman, Luang Sriprija (Thailand);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. Nisibori (Japan);

Second Vice-Chairman, U Aung Kin (Burma).

WORKING PARTY ON CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

56. The Working Party on Customs Administration, held at Bangkok, Thailand, in November 1958, gave countries of the region their first opportunity to exchange views on customs administration. It reviewed the various measures already taken or under consideration by these countries in the field of customs administration, such as the codification and consolidation of customs legislation, the introduction of new customs classification, and the revision of the existing classification, the publication of laws and regulations, and rulings on customs matters, increased participation in the work of international organizations and in international conventions on customs matters, the simplification of formalities relating to tourists and businessmen, the improvement of valuation methods and practices, and customs treatment of both post and gift parcels.

57. On customs procedures, the Working Party's recommendations related to the co-ordination of import control and customs classifications, the treatment of unauthorized imports, and trafficking in import and export licenses. It made detailed suggestions for simplifying customs procedures in respect of the examination, testing, classification, detention and bonding of goods. In regard to documentary requirements for imports and exports, the Working Party took note of the practices in the countries of the region and of the measures taken to simplify them. It suggested the introduction of simplified entry forms, the reduction in the number of forms and the speedy scrutiny of documents.

58. The Working Party considered that the highly complex problems of customs valuation could not be adequately dealt with at one session. It examined, and made recommendations on, certain administrative problems relating to valuation, namely, goods of small value, the traders' right to be heard, appellate measures in respect of valuation decisions, and ways of increasing the efficiency of appraising officers.

59. It recommended a number of measures designed to simplify procedures and formalities affecting tourists and businessmen in respect of baggage declaration and inspection, and of the import of personal and household effects, commercial samples, and so on.

60. The Working Party emphasized the importance of regional and international co-operation in customs administration, and recommended the exchange of information and the provision by each country of facilities for publicizing customs laws and procedures, co-operation in the prevention of smuggling and in the enforcement of customs laws, periodical meetings of customs officials, and the exchange of staff and the establishment of staff training facilities. It suggested that countries of the region should simplify and standardize the formalities governing the movement of goods and passengers across their borders, and for that purpose examine the feasibility of drawing up conventions similar to those adopted under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

61. The Working Party also recommended a future programme of work (to be carried out in co-operation with appropriate international organizations), including a review of the implementation, by countries of the region, of the Working Party's recommendations; the examination of possibilities of agreements among groups of countries on the free movement of goods and passengers; a survey of training facilities in customs administration; the study of the role of customs brokers and agents; and a review of procedures for dealing with claims for refunds and drawbacks, and methods for their quick settlement. It also recommended that a second session of the Working Party should be held after an appropriate interval.

INTRAREGIONAL TRADE PROMOTION TALKS

62. In accordance with resolution 23 (XIV), adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session, intraregional trade promotion talks among member and associate member countries of the ECAFE region were convened early in 1959. The talks were attended by high-ranking officials of fifteen Governments of the region, namely, those of Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, the Republic of China, the Federation of Malaya, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the Republic of Viet-Nam, and Singapore and British Borneo, with whom were associated representatives of chambers of commerce and industry. The talks were held *in camera*, and no records of the proceedings were kept. The Executive Secretary submitted a report (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.22) to member Governments on his own responsibility, but after consultation with participating delegations.

63. An agenda and time-table, together with the schedule of talks, were prepared and issued by the secretariat. A total of 88 first-round and 5 second-round bilateral talks were held. At the conclusion, there was a final plenary meeting at which delegates and the Executive Secretary gave a preliminary assessment of the results.

64. The talks opened up a number of new possibilities of intraregional trade. In particular, they enabled the participating countries to obtain a better knowledge of each other's trade practices and of specific obstacles to trade, with the result that it was possible for appropriate remedial action to be taken. The talks were particularly valuable to those countries which did not have adequate trade representatives in the countries of the region. They supplemented existing techniques of trade promotion and were unaffected by political considerations.

65. The talks did not aim at the diversion of trade from existing sources or destinations; the object was to promote intraregional trade in the context of expanding world trade. Similarity of products in the countries of the region was not found to be an insuperable obstacle to increased intraregional trade.

66. Among the various questions which engaged attention were the lack of direct shipping services between countries of the region; ocean freight rates; the high cost of trans-shipping goods; import and export restrictions; and standardization, grading, and quality control.

67. At the final meeting, on 16 January 1959, the participating countries adopted the following resolution:

"The delegations which participated in the Intra-regional Trade Promotion Talks convened at Bangkok from 8 to 16 January 1959, in accordance with resolution 23 (XIV) adopted by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

"Recognizing that these talks have provided a valuable opportunity of exploring new possibilities of intraregional trade as a part of expanded world trade and examining problems arising in their trade with each other,

"1. Recommend that the intraregional trade promotion talks be continued in the future;

"2. Request the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps to arrange for the convening, within a year, of the next intraregional trade promotion talks and to provide the necessary facilities therefor."

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

68. The Committee on Trade, at its second session held at Bangkok, Thailand, reviewed the developments in trade and trade policies in the region, analysed the implications for the trade of the ECAFE region of the European Economic Community (EEC) and of the recent payments and exchange measures taken in Europe, and discussed the question of ocean freight rates. It reviewed the report of the Working Party on Customs Administration (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.17) and the Executive Secretary's report on the Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.22). It also considered commercial arbitration, trade in certain commodities, namely, minerals and mineral products, and spices.⁶

Current developments in trade and trade policies

69. The Committee noted that the export trade of several countries of the region had been affected in the latter part of 1957 and in 1958 by the economic recession. The prices, as well as the volume, of some major export commodities of the region had declined. At the same time, prices of manufactured goods (increasing quantities of which were required for economic development) had risen. Consequently, several countries of the region faced heavy trade deficits and balance-of-payments difficulties, with repercussions on their plans for economic development.

70. The Committee noted that, over the past five years, the exports of the non-industrialized countries had been increasing in value more slowly than those of the industrialized countries. In addition, there had been a faster increase in the total value of the imports of the non-industrialized countries as compared with their exports. In view of these basic, unfavourable trends, the formulation and implementation of adequate policies and measures for helping the non-industrialized countries were urgent, particularly on the part of major industrial nations.

71. The Committee reviewed the measures taken by the countries of the region to promote their exports, and drew attention to the scope for obtaining greatly increased earnings of foreign exchange from tourism. The development of adequate airport, transport, hotel

and other facilities for tourists deserved study and action by governments.

The European Economic Community (EEC)

72. The Committee reviewed the developments, since its last session, relating to EEC and the proposed Free Trade Area in Europe. It noted the steps taken to implement the Rome Treaty and the activities of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in relation to EEC. In particular, consultations under article XXII of GATT had been initiated with reference to specific problems arising out of the Rome Treaty. In view of the concern expressed by several countries of the region at the possible adverse effects on their export trade of the establishment of EEC, the Committee welcomed the assurances given by members of the European Commission (i.e. the permanent executive organ of EEC) at the thirteenth session of GATT that, in the framing of its economic policy, EEC would take into account the interests of third countries, and would pursue a policy of co-operation with the GATT members. It hoped that the policies pursued by EEC would not be restrictive, but would be conducive to an expansion of world trade, and that the products of the ECAFE countries would be given fair and reasonable access to the Common Market. Willingness on the part of EEC to respond to the interests of third countries by adjusting its policies and measures would contribute to the success of the GATT consultations.

73. The Committee felt that further developments should be kept under review, and requested the secretariat to study the subject, in close co-operation with the international organizations concerned. It invited Governments to submit, at the next session of the Committee, memoranda on the practical problems and difficulties faced by them in connexion with the Rome Treaty.

Payments and exchange measures of European countries

74. The Committee considered that the recent payments and exchange measures taken in Europe constituted a major step towards the establishment of a multi-lateral system of payments, but that the liberalization of trade through the relaxation of import restrictions and discontinuance of discriminatory treatment were essential to the achievement of more complete multi-lateralism. The partial abolition of the distinction between the dollar area and the other currency areas might result in intensified competition in international markets, not only in the case of goods imported by the region, but also of its exports. In particular, the effects of the competition of dollar goods on some exports of the region might be important, and deserved examination.

Ocean freight rates

75. Several countries of the region expressed the view that high and unstable ocean freight rates constituted a serious obstacle to the development of their export trade. Stable and equitable rates were essential for the free flow of goods. The Committee considered that the recent decline in freight rates, mainly in respect of tramp and tanker shipping but not Conference liners, did not provide a long-term or adequate remedy. Even during the general world decline in shipping rates, certain Conference liner rates had been increased. Instances of commodities affected by discriminatory ocean freight rates were cited in the course of the

⁶ For action taken on the report of the Committee on Trade by the Commission at its fifteenth session, see paragraphs 292 to 304.

discussion. The system of deferred rebates and optional bookings was mentioned as not being conducive to the growth of the region's trade.

76. While some countries were of the opinion that Governments should use their good offices to inquire into alleged cases of discrimination, some other countries considered that this was a matter to be discussed at the commercial level.

77. The Committee expressed the hope that plans for the improvement of port facilities in the countries of the region would be implemented without delay. It requested the secretariat to keep the subject under review, in co-operation with Governments and appropriate international organizations.

Customs administration

78. The Committee reviewed the findings of the Working Party on Customs Administration (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.17) and emphasized that, where legislative and administrative measures were required for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Party, the customs administrations themselves should take the initiative. The Committee recommended that the Working Party should co-operate with international organizations concerned, and that its next session should be convened at an early date.

Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks

79. The Committee considered and adopted the report of the Executive Secretary on the intraregional trade promotion talks (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.22). It noted that the countries participating in the talks had found them very useful, and had recommended that they should be continued. Active follow-up action by Governments through diplomatic channels was necessary. With more experience and better advance preparation by both Governments and the secretariat, the next round of talks would produce even better results.

Commercial arbitration

80. The Committee considered the interim report on commercial arbitration prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.19), and endorsed the suggestion of the Executive Secretary that, with a view to assisting the secretariat to convene the proposed expert working party or regional conference on commercial arbitration, Governments should designate experts with whom the secretariat could maintain contact. It welcomed the offer of several countries to provide the secretariat with expert assistance. The Committee noted the work done by the International Chamber of Commerce in promoting settlements by recourse to commercial arbitration. It recommended ECAFE countries to accede to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards adopted by the United Nations Conference on International Commercial Arbitration in 1958.

Commodity trade

81. The Committee considered a preliminary report on trade in mineral and mineral products (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.18), and suggested a number of minerals as suitable for inclusion in the final study. It also considered the secretariat report on the market analysis of spices and spice products (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.13) and recommended publication and wider distribution of that study. It emphasized the importance of improving marketing practices, and grades, standards and quality

of spices. Stabilization of prices and better statistics were also considered necessary. The Committee suggested that jute and jute products should be taken up as the next subject of market analysis, in co-operation with FAO.

3. INLAND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

82. During the period under review, no session of the Inland Transport and Communications Committee, the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee and the Railway Sub-Committee was convened. The following meetings of the Committee's subsidiary bodies were held at Bangkok, Thailand:⁷

Highway Sub-Committee (fourth session), 4-11 November 1958

Chairman, Mr. H. P. Sinha (India);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. N. L. Cuenca (Philippines);

Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. K. Ramanathan (Ceylon).

Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, 25 November-2 December 1958

Chairman, Mr. Mongkol Naochamnien (Thailand);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. P. Wickramartchi (Ceylon);

Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. Masukawa (Japan).

HIGHWAY SUB-COMMITTEE

83. At its fourth session, the Highway Sub-Committee, which met at Bangkok, Thailand, reviewed the reports of the Seminar on Engineering and Traffic Aspects of Highway Safety (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/29) and of the Seminar on Low-Cost Road and Soil Stabilization (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/30), which were convened in 1957 and 1958 respectively, and examined the existing facilities and needs for training highway officials, the problems of road construction and maintenance, and the current methods of highway financing and administration. It also considered the question of the construction of an international highway system for the region, and highway transportation in general.

Highway safety

84. The Sub-Committee drew attention to the need for incorporating in the plans for urban highways certain safety features such as separate lanes for slow-moving vehicles. As traffic censuses and the regular compilation and publication of accident statistics served as a guide to traffic engineers planning highway development, the Sub-Committee recommended that statistical data on a standardized basis might be published regularly in the quarterly *Transport Bulletin*. It suggested that studies be undertaken with a view to unifying traffic laws and regulations—first on a national, and later on an international, basis—and noted with satisfaction that the system of road signs recommended by the International Road Motor Transport Convention was now being followed by some countries in the region. It re-emphasized the need for adequate education in traffic safety, and endorsed the recommendation of the seminar that an educational manual be prepared for use in schools and colleges. Appreciation was expressed of the statement by the representative of India that his

⁷For action taken on the Executive Secretary's report on "Activities in the Field of Inland Transport and Communications" (E/CN.11/488) by the Commission at its fifteenth session, see paragraphs 305 to 316.

Government would explore the possibility of preparing such a manual and also of the offer to hold a traffic study week in the city of Bombay in July or August 1959. The Philippines delegation offered to examine the possibility of convening a similar study week in Manila in 1960. Member Governments were requested to contribute technical papers and participate in such study weeks.

Low-cost roads and soil stabilization

85. The Sub-Committee recognized that, while low-cost roads were an immediate necessity in the ECAFE region, the need for higher types of road surfaces, which would be capable of carrying heavier loads, should be borne in mind by planners. Adequate standard dimensions and stage construction should therefore be adopted with a view to reducing the cost of up-grading road pavements. The Sub-Committee stressed the importance of a proper study (including laboratory tests) of the physical properties of locally available materials. The role of research institutions in this connexion was emphasized, and the Road Research Laboratories in the Federation of Malaya, India and the Philippines were requested to provide training and research facilities to other countries of the region; the possibility of expanding the facilities available at those centres in such a way as to serve regional needs might be examined by the secretariat, in consultation with the Governments concerned.

Training facilities

86. The Sub-Committee considered the requirements of some of the countries in the region for training in the techniques of road construction, particularly soil stabilization, and requested the secretariat to continue to collect data on the countries' needs for training in other aspects of highway engineering. It also reviewed progress within and outside the region in the provision of facilities for training highway officials, and noted the inadequacy of facilities for training personnel for specialized or higher jobs. It stressed the need for setting up regional training centres with such assistance as might be obtained from the United Nations, and urged the countries of the region possessing special training facilities to offer them on a regional basis.

Bituminous construction

87. The Highway Sub-Committee took note of the work of some national road materials laboratories in the ECAFE region on the use of various types of additives, for example, rubber, in bituminous construction, in order to determine their effects on ductility and softening point, viscosity and penetration, on certain sections of highways in the Federation of Malaya and India; however, it was considered too early to arrive at any conclusions on these tests. The use of sand in road construction for the purpose of preventing deterioration and cracking of surfaces was also noted. The Sub-Committee recommended that, with a view to promoting a better understanding of technical terms on the part of highway engineers, a standardized terminology for bituminous construction, suitable for use throughout the region, should be worked out by the secretariat, in consultation with the Permanent International Road Congresses Association.

Highway financing and administration

88. The Sub-Committee noted that, in most countries of the region, allocations from general revenue—

which was the principal means of financing the maintenance, improvement and development of highways—were inadequate. Separate, non-lapsable road funds, and technical and financial assistance from abroad were therefore necessary. The revision of the present systems of taxation of road users was also indicated. Highway administration should be reorganized. The Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to study all these questions, and make recommendations calculated to assist Governments in formulating their policies.

International highways

89. As the ECAFE region was lacking in international highway communications, and particularly as, in the case of land-locked countries, topographical difficulties virtually precluded the development of other means of surface transport, the Sub-Committee stressed the importance of highway links for trade and commerce.

90. Realizing the difficulties and high cost of developing roads in individual countries up to the standards needed to permit incorporation in the international route, and to meet the standards established for international highways, the Sub-Committee recommended the formulation of limited and minimum standards for stage development with a view to improving such highways as might be designated as international links. Higher standards could be enforced when resources permitted. The Sub-Committee took note of a general plan (E/CN.11/TRANS/Sub.2/L.3) prepared as a basis for discussion by the secretariat for an international highway system linking all the countries in the region lying between Iran and Viet-Nam, and invited Governments to indicate their views on the plan, and particularly on those parts of the highway which lay within their territories. Governments were requested to state how far their highway development plans could be adjusted to comply with international requirements and what assistance they would need to implement such a programme.

91. In view of the wide areas to be covered, and of the numerous problems involved, the Sub-Committee suggested that three zones be formed, each covering a group of neighbouring countries, and that expert working groups be set up to examine the problems connected with the development of international highways. The Executive Secretary was requested to explore the possibility of securing financial support either from TAO or other sources in order to enable the countries concerned to participate in the working groups. The Sub-Committee also felt that first priority should be given to the linking up of the road system where gaps existed, after which the stage-by-stage up-grading of the existing routes to the international highway standards and the measures for developing international traffic might be explored. Stress was laid on the importance of financial aid in implementing the various projects for linking up countries of the region by highways.

Highway transportation

92. Noting the rapid increase, in recent years, of motor transportation in the ECAFE region, the Sub-Committee emphasized the need for a study of such problems as competition among highway carriers, difficulties of Governments in controlling a large number of small units, recent experience in the ECAFE countries of State control and management of the road transport industry, taxation on fuel, the design of equipment in such a way as to facilitate the transport

of freight, and the need for close co-operation between the agencies issuing licences to road carriers and those concerned with highway construction in order to ensure adequate carrying capacities of highways. The Subcommittee endorsed a suggestion that a seminar be held on the organizational, operational and financial aspects of highway transport, and noted with appreciation the invitation of the Government of India to hold the seminar in that country.

WORKING PARTY ON CO-ORDINATION OF TRANSPORT

93. The Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, which met at Bangkok, Thailand, examined objectives, principles, methods and other aspects of co-ordination of transport in the countries of the region, taking into account the experience of some countries outside the region.

94. The Working Party was of the opinion that, in view of the general shortage of transport, and of the increasing demands for transport arising from the development of the countries of the region, the problem was not only to co-ordinate existing facilities, but also to promote co-ordinated investment and development. The objective for the region was therefore to plan the development of the various modes of transport in such a way as to meet the maximum transport requirements at the lowest cost, taking into account a country's real resources and at the same time preserving the elements of healthy competition and the inherent advantages of each mode.

95. The Working Party stressed the importance of ensuring adequate freedom of choice to the user and of fixing rates and fares which endeavoured to reflect the costs of each form of transport; the advisability of organizing small private road transport enterprises into a few large undertakings for the sake of greater efficiency and economy; and the need for machinery to co-ordinate the whole field of transport.

96. The Working Party examined the problem of co-ordination, taking into account a number of conditions, such as unrestricted competition, the combined monopoly of several forms of transport, the co-ordination of competing monopolies (including semi-monopolies), controlled competition, and a combination of monopolies (including semi-monopolies) and competing systems, and "transport on own account".

97. The Working Party recommended the establishment, where possible, of a single independent regulatory authority in each country, controlling all forms of transport, with powers to authorize the expansion or limitation of services, and exercising control over rates and fares so as to reflect costs. The regulatory authority was not to take over or interfere with the functions of management, but it might be empowered to make recommendations on the co-ordinated development of transport within the country, and on proposals for investment in such development, in accordance with over-all national requirements. In countries with a federal constitution, the Working Party recommended the establishment of machinery for co-ordination of transport at both federal and state levels.

4. RESEARCH AND PLANNING

98. During the period under review, the following meetings were held:

Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fourth session), 2-13 September 1958

Chairman, Mr. Chalong Pungtrakul (Thailand);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. Okita (Japan);

Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. D. K. Burdett (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Conference of Asian Statisticians (second session), 8-19 December 1958

Chairman, Mom Chao Athiporn P. Kasemsri (Thailand);

First Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. Sumawinata (Indonesia);

Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. G. Bantegui (Philippines).

WORKING PARTY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

99. At its fourth session held at Bangkok, Thailand, the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning considered the problem of industrialization in relation to economic development and planning as a whole. The following topics were discussed: government policies and measures for promoting industrialization within the framework of national economic development plans, and for dealing with the following major limiting factors: (a) capital, (b) foreign exchange, (c) entrepreneurship and management, (d) skilled labour and (e) markets; criteria for selecting particular industries for establishment or expansion, including the consideration given to balanced economic development and to international division of labour; and problems and experience relating to the scale of industrial production and to the choice of labour-intensive or capital-intensive processes. The Working Party adopted a report (E/CN.11/L.61), the major part of which, consisting of the findings of the Working Party, was also published in the December 1958 issue of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East* (vol. IX, No. 3).⁸

100. Convinced that industrialization was a major means of accelerating the rate of economic development, securing better use of a country's resources and achieving higher standards of living, the Working Party placed emphasis on the various policies and measures which Governments could adopt to promote industrialization generally, and to deal, in particular, with the problems raised by shortages of capital, foreign exchange, skilled labour, entrepreneurial and managerial skills and markets. It recognized the need for the careful application of various criteria in selecting industries to be developed, and pointed out the desirability of choosing techniques and scales of production which would provide maximum employment without sacrificing efficiency. Affirming the importance of developing exports of manufactured goods, the Working Party felt that this might lead to an increase in intraregional trade, and recommended that studies be undertaken to explore opportunities for a group of countries to share their domestic markets with one another, and to agree on specialization between them. In particular, the Working Party recommended that there should be a greater exchange of information, and arrangements which would enable each country to take into account the industrialization plans of other countries in the region. Such an

⁸ For action taken on the report of the Working Party by the Commission at the fifteenth session, see paragraphs 272 to 279.

exchange of information, and the resulting co-ordination at an early stage in the preparation of national plans would, the Working Party felt, be useful in avoiding wastage of resources.

101. The Working Party recognized that the improvement of statistics was an essential step in planning for industrialization, and noted that the current position and plans in regard to statistics for industrial development were to be considered at an early session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians.

102. The Working Party considered the report of the United Nations Seminar on Regional Planning (referred to in paragraphs 6 to 10 above) and took note of the conclusions and suggestions on the development of resources and the location of industries.

103. The Working Party discussed the question of establishing a sub-group on programming techniques, which had already been approved by the Commission at its fourteenth session. The Working Party agreed that the new body should be a small working group of experts, drawn mainly from within the region and appointed by the Executive Secretary. Several suggestions were made regarding its terms of reference and the subjects to be taken up by it. A decision on these matters was left over until the composition of the group had been determined. It was, however, agreed that the work should be "action-oriented". Latitude was given to the Executive Secretary with regard to detailed arrangements, including the decision as to the forum in which the report of the expert group could most usefully be discussed by the representatives of the ECAFE member countries.

CONFERENCE OF ASIAN STATISTICIANS

104. The second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians, convened in December 1958 at Bangkok, Thailand, was conducted jointly by the ECAFE secretariat, the United Nations Statistical Office and FAO.⁹ The items on the agenda of the Conference were: the World Census of Population, the World Census of Agriculture, the training of statisticians, the use of sampling methods, subjects referred to the Conference by other subsidiary bodies of ECAFE (agricultural producer prices and mineral statistics), statistics for planning and development, and the long-term work programme of the Conference. "Statistics for planning and development" was included as a standing item, in accordance with the decision of the Commission at its fourteenth session. Under that item, the Conference considered: (a) the programme of basic statistics for economic and social development, and (b) the estimation of capital formation. The long-term work programme of the Conference was discussed, and further clarified, along lines calculated to promote an integrated statistical programme which would, in the course of time, meet the needs of the countries of the region for economic and social development and secure maximum practicable international comparability.

105. The Conference recognized that emphasis had to be placed not only on the development of a programme, but also on the steps required to build up a statistical system and organization for the purpose of putting a programme into effect. In view of the different stages of statistical development achieved thus

far in the various countries of the region, the Conference considered it unadvisable to draw up a blueprint for the development of statistics aimed at meeting the requirements of all the countries of the region; rather, the Conference would seek to provide guidance and assistance to countries in drawing up their own programmes according to their needs and resources.

106. A good beginning was made in giving effect to the Commission's recommendation at its fourteenth session that the Conference should be used as a forum for discussion of all statistical problems in the region. In addition to member Governments, the United Nations Statistical Office, FAO, the ILO and UNESCO were represented. This session provided FAO, in particular, with facilities for advancing its regional agricultural census programme further, within the framework of the world programme.

107. The Conference recommended that two working groups should be set up, one on the "application of sampling methods", and the other on "methods of estimation of capital formation", which should meet in 1959 and report to the Conference at its third session. The Conference decided that basic industrial and mineral statistics should be discussed at its third session under the standing item, namely, "Statistics for planning and development". The other items decided upon for the third session were agricultural producer prices, and preliminary work on problems of internal trade statistics, in addition to reviews of progress on censuses, statistical manpower and training, and sample surveys in the countries of the region.

108. The Conference adopted a resolution drawing the attention of member Governments to the need to strengthen their national statistical services in order to enable them to meet the increased demands that were being, and needed to be, placed on them in connexion with economic and social development.

B. Other activities

109. This section of the report covers those activities of the secretariat which are not directly connected with the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission referred to in section A above.

BUREAU OF FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

110. During the period under review, the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development continued to lay emphasis on the importance of multiple-purpose unified river basin development, and on projects having an important bearing on such development as, for example, the collection of basic hydrologic data and analyses of planning and execution of selected multiple-purpose projects in the region and the organization of a study tour. The Executive Secretary, through the Bureau, continued to service the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, established by the Governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam under the auspices of the Commission.

Investigation of multiple-purpose river basin development in the region

111. As part of the Manual on River Basin Planning, and with the help of the national technical organizations in the region, surveys were issued for Burma,

⁹ For action taken on the report of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (E/CN.11/493) by the Commission at the fifteenth session, see paragraphs 327 to 331.

Ceylon, China (Taiwan), India, Japan, Pakistan and the Philippines. Country surveys for British Borneo (covering Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak), the Federation of Malaya, Indonesia and Thailand are nearing completion, and will be published in 1959. Surveys for Afganistan, Iran, the Republic of Korea, and Nepal will be taken up next.

The Mekong project

112. Among the international rivers in their region, the Mekong is the one on which the Bureau has been concentrating its efforts for the past few years.

113. In the period under review, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the programme of investigations for the development of the lower Mekong basin under the auspices of the Commission. Through the efforts of the ECAFE secretariat, the riparian countries on the one hand, and a number of the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies on the other, were brought together in fulfilment of the Commission's resolution 25 (XIV) adopted on 12 March 1958.

114. The Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, adopted at its second session, in February 1958, a five-year programme of investigations prepared by a United Nations Survey Mission. The programme called for the collection of essential engineering and related data and for the planning of projects in the promising reaches of the river. The total cost of the programme, spread over a period of five years, was estimated at \$9.2 million. For the implementation of this programme, the Executive Secretary, as requested by the Committee, discussed with interested governments, TAA and the specialized agencies ways and means of assisting in these studies.

115. In the course of the year, the Government of Canada sent an expert to assess the problems involved in an aerial survey, who submitted a valuable report.

116. The United Nations and the specialized agencies also focused their attention on this project, using such assistance as was available from the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. FAO sent a mission which made initial studies along the river on irrigation, soil, forests, fisheries, crops, livestock and agricultural economics. TAA also sent out a team which concentrated on mineral resources, inland navigation, flood control, the market for power and the general economic aspects of the development of the lower basin. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) sent an expert to carry out studies on hydrologic and meteorological problems.

117. Further progress in the scheme was made with the appointment, at the request of the Co-ordination Committee, of a three-member international Advisory Board by TAA to assist in the assessment of progress of the investigations.

118. At its special session in December 1958, the Committee considered in detail the programme of investigations, and gave special attention to the co-ordination of the various operations involved in the utilization of the aid received from the donor countries, namely, France, New Zealand and the United States, as well as the services of experts from United Nations agencies. A United States engineering company, engaged within the framework of United States aid, is to prepare a programme of operations in connexion with hydrologic

observations, levelling, and a hydrographic survey in 1959.

119. The Government of Japan made an offer to undertake a reconnaissance survey of the major tributaries of the Mekong as a part of the recommendations of the United Nations Survey Mission. The reconnaissance would be carried out by a team of Japanese experts, for a period of two years, at a total estimated cost of \$240,000, which would be borne by the Japanese Government. The Committee also requested TAA to make available the services of a suitable Executive Agent together with necessary supporting staff for the day-to-day administration of the scheme.

120. At the first meeting early in 1959, the Committee adopted a programme of operations for the first year. It was planned to start work immediately with the collection of basic data, utilizing the aid offered by France, New Zealand and the United States. In the meantime, work on the reconnaissance survey of the tributaries was commenced by the team of experts from Japan.

121. The Co-ordination Committee, at its fourth session in February-March 1959, expressed satisfaction at the speedy progress in respect of the Mekong project in a spirit of international co-operation, not only among the riparian countries, but also among member governments of the Commission as well as the United Nations agencies concerned. It commended the good offices of the secretariat, through which the interested parties had been brought together in this joint venture.

Hydrologic observations and hydraulic research stations

122. The Bureau and the secretariat of WMO continued the joint study of deficiencies in hydrologic data in various countries of the region.

123. The Commission, at its fourteenth session, had considered that the attention of the countries of the region should be drawn to the importance of initiating studies on the extent and nature of their ground water resources. Technical organizations of various governments were consulted by the Bureau, and some information on the development of groundwater resources has already been received from Burma, Republic of China, Laos, Philippines and Thailand.

124. Hydraulic research workers of the region have been kept informed of the research facilities and current work programmes of the various hydraulic experiment stations in the region by the annual survey published in the quarterly "Flood Control Journal" of the size of the research stations, personnel employed, essential equipment available, and subjects under investigation.

Dissemination of technical information

125. The Bureau continued to publish the "Flood Control Journal", which gave up-to-date information on projects undertaken by various countries in the region, as well as on recent technical advances in water resources development of interest to the region. Major studies completed by the Bureau are published as the *Flood Control Series*. Thirteen issues have appeared since 1950. The last one, entitled *Proceedings of the Third Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development in Asia and the Far East*, appeared in 1958.¹⁰ During 1958, twelve project reports and

¹⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.II.F.2.

technical publications were distributed to various technical organizations.

Group visit of experts to water resources development schemes in Europe and North America

126. The group visit was organized by the United Nations and sponsored by TAA and ECAFE; facilities were provided by the Governments of Austria, France, the Netherlands and the United States.

127. The group studied different techniques and their applicability to this region. It recommended that organizations on the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority be established in the countries of the region to carry out the planning and execution of a development programme for an entire river basin. Emphasis was laid on the usefulness of experimental plots of land to test the suitability of soil, the effect of irrigation and drainage, the type of cultivation and rotation of crops at the commencement of construction of the project long before water is made available. For areas where floods were serious, the group recommended the establishment of commissions for major river systems on the lines of the Mississippi River Commission.

128. The group considered that model studies should be made of hydraulic structures, but felt that large models, such as that of the entire Mississippi basin at Clinton, would be beyond the means of the countries concerned.

129. The group felt that the St. Lawrence Seaway project should serve as an example of international co-operation to the countries of the region.

130. The group noted that the methods employed in the Netherlands to reclaim land below sea level could usefully be adopted in Ceylon, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines and southern Viet-Nam, where low lying areas were affected by the intrusion of sea water. It noted that FAO was preparing a scheme for the construction of polders in the Khulna District of East Pakistan which was liable to intrusion by sea, causing salination of lands and damage to crops. Construction of the Serre Poncon Dam in France on an alluvium bed extending to a depth of 100 metres had been made possible by the special technique of grouting with a mixture of clay and slag cement. The group recommended this treatment when foundation conditions were similar.

131. The Kaprun and Obere Ill Lünensee projects in Austria were examples of basin-wide development, making maximum use of water for power generation through the diversion of water from one basin to another, and its use to the maximum by pumping it back to storage during periods of slack demand in order to increase power during peak hours. The group felt that, where substantial reservoir capacity was not available, and power during slack demand was cheap, the system could be adopted with advantage, as was the case in some power plants in Japan.

International co-operation on water control and utilization

132. Pursuant to resolutions 417 (XIV) and 533 (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council on "International co-operation with respect to water resources development", and with a view to co-ordinating activities between various United Nations agencies, an inter-agency meeting at secretariat level has continued to be convened, in which the Bureau participated.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION

Review and analysis of current economic situation

133. The 1958 issue of the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*¹¹ continued the practice of reviewing the economic situation in the region as a whole for as much of the latest calendar year as available data permitted. This part consisted of three chapters on production, foreign trade, and the allocation of resources and problems of imbalance. Part II of the 1958 *Economic Survey* consisted of a review of postwar industrialization in ECAFE countries in four chapters: efforts towards industrialization, the growth and structure of industry, the development of selected industries (coal, cement, cotton textiles and chemical fertilizers), and the relationship between industrial growth and economic development. A note on the European Common Market, annexed to the chapter on foreign trade, gave a preliminary review of its possible impact on the ECAFE countries. As in previous issues, appendices covered recent Asian economic statistics and trade agreements concluded in 1958.

134. The quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East* was issued in June, September and December 1958 and in March 1959, the March 1959 number being *The Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1958*. The June 1958 issue of the *Economic Bulletin* included articles on "Taxation and Development of Agriculture in Under-Developed Countries, with special reference to Asia and the Far East" and "Models for illustrating the Effects of Alternative Investment and Employment Policies". The September issue presented a summary of the economic situation in the preceding calendar year, in the individual countries as well as in the region as a whole, and assessed developments in the early months of the current year. The December issue was a special number dealing with industrialization, in which appeared the findings of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fourth session) and a secretariat study, in six parts, entitled "Problems of Industrialization in Relation to Economic Development in the Countries of Asia and the Far East", which had been specially prepared for consideration at that session of the Working Party. All issues contained a section giving the latest Asian economic statistics.

Population growth and economic development

135. Work continued on project 02-03, population growth and economic development. The preliminary report was revised for inclusion in the June 1959 issue of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, under the title "Population Trends and Related Problems of Economic Development in the ECAFE Region", and was also pre-printed as a background document for the Commission's discussion of the subject in March. The revised report, a joint study of the Division of Social Affairs and the Division of Research and Planning, contains a section on the present demographic situation in the ECAFE region, a second section presents future population projections under alternative assumptions about fertility and mortality trends, and a third section discusses the economic implications of the population trends, including problems of food supply, employment requirements, savings, capital formation and the rate of economic development.

¹¹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.II.F.1.

136. Work was also begun on two other studies, namely, a review and evaluation of available demographic data in the ECAFE region, and a more detailed study of the effects of population trends on employment, savings and investment.

Community development programmes and national economic development

137. The Commission, at its fourteenth session, had agreed to broaden project 02-04 entitled "Role of Expanded Self-Help Measures in Economic Development" into one entitled "Role of Expanded Self-Help Measures in Economic Development with particular reference to Industrialization and Village Agriculture". An outline of this study, and a tentative list of relevant data sought, were prepared and circulated to the governments concerned in September 1958. The main object is to seek to determine the ways in which community development has made or can make a society more productive. This involves the study of the actual and potential contribution of community development in expanding the output of goods and services, creating capital assets and developing a community spirit and institutions, as well as an analysis of major problems of organization and administration. Three case studies are being conducted—in China (Taiwan), India and Pakistan, and the available published materials in various countries of the region are being examined. It is hoped that the report will be ready in draft form for consideration by the Commission at its sixteenth session.

Timber trends and prospects

138. The joint FAO/ECAFE study of the Far Eastern timber trends and prospects forms one part of a world-wide investigation initiated by FAO. All countries of the ECAFE region are covered, except Afghanistan and Iran (grouped by FAO with the Middle East); Australia and New Zealand are also included. The study, in addition to chapters on general economic background, will give an analysis of the consumption and future requirements of industrial wood by end-uses, such as fuel, housing and other construction, mining, railway sleepers, matches, packaging and paper and board. This section will be followed by a discussion of roundwood production and potentials, including forest resources, roundwood availabilities, timber reserves and forest policy and services. The forestry industries, including saw-milling and plywood industries, pulp and paper industries, fibre board and particle board industries, will also be discussed. Requirements and production will be projected to 1965 and 1975 on the basis of population trends, projected *per capita* income and other considerations. Surpluses and deficits in forest products, and past developments and future prospects of forest products trade, will be reviewed. Because of the importance of fuelwood and bamboo in the region, special analyses of these subjects will be included. Substantive work on the project was virtually completed early in 1959. The report is expected to be published in the latter part of the year.

Statistical compilation and analysis

139. The basic series of economic statistics were maintained during the year. Close co-operation with government statistical offices as well as with the United Nations Statistical Office and the specialized agencies made it possible to keep the series up to date, and to include revisions and new data as soon as they became

available. The section on Asian Economic Statistics in the *Economic Survey* and the *Economic Bulletin* now regularly contains a table showing regional statistical series, as well as various tables by country on industrial production, transport, external trade, prices, employment and wages, and currency and banking. In addition, tables on population, agricultural production, transport, international payments, government budgets and national income are included annually or semi-annually. Some additions to the published data were made during the year, as new series were compiled in the various countries of the region. Statistical assistance and background data were also provided for the *Economic Survey* and for the various studies of the secretariat.

Statistics development

140. A long-range and integrated approach is being followed in promoting the development of statistics. In response to the views of the Commission at its fourteenth session, the Conference of Asian Statisticians stressed the need for wider participation by countries of the region in the 1960 World Census Programme and in the United Nations/FAO programme of assistance in regard to censuses. The secretariat has ascertained member governments' plans, the progress made in preparations or participation in the World Census Programme, and those specific needs which could be met under the United Nations plan for the provision of technical assistance in the holding of the censuses. Seventeen countries in the region have joined the World Census Programme, and fifty-two senior officers connected with the census operations in twenty-one countries participated in the United Nations/FAO Training Centre in Tokyo in 1958.

141. At the request of FAO, steps have also been taken to promote participation in the World Census of Agriculture. Close co-operation was maintained in this connexion with the statistical experts in the region working under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

142. A series of lectures was given by the Chief of the Statistics Development Section at the Tokyo Census Training Centre, and at the Seminar on Labour Statistics convened by the ILO in Manila.

143. The secretariat has initiated work on a survey of the present position and plans of the countries of the region in regard to specific fields of statistics and statistical activities. As specified by the Conference, the survey covered in the first instance censuses, statistical manpower and training, sample surveys, and methods of capital formation.

Budget reclassification

144. The Second Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification and Management in the ECAFE Region (Bangkok, September 1957) had recommended that, in order to facilitate the review of progress made in reclassifying government transactions along economic and functional lines, and to form a basis for a uniform system of reporting budgetary data, a questionnaire should be prepared by the secretariat and circulated to member governments, in order to obtain information before the next meeting of the Workshop. In co-operation with the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, such a questionnaire is under preparation, and visits have begun to various countries of the region in order to test the effectiveness of the document.

145. The Joint Division continued to undertake further integrated study and action by ECAFE and FAO in mutually agreed fields of work which are described below.

Regular economic surveys

146. The Division continued the study of current developments in the food and agricultural situation in the region, and supplied information on these matters for the semi-annual economic surveys of ECAFE. It prepared short reviews of the agricultural economies of several countries in the region for use and reference at the Regional Office and Headquarters of FAO, and took part in the servicing of the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, held at Tokyo, Japan, from 6-16 October 1958, and also attended the second session of the FAO Group on Coconut and Coconut Products, held at Manila, Philippines from 20-29 October of that year.

Agricultural financing and credit

147. The shortage of adequate and reasonably priced credit continues to be an important obstacle to improvement in agricultural productivity as well as in the living standards of the farming populations of the region. The Division collected information on progress in that field in various countries during the year.

Study of agricultural development plans

148. In line with a recommendation made by the third session of the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and Planning in 1957 on the agricultural sector, the Division has continued to keep the agricultural development plans in the region under review. A paper on the subject is being prepared for publication early in 1959. The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East discussed the report of the ECAFE/FAO meeting,¹² and recommended that FAO should convene, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, a group of experts to examine the technical problems of target-setting in agricultural development planning, bearing in mind the expansion of demand for foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials required for industry, as well as the need for long-range plans for utilizing local resources. The Conference also asked FAO to convene a regional meeting on a broad basis to consider the general principles of realistic agricultural programming.

149. In view of the interest shown both by the FAO Regional Conference, and the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, attention was paid to the implications of national agricultural development plans and policies for the programmes of other countries. The Division is preparing a summary of the short-term rice production plans (up to 1961) of the various countries, and of probable trends in consumption, with a view to revealing whether any major changes in the region's rice production and demand position are in sight.

Relation between agriculture and industry

150. As studies of the relationship between agricultural and industrial development in rapidly develop-

ing economies typical of the region are becoming increasingly relevant to current events and problems, the Division has made plans to initiate a case study in depth in respect of a suitable country.

Impact on village agriculture of community development activities

151. In order to throw some light on the contribution of community development programmes to agricultural development as such, and to economic development in general, three intensive field studies of selected families of cultivators, labourers and craftsmen were initiated in 1958 jointly by the Research and Planning Division, the ECAFE/FAO Division and Division of Social Affairs in co-operation with local research institutes.

152. The first study was made in Ghosi Community Development Block, Uttar Pradesh, India, and was conducted by the Planning Research and Action Institute, Lucknow. The area selected has several characteristics common to many of the Asian countries, namely, high density of population, small size of cultivated holdings and predominance of rice cultivation. The study covered six villages in the Block and six villages in a similar area not covered by community development activities, all selected at random, and examined, among other things, the part played by community development programmes in regard to changes in cropping patterns and the adoption of improved agricultural and animal husbandry practices, the extent of indebtedness and the use of credit, changes in living standards, the extent of capital formation through individual and community action, changes in attitudes and social values, and the formation of new social and economic institutions. Field work began in March 1958. The report will be published in 1959.

153. A somewhat similar study was started in September 1958 in China (Taiwan) through the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction and the College of Agriculture of the National Taiwan University.

154. In addition, a similar study of village AID (agricultural and industrial development) programmes in West Pakistan was initiated by the Socio-economic Research Project of the Punjab University (West Pakistan).

Factors affecting demand for foodstuffs

155. The study of factors affecting the demand for foodstuffs by the Division has been conducted in close liaison with FAO. The publication of new studies and the establishment of new statistical organs in the region were closely followed. Bibliographical notes on demand analysis studies in the ECAFE region and on the statistical sources for such studies were prepared, for inclusion in an FAO international bibliography on demand analysis. Work on the planning aspects of that subject was also carried out.

Food and agricultural price policies

156. The Centre on Policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes in Asia and the Far East, sponsored jointly by FAO and ECAFE, held at New Delhi, India, from 21 March to 3 April 1958, provided a forum for the exchange of information on methods used and results achieved in respect of these policies in the region. It made a general review of price policies and other agricultural support measures in the countries of the region. It discussed producer

¹² Third session of the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, September 1957, jointly sponsored with FAO.

aspects of price policies, measures for increasing production and farm incomes not entailing price regulations, the effects on consumers of price guarantees and income supports to farmers, and the implications of agricultural support and stabilization measures for the economy as a whole. A special sub-group discussed the statistical and technical problems of estimating cost of production of farm products.

157. The report of the Centre was considered at the Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East (Tokyo, October), which commended it as deserving serious attention by governments when they formulated their agricultural policies.

158. The study on food and agricultural price policies in the countries of the region, of which an earlier version was distributed to participants in the Centre, was revised, and was published by ECAFE early in 1959 in printed form under the title *Food and Agricultural Price Policies in Asia and the Far East*.¹³

Agricultural surpluses for economic development

159. In the year under review, the first case study under this project, in relation to Japan, was completed, and issued under the title "A Note on the Utilization of Agricultural Surpluses for Economic Development in Japan" (E/CN.11/L.60). The purpose of the study is to describe the actual procedures and arrangements involved in the recipient country, and to appraise, as far as possible, the effects of surplus transactions on development projects, food consumption, domestic agricultural producers and international trade. The report, prepared in close consultation with the Government of Japan and with FAO, is to be discussed at the April 1959 meeting of the FAO Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposals, in Washington, D.C. Similar case studies will be undertaken in 1959 in relation to other countries of the region.

Marketing of agricultural products

160. The Division continued its work of collecting information on marketing and marketing studies in countries of the region. A new study on domestic marketing of rice is under way in Thailand at Kasetsart University. Plans have been made, in conjunction with FAO and the Government of India, for the joint FAO/ECAFE Technical Meeting of Agricultural Marketing Specialists, approved by the Commission at its fourteenth session to be held at New Delhi, India, from 27 April to 6 May 1959.

Agricultural economic research

161. During the year, the Division completed a review of the status and scope of agricultural economic studies and research in countries of the region. The results were set out in a report entitled *Agricultural Economics Research in Asia and the Far East* (E/CN.11/L.59), which was subsequently revised and issued in printed form.¹⁴ It describes the agricultural economics research work recently completed or currently in progress in various countries of the region, and examines the teaching and research facilities in agricultural economics at universities and institutes, as well as the organization of agricultural economics work in government departments. Shifts in emphasis as between

different research topics and the changes in research methodology in recent years are summarized. Some suggestions are made regarding subjects on which further research is urgently needed for development planning.

162. The report concludes that in many countries there is a need for creating (or strengthening) special units in the Ministries of Agriculture to (a) collect, compile and analyse basic data on production, prices, marketing and other aspects of the structure and working of the agricultural economy; (b) record and measure current changes in the economy; (c) disseminate, through suitable publications, the information collected; and (d) assist Ministries of Agriculture in formulating agricultural policy, particularly in the sphere of development planning, within the framework of national economic objectives. It indicates some ways in which the facilities for teaching and research at the universities require strengthening in order to support such governmental units, and points out the need, in many cases, for setting up some national organization, composed of government and non-governmental experts, to help in co-ordinating the research work of different institutions.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

163. The work of the Division of Social Affairs continued to consist both of activities involving the social aspects of economic development, including population questions, carried out in close co-operation with the other Divisions of the ECAFE secretariat, and of activities in the field of social welfare that involve rendering advisory services to governments, compiling data and preparing reports, in co-operation with the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters. The question of balanced economic and social development has been given increased attention since the fourteenth session of the Commission. The Division assisted the Research and Planning Division of ECAFE in the preparatory work for the fourth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning.

164. During 1958, a special case study was conducted in Ceylon of the Government's allocation of funds for economic and social development, and an analysis was made of the assumptions underlying such allocation. The analysis of social policies in relation to problems of industrialization and the accompanying process of urbanization was continued. The officers of the Division also assisted a number of governments in launching pilot projects in urban community development and in the improvement of social welfare services, particularly those for the family and children.

165. The Division contributed data about the region to the *Second Survey of International Programmes of Social Development*, which the Bureau of Social Affairs published early in 1959.¹⁵

166. Work was carried out jointly with the Research and Planning Division and the ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division on the study of economic aspects of community development. For that purpose, the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters provided a special consultant who worked with the staff of the three divisions of ECAFE in collecting information and launching three field studies in India, Pakistan and China (Taiwan), which are being carried out through universities or research institutions in the countries concerned.

¹³ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.II.F.2.

¹⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.II.F.4.

¹⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.IV.2.

167. The study on "Population Trends and Related Problems of Economic Development in the ECAFE Region" (E/CN.11/L.67) was prepared jointly by the Division of Social Affairs and the Research and Planning Division. This study is part of the project on the relationship between population growth and economic development (project 02-03), which was reclassified by the Commission, in resolution 20 (XIII), as a continuing project of high priority at its thirteenth session, on the recommendation of the Population Commission (E/2957/Rev.1, paragraph 85).

168. The Division of Social Affairs also continued to assist in the development of the Demographic Training and Research Centre at Bombay, established by the Government of India and the United Nations. A plan for a demographic pilot study in one of the countries of the region was drawn up by the Division in consultation with the government concerned. The Division assisted the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters in the implementation of various projects on population for which regional contributions were required. A senior staff member of the Division participated as a discussion leader in the United Nations/FAO Regional Census Training Centre, held at Tokyo, Japan, from September 1958.

169. In the field of community development, assistance was given to member governments, at their request, in the formulation and improvement of policies for rural areas and of national programmes of community development. For that purpose, the Division collected literature on community development and distributed it to the administrators concerned in Asian countries; it also assisted in the organization of national conferences and seminars in the Federation of Malaya and Thailand, and in the preparation of a United Nations Seminar on Planning and Administration of National Community Development Programmes in which Burma, the Federation of Malaya, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam participated (15 February to 5 March 1959 at Bangkok). The Division also assisted in the preparation and conduct of the Study Tour on Land Settlement (6 October to 12 November 1958), organized jointly by the United Nations and the World Veterans Federation (WVF) and of the joint FAO/United Nations/WVF Centre on Policies and Problems of Land Settlement (17 November to 5 December 1958), held at Inginiyagala, Gal-Oya, Ceylon. A member of the Division participated in the preparatory and operational stages of the work of the United Nations Community Development Evaluation Mission to India (1 December 1958 to 31 March 1959). Assistance was also given by sending lecturers or discussion leaders to a number of regional seminars and conferences organized by various non-governmental organizations.

170. In the field of social welfare, the Division co-operated closely with UNICEF in the promotion of pilot projects in urban areas, and preparatory steps were taken for the Asian Seminar on Administration of Social Welfare to be held in October 1959.

171. Following the Seminar on training for social work held at Lahore, Pakistan, at the end of 1957, action was taken to give effect to the suggestions and recommendations made. Assistance was also given to the Study Tour of Burmese officials in Asian countries, as part of the preparation for the establishment of the School of Social Work in that country.

172. A considerable portion of the time of the staff of the Division was taken up by the preparation and conduct of projects organized and financed by the United Nations in the field of advisory social welfare services, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 418 (V), and under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. Officers of the Division were assigned to short-term technical assistance duty in various countries of the region, and they shared responsibility for regional projects in this field, such as seminars, training courses and study tours, acting as secretaries or technical advisers.

OTHER ASPECTS OF WORK

173. The secretariat of the Commission, as part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, continued to collaborate closely with the Headquarters Secretariat and the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). Information on ECAFE's activities and methods of operation was supplied to the newly established Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Several projects, particularly those concerning regional planning, statistics, the development of water and mineral resources, housing and building materials, population studies, petroleum legislation, geological and mining maps, industrialization, commercial arbitration and the investigations for the development of the lower Mekong basin, were carried out in co-operation with the appropriate units of the Secretariat at Headquarters. Staff from Headquarters was deputed to Bangkok to assist the ECAFE secretariat in work relating to statistics, mineral resources development, mining legislation, commercial arbitration, energy resources and the Mekong project.

174. As in the past, the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions were convened by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs to consider the over-all programme of the work in the economic and social fields. Those consultations have resulted in a co-ordinated approach in the projects undertaken under the various resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, the Social Commission, the Population Commission and the regional economic commissions.

175. Several meetings were sponsored jointly by ECAFE and the appropriate units of the Secretariat at Headquarters. The Statistical Office of the United Nations co-sponsored with ECAFE the second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians, and assisted in the preparation of six studies; "Estimation of Capital Formation in countries of the ECAFE Region" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.1), "Basic Statistics for Economic and Social Development in the ECAFE Region" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.2), "Long-Term Work Programme of the Conference" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.9), "World Census of Population" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.11), "Use of Sampling Methods" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.13), and "Plans for Promoting the Tabulation of the Forthcoming 1960 Censuses of Agriculture and Population" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.8). The Bureau of Social Affairs also co-operated with the secretariat in preparing a study on "Population Trends and Related Problems of Economic Development in the ECAFE Region" which was to be published in the quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*. It submitted a paper on the "Housing, Building and Planning: Current

Activities of the United Nations, its Regional Economic Commissions and the Specialized Agencies" (E/CN.11/I&NR/HBWP.5/L.6) to the fifth session of the ECAFE Working Party on Housing and Building Materials. The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations prepared two studies for the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources in Asia and the Far East: "Regulations governing Petroleum Resources Development" (E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.7) and "Information on recently enacted or proposed Legislation on Petroleum" (E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.8). For the Committee on Trade, it prepared a study on "Arbitral Legislation and Facilities in Certain Countries in the ECAFE Region" (E/CN.11/TRADE/L.19). The Transport and Communications Unit at United Nations Headquarters drafted a paper on "United Nations Conventions on Customs Facilities for Tourism and Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles" (TRADE/CAWP/10). The Cartographic Section of the Bureau of Economic Affairs co-operated with the secretariat in the preparation of regional geological and mineral maps and in the project for aerial surveys. The ECAFE secretariat assisted the Cartographic Section in organizing and servicing the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference held at Tokyo in 1958.

176. During the period under review, co-operation with the secretariats of ECE and ECLA was concentrated on various aspects of trade. The secretariat drew on the experience of ECE and its staff in preparing for, and organizing, intraregional trade promotion talks. For the Working Party on Customs Administration, the ECE secretariat prepared "A Note on the Activities of ECE in respect of Customs Questions" (TRADE/CAWP/3), and the ECLA secretariat compiled a "Summary of Activities of the Central American Committee of Economic Co-operation regarding Customs Administration and Related Fields" (TRADE/CAWP/12). A paper entitled "Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America on Intraregional Trade and the Regional Market" (Trade/43) was prepared by the ECLA secretariat for the second session of the Committee on Trade.

177. The ECE secretariat also placed before the fifth session of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials information on the activities of ECE in the field of housing and building (I&NR/HBWP.5/2). Its three papers: "Advantages and Drawbacks of various Methods and Measures of Co-ordination" (W/Trans/202), "Transport Co-ordination" (W/Trans/247) and the Report of the ECE Inland Transport Committee on its fifteenth (special) session, which considered the subject of transport co-ordination (W/Trans/492), were made available to the ECAFE Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport. It also assisted in the planning of the study tour of Asian experts in regard to visits to the water resources development projects in Europe.

178. The secretariat has been increasingly aided in its work by member and associate member governments and their liaison officers and missions.¹⁸ Valuable ser-

vices have been rendered to the secretariat by government experts, by governments participating in the work of the Commission in a consultative capacity and by the non-governmental organizations.

Exchange of experience and information on scientific, technical and economic matters

179. In accordance with the Commission's terms of reference and resolution 15 (XII) of the Commission, work was continued on the collection, dissemination and exchange of scientific, technical, economic and statistical information through the various journals and publications of the secretariat, library and documentation services, exhibitions of technical, scientific and educational films, participation in fairs and exhibitions and the organization of post-conference study tours.

180. The secretariat's publications—the annual *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*, the quarterly *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, *Flood Control Series*, "Flood Control Journal", "Transport Bulletin", "Electric Power Bulletin", "Industrial Development Series" and "Asian Bibliography"—continued to be issued regularly and distributed to government ministries, departments and agencies, research institutions, universities, semi-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The secretariat continued to function as a clearing house, and dealt with individual inquiries for information from governments and non-governmental organizations.

181. In the process of promoting the exchange of information and experience, the secretariat continued to receive co-operation from member and associate members of ECAFE, some other states, technical organizations, national experts, the various departments of the United Nations Secretariat, the secretariats of the other regional economic commissions and from regional and international organizations. Technical and information papers were prepared by governments for all the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies referred to in section A of this report. Member governments offered to carry out special surveys, studies, research laboratory tests, pilot operations, demonstrations and training for the benefit of other members in such matters as geological surveys; analysis, beneficiation and other processing techniques of raw materials, coals and ores; housing; design and maintenance of railway track; traffic safety; design, specifications and operation of inland water vessels; and trade promotion techniques. A number of non-governmental organizations also prepared papers and co-operated with the secretariat in the dissemination of information on customs procedures, land settlement, community development, design and maintenance of railway track, inland ports, and tourism.

182. The delegations to the various ECAFE meetings also organized film shows and exhibitions on subjects such as iron and steel, transport, housing and building materials. The library of technical and information films maintained in the secretariat is being augmented by the donation of films by governments and technical organizations. The practice of organizing study tours as a part of the technical meetings of ECAFE has been continued. Such study tours were organized during the period under review in connexion with the Working

the United States. The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel and Italy also maintain liaison relations with ECAFE.

¹⁸ Cambodia, France, Japan, Laos, Netherlands, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, Singapore (also representing North Borneo, Brunei, Hong Kong and Sarawak) and the Republic of Viet-Nam have permanent representatives to ECAFE. The following Governments have representatives acting as Liaison Officers with ECAFE: Australia, Burma, Republic of China, Federation of Malaya, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and

Party on Housing and Building Materials, the Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, the Highway Sub-Committee, the Working Party on Customs Administration, the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, and the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources.

Advisory services

183. During the period under review, the secretariat was able to increase its advisory services to member and associate member countries, often in co-operation with TAA and the specialized agencies. Through its membership on the Advisory Boards for (a) the Regional Training Centre for Railway Signalling and Operation Officials at Lahore, Pakistan, (b) the Regional Marine Diesel Training Centre at Rangoon, Burma, and (c) the Regional Housing Centre, Delhi, India and (d) the Regional Housing Centre, Bandung, Indonesia, the secretariat continued to advise and assist these Centres in formulating and carrying out their programmes of work to meet the region's needs. It continued to advise and assist the Committee for the Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin in all aspects of its work. The secretariat has been consulted in regard to the work of the Regional Demographic Centre at Bombay, the United Nations/FAO Regional Census Training Centre at Tokyo, the Statistical Centre at the University of the Philippines at Manila and the National Institute of Statistics at Saigon. The Statistical Office of the United Nations, in co-operation with TAA, has appointed a team of census experts who are stationed at Bangkok in order to advise countries on the various stages of the World Census operations. Advisory services to governments in other fields of statistics have been intensified.

Co-operation with TAA

184. As in the previous year, the secretariat furnished advice on technical assistance projects, and on the recruitment and briefing of experts, fellows and trainees. The secretariat was increasingly consulted by TAA in matters such as the definition of the job descriptions of experts requested by governments, the review of the experts' reports and the measures required to follow up the experts' recommendations. The work covered a wide variety of subjects, such as the general economic surveys, planning techniques, methods of establishing specific industries, statistical surveys, water resources development, transport and communications, financial institutions, housing and building materials and population.

185. The secretariat co-operated closely with TAA in regard to the work on the Mekong project; and on other regional projects recommended by the Commission. It assisted TAA in a number of training and research centres referred to in paragraph 183 above. The group study tour of experts to water resources development schemes in Europe and North America was organized jointly by TAA and ECAFE. The ECAFE secretariat co-operated with TAA in organizing the joint United Nations/UNESCO Seminar on Regional Planning. TAA also provided the services of experts in connexion with the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources, the Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, the Special Telecommunication Studies. TAA experts furnished reports to the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials and to the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources.

186. TAA experts stationed in the countries of the region often participated in the technical meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and contributed papers, for example, on "Training in Statistics in the ECAFE Area" (ASTAT/Conf.2/3) and "Methods of estimating Capital Formation" (ASTAT/Conf.2/4) for the Conference of Asian Statisticians. Increased personal consultations and contacts between TAA experts and the ECAFE secretariat proved mutually beneficial. Close contacts were maintained with the office of the regional representatives of TAB stationed in the countries of the region, many of whom visited Bangkok and consulted the secretariat on matters of common interest. The secretariat participated in the meetings of the resident representatives of TAB in the region at which measures were agreed upon for increasing co-operation between ECAFE and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

187. As in previous years, there has been close co-operation between the Commission and the specialized agencies and other organizations over a wide range of the Commission's activities, through such means as joint planning and implementation of projects, co-sponsorship of regional meetings, joint participation in technical assistance and other activities, participation in each other's meetings, and inter-secretariat discussion and consultations.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

188. Co-operation with the ILO, particularly its Asian field office, on questions of training, manpower and employment was continued. The ILO and ECAFE worked together on the Regional Centre for Diesel Marine Mechanics at Rangoon, Burma. Reports of the ILO, on "Production Techniques and Employment Creation in Under-Developed Economies" and "Productivity Missions to Under-Developed Countries", were circulated to the fourth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning in which the ILO also participated. The ILO sent a representative, and submitted a paper on "The Work of the Petroleum Committee of the ILO in the Field of Training" (E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.2), to the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources in Asia and the Far East. It was also represented at the United Nations Seminar on Regional Planning, the eleventh session of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources and the fifteenth session of the Commission.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

189. Systematic co-operation with FAO continued to be maintained, principally through the Joint FAO/ECAFE Agriculture Division. The two bodies exchanged statistics and other data for use in general economic analysis. The second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians was conducted jointly by the ECAFE secretariat, the United Nations Statistical Office and FAO, which contributed five papers to the Conference, namely, "Regional Programme of the 1960 World Census of Agriculture in Asia and the Far East"

(E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.3), "Progress of Agriculture Census Preparations in Asia and the Far East" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.4), "Agricultural Producer Prices" (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.5), and also "Plans for Promoting the Tabulation of the forthcoming 1960 Censuses of Agriculture and Population"—prepared jointly with the United Nations Statistical Office (E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.8). FAO and ECAFE together sponsored the Centre on Policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes in Asia and the Far East held in March-April 1958 at New Delhi. FAO joined the United Nations in carrying out a programme of technical assistance in regard to the 1960 World Population Census Programme with the help of funds provided by the Ford Foundation and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. It also helped to establish and conduct the Regional Census Training Centre at Tokyo in 1958. The study on timber trends and prospects was carried out by the secretariats of ECAFE and FAO in collaboration. The Commission's resolution 22 (XIII) on Land Settlement was implemented by FAO, in co-operation with TAA and the Bureau of Social Affairs, and the report of the Centre on Principles and Policies of Land Settlement in Asia and the Far East was submitted to the fifteenth session of the Commission. Consultations were also held by the secretariat with FAO officials on the preparations for a joint ECAFE/FAO Far Eastern Meeting of Experts on the Pulp and Paper Industry. Under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme, FAO sent a mission which made initial studies on the irrigation, soil, forestry, fisheries, crops, livestock and agricultural economy of the lower Mekong basin.

190. FAO was represented at the fifth session of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, the second session of the Committee on Trade, the eleventh session of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources and the fifteenth session of the Commission.

191. ECAFE was represented at the fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, at which the report of the third session of the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and Planning was discussed.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

192. The Commission secretariat participated in the UNESCO Symposium on Techniques of Social Research. Frequent consultations were held between the secretariat and the UNESCO Centre on the Social Implication of Industrialization on the latter's research projects particularly on social aspects of rural electrification, small-scale industries, productivity and growth of steel-towns. UNESCO sponsored, jointly with the United Nations, the Seminar on Regional Planning—the report of which (ST/TAA/SER.C/35) was considered by the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials and the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning.

193. UNESCO submitted a paper on its current and future activities in the field of housing, building and planning (I&NR/HBWP.5/3) to the fifth session of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, and was represented at the fourth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, and at the second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians.

World Health Organization (WHO)

194. Consultations continued between the ECAFE secretariat and the Regional Office of WHO on matters of common interest, particularly on the sanitary aspects of water supply in planning for housing development. WHO was represented at the United Nations Seminar on Regional Planning, the fifth session of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, and the second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians. It presented a statement on the activities of WHO in the region to the fifteenth session of the Commission.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank)

195. The ECAFE secretariat co-operated with the Mission organized by the Bank to prepare, at the request of the Government of Thailand, a public development programme for the country. The Executive Secretary represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the Commission at the thirteenth annual meeting of the Bank.

196. The Bank was represented at the fourth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, the second session of the Committee on Trade and the fifteenth session of the Commission.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

197. The Fund continued to supply information and data on trade, conversion rates, balance of payments and financial questions to the ECAFE secretariat. It prepared a paper entitled "The Monetary Surveys and Government Finance Statistics in International Financial Statistics" (ASTAT/Conf.2/7) for the second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians. Its representative assisted the Committee on Trade at its second session in assessing the implications of the payment and exchange measures of January 1959 taken in Europe for the trade of the ECAFE region, and prepared a paper on that subject (TRADE/52). It was represented at the fifteenth session of the Commission. The Executive Secretary represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the Commission at the thirteenth annual meeting of the Fund.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

198. Co-operation between the ECAFE secretariat and the ICAO Far Eastern and Pacific Regional Office at Bangkok continued. ICAO participated in the Working Party on Customs Administration, and submitted a paper to it on "Customs Administration in relation to International Air Transport" (TRADE/CAWP/16).

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

199. The International Telecommunication Union, with the assistance of TAA, appointed two experts to carry out special studies on telecommunications as approved in the Commission's Work Programme.

200. The experts dealt with both line and radio communications and with the various problems and aspects of pertinent developments in the countries of the region. Preparations for a working party on telecommunications are being made jointly by ECAFE and ITU. ITU was represented at the fifteenth session of the Commission.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

201. An expert on hydro-meteorology under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme was assigned by WMO to serve in connexion with the investigations of the lower Mekong basin. WMO is co-operating with the ECAFE secretariat in preparing for the Intraregional Seminar on Hydrologic Networks and Methods.

Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization (ICITO/GATT)

202. The ECAFE secretariat and the ICITO secretariat, which services the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), consulted each other with increasing frequency and exchanged information on a wide range of problems of international trade, including the implications of the European Common Market, trade agreements negotiated and concluded by the countries of the region, and simplification of customs procedures.

203. The secretariat of ICITO contributed to the second session of the Committee on Trade a paper on "The Application of the Rome Treaty establishing the European Economic Community" (TRADE/35), and one on "Simplification of Customs and other Formalities" (TRADE/CAWP/4) to the Working Party on Customs Administration. It was represented at the fifteenth session of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

204. During the period under review, liaison was established between the secretariats of ECAFE and IAEA. The ECAFE secretariat co-operated with the Preliminary Assistance Mission of IAEA in its studies of the technical assistance needs of certain countries of the region in regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. IAEA was represented at the eleventh session of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources.

OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Customs Co-operation Council (CCC)

205. The Customs Co-operation Council co-operated with the ECAFE secretariat at the Working Party on Customs Administration, and prepared a report on the "Activities of the CCC in the Field of Customs Administration" (TRADE/CAWP/2).

The Colombo Plan

206. The ECAFE secretariat co-operated with the Consultative Committee for Co-operative Economic

Development in South and South-East Asia (the Colombo Plan). Under the Plan's technical co-operation programme, scholarships and other facilities were offered in a number of training institutes, the use of which for regional purposes is being promoted by ECAFE.

207. The Executive Secretary of ECAFE attended, as an observer, the Ministerial session of the Consultative Committee held at Seattle, Washington in October 1958. A member of the secretariat also participated in the preparatory meeting of the officials held before the Ministerial session, and supplied data and information in connexion with the preparation of the report of the Consultative Committee. The secretariat prepared, for the use of the Consultative Committee, a paper entitled "A Note on the Question of Regional Co-ordination of National Development Plans".

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

208. A large number of international non-governmental organizations, their authorized regional bodies and their representatives continue to co-operate with the secretariat, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. This co-operation ranged over most of the fields covered by ECAFE, and has proved of value to its work, particularly on a number of projects requiring specialized knowledge.

209. The International Chamber of Commerce prepared, for the Working Party on Customs Administration, a paper on "Simplification of Trade Formalities" (TRADE/CAWP/NGO/1). The World Veterans Federation co-sponsored, with TAA, a study tour on land settlement, a report on which was submitted to the FAO Centre on Policies and Principles of Land Settlement in Asia and the Far East convened in accordance with the Commission's resolution 22 (XIII).

210. Consultations were held with the International Road Federation and the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses on matters concerning highways and inland navigation.

211. The secretariat continued to co-operate with the International Union of Official Travel Organizations and its regional bodies with a view to promoting travel and tourism.

212. Various non-governmental organizations have sent representatives to several of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and to the Commission's session.

Part II

FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

OPENING AND CLOSING MEETINGS

213. The fifteenth session of the Commission was held at Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia from 9-19 March 1959 inclusive. Sir William Slim, Governor-General of Australia, delivered the inaugural address. The Acting Chairman, Mr. P. H. William de Silva (Ceylon) read a message from the Secretary-General

of the United Nations. Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, Executive Secretary, addressed the Commission.

214. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governor-General for his address of welcome and to the Government of Australia for inviting the Commission to hold its fifteenth session in Broadbeach and for the hospitality provided by the host Government.

215. At the close of the 213th meeting on 19 March 1959, the Commission unanimously adopted the text of the annual report to the Economic and Social Council.

216. Sir William Slim, Governor-General of Australia, opening the meeting, recalled that Australia had been host to the fourth session of the Commission eleven years previously. Since then the number of countries represented had grown from nineteen to twenty-six. The region had made impressive advances in health, in the development of natural resources, in agriculture, in industrialization, and in capital investment. There was a general realization that all countries were neighbours, and it was now possible to consider the great economic tasks in a spirit of equal co-operation that had never before existed.

217. The problems confronting ECAFE were still vast. Some of the problems were common to all primary producing nations, including Australia. Fluctuations in world prices of primary commodities were one such issue. Clearly, a satisfactory solution must be an international one.

218. The countries of the area needed more capital. A great deal of external capital had already flowed into the area in the form of aid, loans and equipment, but steps were needed to attract private foreign investments while safeguarding the interests of developing nations.

219. Even some of the marked successes achieved in recent years had brought their own problems in their wake. Mechanization might reduce the demand for manpower; victory over diseases such as malaria might, by rapidly increasing the population, create problems of hunger and unemployment. He did not doubt that, eventually, with the co-operation of the governments represented, these difficulties would be overcome.

220. The first step in the solution of any economic problem was to analyse it. ECAFE's economic surveys had been of incalculable value in that regard.

221. ECAFE had also focussed the attention of the world on the difficulties of the area through the various organizations of the United Nations. In that way, it had not only done much to sustain Asia's splendid spirit of self-help and determination to overcome its economic difficulties, but had shown how the willing co-operation of the more industrially advanced countries could be effectively enlisted.

222. ECAFE had indeed, in a short life, accomplished much. But there was no room for complacency. There was still a long way to go, but the nations of the region were travelling in the right direction, and, what was more, were travelling together.

223. Mr. R. G. Casey, Minister of External Affairs of Australia, observed that ECAFE was composed of countries with varied histories and cultural traditions, but they shared common aims.

224. The spectre of periodical unemployment no longer overshadowed the world, but, in many Asian countries, chronic unemployment and underemployment were still major problems. The highly industrialized countries, moreover, still experienced recessions, and any pause in economic activity in one part of the world might mean near disaster in another. Commodity prices tended to fall much further in a minor recession than would appear justified by the degree of that recession in the commodity-consuming countries. The present session offered an admirable opportunity to consider such questions.

225. Industrialization and economic development were not ends in themselves, but means of realizing

human potentialities. Economic progress should not be at the expense of human liberties.

226. ECAFE was an agency for co-operation. Many topics on the agenda were of importance to the region as a whole, such as trade and the improvement of the economic infrastructure. The Mekong river project—another experiment in co-operation—might have a great impact, through its example, on other parts of the region.

227. The problem of population growth in certain countries of Asia was of the utmost importance, as had been brought out in particular by the pertinent ECAFE report.

228. ECAFE's members from outside the area had demonstrated their interest in Asian problems by the provision of capital, technical assistance and other facilities. Co-operation within ECAFE had evolved dynamically over the twelve years of the Commission's existence and had been reflected in new and constructive ways of achieving the organization's ends.

229. The main objective of the Commission was to give the peoples of Asia better food, clothing, housing and other amenities. There was no single means by which standards of living could be raised. Action had to be taken along a number of different lines.

230. Australia had the interests of Asia at heart, for humanitarian and unselfish reasons, and was always eager to assist, within the limits of its resources, in promoting ECAFE's objectives.

231. Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General, in his message to the Commission session, stated:

232. "I should like to send my best wishes for a successful meeting to the participants at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. It is a source of great regret to me that I was not able to attend the session and to pay a visit to Australia, as your host Government had so graciously invited me to do. May I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Richard Casey for his active and continuing support of the work of the United Nations and of this Commission.

233. "Since your last session in Kuala Lumpur, the importance of the contribution that the regional economic commissions are making to the United Nations' effort in the economic and social field has continued to grow; a few months ago the newly established Economic Commission for Africa concluded its first session, at which it adopted a programme of work of great promise to the countries and territories of Africa. At about the same time, the Special Fund, established at the last session of the General Assembly, initiated its activities. Although only modest means have at present been put at its disposal, it is an important addition to the resources available to the United Nations in the struggle against poverty and for economic progress and higher levels of living.

234. "I am aware that your own efforts in this direction are continuously being intensified. We are increasingly witnessing developments which demonstrate a growing harmonization and synchronization of efforts and policies on the national and international level. The United Nations is gradually assuming its rightful role in this process of enhancing the collective responsibility of the international community for economic development, which has become of key importance in our century.

235. "In this connexion, I look with pride and satisfaction at ECAFE's record of the past year. I hardly need to mention a number of conferences of a pioneering character which were held under your Commission's auspices.

236. "The Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources was the first conference of its kind to be held within the United Nations, and its report—following the General Assembly resolution—will be given special consideration by the Economic and Social Council. The recent sessions of the Conference of Asian Statisticians and of the Working Party devoted to industrialization may also constitute important steps in developing policies and other tools essential to economic development. Equally impressive has been the continued progress made on the Mekong project. The Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks may mark the opening of new opportunities for countries in your part of the world. In this connexion, the Executive Secretary's proposals for the reorganization of your activities in the field of economic development, especially the idea of convening from time to time conferences on the highest policy level, seem to me to be an important and wise response to the current and prospective needs in this field. This need for the development of co-ordinated policies in our age of planning, and at a time when efforts at economic integration are being intensified in other parts of the world, especially in western and eastern Europe and in Latin America, cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed in your part of the world. It may well be that, at this session, you will find it opportune to place due emphasis on the over-all policy aspects of the manifold development activities which have been so successfully advanced, year by year, by your Commission.

237. "May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the outstanding services rendered to the United Nations by C. V. Narasimhan, who will soon take leave of you as your Executive Secretary, and whom I will be fortunate to have now as a direct collaborator in his capacity as Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs. At the same time, I should like to welcome U Nyun who is succeeding Mr. Narasimhan in ECAFE. After many years of devoted service to his Commission, he does not need any introduction. I am confident that he will lead the secretariat serving your Commission to further successes."

238. Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, Executive Secretary, welcomed Iran as a member of the Commission. He stated that the past year had been marked by certain economic setbacks in the region and by a drop in agricultural production, with a consequent need to import greater quantities of food grains. Towards the end of the year, however, the general outlook had been more hopeful. The shortage of capital, an inevitable concomitant of rapid economic growth, had been particularly acute in the past year, owing partly to a deterioration in the terms of trade, but that was no passing phase. The bargaining position of primary producers *vis-à-vis* producers of manufactures was chronically weak.

239. Industrialization was designed not only to strengthen the position of countries of the region in this respect but also to absorb the abundance of unskilled labour, particularly in those countries where population was already dense and the rate of growth was accelerating.

240. The problem of population growth, the importance of which was increasingly realized, could be solved only by resolute national action. The same was true of the mobilization and allocation of domestic resources. In the last resort, no country could hope to advance for long except by its own efforts.

241. Other problems, however, might yield to international action. Assistance in overcoming food shortages, if it did not disrupt normal patterns of trade, could be of great help, as would other measures of assistance designed to ease the shortage of foreign exchange. International action, too, could help to produce more stable terms of trade by means of commodity and other agreements, and to provide capital, whether under multilateral or bilateral schemes or through such institutions as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In the same way, the Colombo plan and the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, as well as individual countries, were playing an important part in the training of technicians of ECAFE countries.

242. The agenda of the fifteenth session reflected the Commission's determination to get to grips with all these problems and to devise practical solutions, particularly by stimulating international co-operative action.

243. He reviewed the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and of the secretariat during the past year, and referred to the Commission's increasing co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters, with the Technical Assistance Administration, the other regional economic commissions and with the specialized agencies. He acknowledged the support of the Technical Assistance Board, particularly on the Mekong programme.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

244. The session was attended by the representatives of the following member and associate member countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Republic of China, Federation of Malaya, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States, Republic of Viet-Nam, Hong Kong, Singapore and British Borneo. By virtue of paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission, representatives of Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and Yugoslavia, and under Economic and Social Council resolution 617 (XXII), a representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, attended in a consultative capacity. Observers were sent by the following specialized agencies: the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BANK), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (ICITO/GATT), and by the Technical Assistance Board (TAB). Observers from the following non-governmental organizations attended the session: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Co-operative Alliance, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Organization of Employers, World Federation of Trade Unions, World

Federation of United Nations Associations, World Veterans Federation, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Alliance of Women—Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Pan-Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association and St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance.

245. A list of representatives and observers is attached in annex I.

CREDENTIALS

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

247. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission, at its 201st meeting, elected Mr. R. G. Casey (Australia) as Chairman and Mr. Tan Siew Sin (Federation of Malaya) and Mr. Hasanali Mansour (Iran) as first and second Vice-Chairmen respectively.

248. The Commission convened three closed meetings of the heads of delegations to consider the organization of the work of the session. They also considered matters relating to the Executive Secretary's proposals on the "Organization of the Commission's Activities in the Field of Economic Development and Planning" (E/CN.11/L.65 and Add.1), the proposed amendments of the Commission's terms of reference (E/CN.11/491), and the date and place of the sixteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.11/492).

249. The Commission appointed a Drafting Committee to prepare its annual report. It consisted of representatives from Afghanistan, Australia, Republic of China, Federation of Malaya, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Hong Kong, Singapore and British Borneo. The Drafting Committee elected Mr. M. Sarwar (Afghanistan) as Chairman and Mr. P. W. Han (Republic of Korea) as Vice-Chairman. The Commission also appointed an *ad hoc* committee to consider agenda item 15: amendment of the rules of procedure (E/CN.11/491); item 16: resolution I of the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East on Regional Co-operation in Cartography; and item 17: Programme of work and priorities: (a) Programme of Work and Priorities 1959-1960 (E/CN.11/L.64, Corr.1 and Rev.1), (b) Preparation for Secretary-General's appraisal of programmes for the period 1959-1964—Economic and Social Council resolution 665 C (XXIV) and 694 D (XXVI), (E/CN.11/L.68), (c) Control and limitation of documentation (General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII), (E/CN.11/490). The *ad hoc* committee elected Luang Thavil (Thailand), Chairman.

250. The recommendations of the *ad hoc* committee, subsequently reviewed and approved by the Drafting Committee, were included in the draft annual report of the Commission. The Drafting Committee held three meetings and submitted a draft annual report to the Commission at its 213th meeting.

B. Agenda

251. 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.11/485/Rev.3).
4. Economic situation in Asia (Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1958) (E/CN.11/L.63 and Add.1, parts I and II).
5. Population growth and economic development in the ECAFE region (E/CN.11/L.67, E/CN.11/L.69).
6. Report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fourth session) (E/CN.11/L.61, E/CN.11/L.65 and Add.1, E/CN.11/L.70).
7. Report of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (eleventh session) (E/CN.11/499).
8. Report of the Committee on Trade (second session) (E/CN.11/497-ECAFE/43).
9. Activities in the field of inland transport and communications (E/CN.11/488).
10. Activities in the field of water resources development:
 - (a) Report of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development (E/CN.11/494);
 - (b) Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (E/CN.11/500).
11. Report of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (second session) (E/CN.11/493).
12. Report on the work of the Joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division (E/CN.11/L.66 and Add.1).
13. Co-operation with specialized agencies:
 - (a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (E/CN.11/496);
 - (b) International Labour Organisation (E/CN.11/503);
 - (c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
 - (d) World Health Organization (ECAFE/44).
14. Technical assistance activities in the region (E/CN.11/495).
15. Amendment of the Commission's rules of procedure and terms of reference (E/CN.11/491).
16. Resolution I of the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East on Regional Co-operation in Cartography (E/CN.11/498).
17. Programme of work and priorities:
 - (a) Programme of work and priorities, 1959-1960 (E/CN.11/L.64/Corr.1 and Rev.1);
 - (b) Preparation for Secretary-General's appraisal of programmes for the period 1959-1964 (Economic and Social Council resolutions 665 C (XXIV) and 694 D (XXVI)) (E/CN.11/L.68);
 - (c) Control and limitation of documentation (General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII)) (E/CN.11/490-ECAFE/45).
18. Date and place of the next session (E/CN.11/492).
19. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council (ECAFE/41/Rev.1).

C. Account of proceedings

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ASIA

252. The Commission considered the economic situation in the region with the help of the background information provided in the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1958*¹⁷ prepared by the secretariat.

¹⁷ Available to the Commission in mimeographed form as E/CN.11/L.63 and parts I and II, and subsequently printed as United Nations publication Sales No.: 59.II.F.1.

The Commission commended the secretariat on the *Survey* and welcomed its review of postwar industrialization which provided an opportunity to assess the main motives, means, policies and results in this field in Asia to date.

253. The year 1958 was characterized by moderate economic setbacks in most countries of the region.¹⁸ Agricultural production, particularly production of cereals, declined in the 1957/58 season, mainly because of unfavourable weather. Total industrial production in the region also stopped rising for the time being; in a number of smaller producing countries, whose industrial output continued to expand, the rate of expansion slowed down; these effects were partly the direct or indirect result of the short supply of agricultural produce—raw materials or rice. The “creeping recession” in Japan, following the halt in Japan’s boom in mid-1957, involved a sharp decline in imports into the region’s major industrial country. The exchange earnings of the primary producing countries were further reduced when, partly because of the recession in the United States and other industrial countries, the world prices for a number of the main primary exports of the region declined. The decline in export earnings necessitated a reduction of imports, particularly in view of the already serious depletion of the foreign exchange reserves of many countries. Steps were, in fact, taken to reduce imports, with the result that imports declined more than exports. Foreign aid continued to play a large part in bridging the payments gap, but the net effect of the forces at work was, throughout most of 1958, to raise the cost of living somewhat, and restrict *per capita* consumption, in a number of countries of the region.

254. In the light of the year’s experience, the Commission emphasized the continuing importance of agricultural production and the need for its development and expansion parallel to the process of industrialization in the primary producing countries of the region. The need for a balanced development of the two sectors was clear. Industry, starting from a very low base, had recently developed at a faster pace than agriculture, thanks among other things to increased imports of capital goods financed mainly by exchange earnings from agricultural and other primary exports. The expanding needs of industry for raw materials and food for industrial workers, however, had the effect of reducing the extent to which domestic output of primary products was available for export. Moreover, the rapid growth of population made a corresponding rise in agricultural production necessary to meet the increased demand for food, clothing and other necessities of life. Thus, while industrialization was the dynamic element in programmes for alleviating the pressure of population on resources and improving the standard of living, a major simultaneous expansion of agricultural production was also needed in the countries of the region.

255. The Commission once again noted with concern the vulnerable position in which many countries of the region were placed by reason of their dependence on exports of a limited number of primary commodities. The recent decline in primary commodity prices, associated with the recession in industrial countries, was not their only difficulty. The general tendency for world demand for modern manufactures to expand more rap-

idly than world demand for primary products also weakened their bargaining power and depressed their terms of trade. In 1958, the loss of exchange earnings experienced by the primary exporting countries of the region, and the sharp cuts in their imports which became necessary in order to reduce their import surplus from its 1957 peak level, had serious economic repercussions. Inevitably, imports of capital goods and related materials were cut back, reducing capital formation and slowing down the rate of industrial development.

256. In these circumstances, the Commission attached particular importance to developing measures to stabilize the prices of major primary products. Note was taken of the fact that all trading countries in the world were now prepared to examine measures to bring about greater stability of prices of primary commodities and, although the practical difficulties connected with the adoption and operation of international commodity agreements were recognized, a wide measure of support was indicated among delegations for the conclusion of such agreements. The Commission welcomed the recent extension of the International Sugar Agreement for another five years from 1959. It also noted that, thanks to an understanding reached with a non-participating country, the International Tin Council had been able to overcome the difficulties experienced in the winter of 1958. The Commission looked forward to the work to be done by the recently reconstituted United Nations Commission on International Commodity Trade and various other international bodies concerned with these problems.

257. The Commission welcomed the evidence of increasing industrialization in many countries of the region. However, because of shortages of technical and managerial skills and capital, and other generally familiar obstacles, industrial output remained at a comparatively low level in most countries. It was noted that, as industrialization proceeded, problems of marketing also came increasingly into view. Special problems connected with small-scale and cottage industries could, it was suggested, often be solved by co-operative organization.

258. The Commission noted with appreciation the considerable volume of external aid, both bilateral and multilateral, received by member countries of the region in recent years, and the assurances of continued support, within their resources, given during the session by delegates of member governments. A further expansion of the inflow of public capital was needed. Appreciation was expressed of the recent decisions to enlarge the resources of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, thereby increasing their capacity to assist the developing countries, and the establishment in January 1959 of the United Nations Special Fund, which “would provide systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries” (General Assembly resolution 1219 (XII)). The Commission took note of the possibility that the Special Fund would assist in the financing of important regional projects in Asia, such as the five-year programme of studies and investigations of the lower Mekong basin. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the help from the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and from certain States Members of the United Nations which had made the initiation of the Mekong programme possible.

¹⁸ Reference is to the ECAFE region, excluding mainland China.

259. Most delegations welcomed the recent increase in the inflow of private foreign capital. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of providing conditions that would attract private capital. Several member governments of the region had, in the recent past, modified their foreign investment legislation with that objective in view. Appreciation was expressed of the fact that the subject of private international investment, to stimulate which the Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya had at the fourteenth session of the Commission in 1958 proposed the elaboration of an international charter, continued to be under the active consideration by the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

260. The Commission stressed the fact that world prosperity was indivisible; in the world economy, developed and developing countries were interdependent. The maintenance of high and stable levels of employment and economic activity in the developed countries would, through their favourable influence on world trade, help to ensure better conditions to developing countries whose primary exports depended predominantly on demand from the developed countries.

261. In that connexion, the Commission noted that the recent move towards currency convertibility in western European countries, in itself a step in the direction of payments liberalization, might prove of considerable assistance if trade policies also were liberalized.

262. The Commission noted the entry into force from 1959 of the first reductions of tariffs by the European Economic Community. It gave consideration to the downward trend in trade among the countries of the region, and endorsed efforts to expand such trade on a basis consistent with the expansion of world trade as a whole. (These and related matters were more fully discussed in the debate on the report of the Committee on Trade. See paragraphs 292 to 304.)

263. It was generally considered that many of the economic difficulties encountered by the countries of the region in late 1957 and 1958 were in the process of being resolved. With increasing signs of recovery in the industrial countries of the world, and larger crops harvested in the region, the Commission looked forward to a better year in 1959.

POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

264. The Commission considered the implications of population growth in the region for economic development, against the background of information given in the secretariat study entitled "Population Trends and Related Problems of Economic Development in the ECAFE Region",¹⁹ which outlined the major present implications in respect of food supplies, investment and future population trends in the region, and their needs, savings and rate of economic development. The Commission considered the report very valuable, noting that the Population Commission had also recently commended it.²⁰

265. The Commission took note of the fact that, as a result of progress in health measures and consequent falling death rates, rates of population growth

in the region were accelerating; while the total population of the region before the Second World War was growing by only 1.2 per cent a year, it was now increasing at a rate of 1.7 per cent. In several countries, the increase was already about 3 per cent a year, at which rate their population would double within a period of only twenty-three years. Indications were that the total population of the region might double in the next three decades, and be equal to the present population of the whole world. With a rapidly growing population and a rising proportion in the younger age groups, a rising share of resources had to be devoted to consumption, merely to maintain the same levels of living. Already, as against only one child for every three adults in the industrialized countries, almost two children had to be supported by every three adults in the less developed ECAFE countries. The heavy dependency burden in most countries in the region, due to the high and sustained level of fertility, was a major handicap to capital formation needed for economic development—to such an extent that, in some cases, it threatened to frustrate economic development plans.

266. The Commission was unanimously of the opinion that an intensification of efforts to speed up the rate of aggregate economic growth was essential for the solution of these problems. Industrialization should be promoted, inducements for investment should be created, public capital enlisted, and know-how more widely diffused. The development of small-scale industries should be supported in order to help absorb underemployed manpower resources. At the same time, agricultural development should also be promoted, with emphasis on community development schemes and on incentives to farmers to raise their productivity. In countries where virgin or uncultivated land was still available for cultivation, settlement schemes should be developed.

267. Several delegations considered that a twofold approach was necessary to the problems posed by rapid population growth—an approach which not only speeded up the rate of economic development but also promoted measures aimed at reducing the rate of population growth. The extent to which this was applicable in any given country would depend on that country's own conditions, including social and cultural factors; in particular, the urgency of the need to check the rate of population growth would depend on the proportions between population numbers, on the one hand, and natural resources, capital and know-how on the other. In several countries of the region, family planning had been adopted as a part of government policy. In a number of other countries, such measures were undertaken by voluntary organizations with some government support. However, these activities were generally still in the experimental stage, and only in Japan had any measurable effect upon the birth rate been noted to date. It was, of course, for each government to decide for itself what action, if any, should be taken along these lines.

268. The Commission and the secretariat had an important role to play in studying population trends and their implications for development programmes, and in making their analysis available to governments. The lack of reliable population data in most ECAFE countries was widely recognized. The Commission therefore welcomed the proposal made by the Population Commission that a seminar be organized in the region in 1960 on the evaluation and analysis of census data. The seminar would consider the best ways of

¹⁹ E/CN.11/L.67, pre-printed from United Nations, *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, Vol. X, No. 1 (June 1959).

²⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3*.

drawing on census data in planning and policy making, the problems of evaluating the accuracy of the census results, and ways and means of providing supplementary information.

269. The Commission welcomed the recommendation made by the Population Commission to the Economic and Social Council to hold the Population Commission's next session in the ECAFE region, with a view to helping to focus attention on the acute population problems of the region.

270. The Commission endorsed the suggestion by the Inaugural Conference and by the first session of the Advisory Committee for the Demographic Training and Research Centre, that a Regional Population Conference should be organized by the United Nations. The Commission unanimously adopted a resolution—resolution 28 (XV), included in part III of the present report—recommending, in addition to the action referred to in the two preceding paragraphs, that the proposed population conference be organized in 1961 or 1962 under the auspices of ECAFE in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme and the specialized agencies. The Executive Secretary proposed to submit, at the Commission's sixteenth session, a detailed plan for the conference, including an agenda and an estimate of the time required for the preparations necessary to assure its success and the practical utilization of its findings.

271. The Commission noted with interest the draft report of the United Nations/FAO/WVF (World Veterans Federation) Centre on Principles and Policies of Land Settlement for Asia and the Far East, held at Inginiyagala, Gal-Oya, Ceylon from 17 November to 5 December 1958, and the report of the Asia and the Far East Study Tour on Land Settlement which was organized by the United Nations and WVF in co-operation with the Governments of India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam as a prelude to the Centre. It emphasized that settlement policies should be designed as an integral part of overall programmes for economic and social development in countries where unutilized land resources were available. The Commission noted, in particular, that the planning and execution of land settlement schemes were handicapped, in many countries, by a lack of capital and of trained and experienced personnel. The Commission adopted a resolution—resolution 27 (XV), included in part III of this report—recommending the organization of training centres on specific aspects of land settlement and the employment of a regional land settlement specialist, and requesting FAO, in consultation with ECAFE, to explore the appropriate steps to be taken in this regard.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

272. The Commission examined, and unanimously endorsed, the report of the fourth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (E/CN.11/L.61), and its review by the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources at the eleventh session (E/CN.11/499, paras. 43-49). It welcomed the proposed convening in 1959, on lines elaborated in the Working Party's report, of the working group of experts on programming techniques authorized by the fourteenth session of the Commission, and also welcomed the fact that the fifth session of the Working Party was scheduled to discuss the problems involved

in achieving a proper balance between economic and social development.²¹

273. The Commission approved a note by the Executive Secretary on the "Organization of the Commission's Activities in the Field of Economic Development and Planning" (E/CN.11/L.65 and Add.1). It agreed to establish a Conference of Asian (Economic) Planners with terms of reference as specified in the addendum to that note and summarized in the next paragraph. The Executive Secretary undertook to present to the sixteenth session of the Commission a draft agenda, and related information, for the first (1961) session of the Conference.

274. Conference sessions would be convened every third year, beginning in 1961, instead of, and at the usual time as the meeting of, the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning. The Conference sessions would be attended by high officials dealing with economic development and planning, who would

(a) Review the past work in the field of economic development and planning, including reports by sessions of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning and by groups of experts, and recommend priorities for future work in this field;

(b) Exchange views and experience, and discuss problems in the field of economic development and planning as a whole, as well as any specific problem referred by the Commission;

(c) Prepare a report, with recommendations, to be submitted to the Commission.

The Working Party on Economic Development and Planning would meet two years out of three and continue to adopt a "sector-by-sector" approach, submitting its reports to the Commission (with copies to be transmitted to the Conference). The groups of experts dealing with programming techniques and similar technical problems would meet from time to time, reporting to the Executive Secretary (with copies to be transmitted to the Commission and Conference). The agenda of the Commission at each session would include an item entitled "Economic development and planning", in addition to the item entitled "Economic situation in Asia".

275. The Commission considered the problems of industrialization, in particular the aspects which had been discussed by the Working Party, namely, the means of promotion and the limiting factors, the criteria for the selection of industries, and the choice of techniques and scale of production. It regarded industrialization as being, in general, of outstanding importance for economic development. However, it recognized that differences in circumstances necessarily involved differences in the methods pursued and also in the importance and the priorities attached to industrialization as compared with other measures for economic development in different countries, and in the same country at different times.

276. The Commission stressed the need for countries to pay due attention to proper balance in their economic development as between different sectors and also as between different geographical regions. It further noted the desirability of securing all possible co-operation and a measure of co-ordination and mutual adjustment between governments in respect of their

²¹ See also paragraph 306 regarding the Working Party's session to be held in 1960.

individual national plans, for example, in connexion with the development of industries for which markets would have to be extended beyond national boundaries in order to permit an efficient scale of operation.

277. The Commission recognized the important role of government in industrial development, not only in the provision of the infrastructure without which the manufacturing industry could not expect to expand successfully, but also in aiding and guiding the private sector. Several members believed it important that governments should initiate industries where necessary and operate them in appropriate cases. At the same time, most members of the Commission appreciated the large contribution that could be made by private enterprise in the process of economic development, and notably in the process of industrialization. The Commission felt that the spirit of enterprise, energy and initiative was a vital asset in any developing society, but that the question of defining the scope of activity of the public and the private sectors was a matter for each of the countries concerned.

278. The Commission noted the importance universally attached to capital formation for purposes of industrialization and development. It stressed the need to mobilize domestic capital, within limits consistent with consumption needs, from private as well as governmental and institutional sources. At the same time, it considered an increased inflow of foreign aid and investment essential to supplement domestic capital which generally was insufficient in the countries of the region to meet requirements. In this connexion (as in the previous debate on the economic situation in Asia), the Commission took note of certain hopeful signs of current and prospective expansion in the flow of external public capital and foreign investment to the countries of the region.

279. In dealing with the question of the selection of industries for development, the Commission laid stress on the advisability of expanding export-promoting, and therefore exchange-earning, industries utilizing domestic raw materials and labour. It also felt that, in countries suffering from a shortage of capital, due attention should be paid to the use of labour-intensive, rather than capital-intensive, techniques of production, in order to economize scarce capital and contribute to the solution of employment problems.

INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

280. The Commission endorsed the report (E/CN.11/499), and commended the work, of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources and the subsidiary bodies reporting to it. It was suggested that the technical work in the field of industry and natural resources could be performed more effectively through working parties, symposia, seminars and sub-committees, rather than by the Committee itself, thereby enabling the Committee to devote greater attention to the broader economic aspects of various forms of resource utilization, industrial development and policy guidance to its subsidiary bodies. It noted that the Working Party on Basic Chemicals was to be held early in 1960, and that the Meeting of Experts on Pulp and Paper Industry would be convened towards the end of 1960.

281. The Commission also noted that the countries of the region were taking steps, through legislation and other means, to attract foreign capital. There had been some flow of foreign capital into the region, but it was

considered that the rate of flow had to be increased many times in order to accelerate the process of industrialization.

282. The Commission noted that one of the major difficulties encountered by the countries of the region was the shortage of technical and managerial personnel. In order to overcome this, some countries had employed foreign firms of consultants for the management of industrial undertaking while retaining control of general policy, or had established joint enterprises in partnership with foreign firms. It was pointed out that the cost of the consultants should be taken into account to ensure that the industrial enterprise would still be able to undertake production economically. The Commission emphasized that the management techniques introduced by the consultants should be suitable to the social and economic conditions of the country, and that local personnel should be trained by them to replace them in due course. Such difficulties might be more easily overcome through "joint ventures." It noted that the Seminar on Management of Industrial Enterprises in the Public Sector would be convened in 1959 at Delhi, and that the Government of India and the Indian Institute of Public Administration were expected to provide the necessary facilities.

283. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources that more comprehensive and up to date statistics of industrial capacity and production should be compiled for the future sessions of the Committee, and requested governments to co-operate actively with the secretariat to make that possible.

284. It noted that, although a few countries in the region were producing some machine tools and other capital equipment, the region as a whole still had to import most of its requirements. While no country should attempt to produce all its requirements of machine tools and machinery, it was considered essential that, in order to accelerate industrial development, the countries in the region should make a start with the manufacture of some simple and small machine tools, especially for those small-scale industries which were peculiar to the region, since suitable machinery for these types of industries was not manufactured in the industrially advanced countries.

285. The Commission highly commended the work of the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources of Asia and the Far East, and endorsed the proposal to convene the second symposium in 1962 or 1963. In that connexion, the Commission noted with gratitude the invitation extended by the Government of Iran to hold the symposium in that country. It was suggested that the second symposium should also include in its agenda an item on the future demand of the countries in the ECAFE region for different petroleum products, and also an item on the economics of petroleum production from new fields. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Symposium that the secretariat should explore the possibility of establishing a regional petroleum institute. In that connexion, the Commission took note of the offers made by the Governments of India, Iran, and Pakistan to make the facilities of their national institutes available for regional purposes and, as an interim measure, to provide training facilities for petroleum geologists of other countries of the region. It was suggested that assistance from the Special Fund could be made available for that purpose.

286. The Commission emphasized that, while the development of petroleum resources in the countries of the region was highly desirable, the co-ordinated development of all fuel and power resources was of great importance. The Commission therefore attached priority to project 31-03, entitled "Integrated study of fuel and power resources and demands of countries of the ECAFE region".

287. In connexion with the suggestion of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources that symposia should be arranged on other mineral resources of interest to the countries of the region, a suggestion was made that a symposium on the technical and economic aspects of production, marketing and processing of bauxite might be convened, as soon as the resources of the secretariat permitted.

288. The Commission approved the recommendation of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources that the scope of work of its Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel should be expanded to cover foundries and steel consuming industries (and, later on, industries producing other metals), and that its name be changed to "Metals and Engineering Sub-Committee". The Commission noted that some countries in the region were now in a position to supply certain iron and steel products to others.

289. The Commission noted that preparations were in hand for holding the sixth session of the Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing in 1959 when it would review the progress made and consider the problems of the fruit and food canning and preserving industry in the countries of the region and that co-ordination with the work of FAO in that field had been sought. With respect to small industries, the Government of Japan was organizing technical seminars and training courses, and was willing to extend its co-operation and assistance to other countries of the region, by admission of participants from those countries.

290. The Commission noted that the housing situation had deteriorated in the metropolitan areas of the countries of the region, and felt that the resources of the public, as well as the private, sector should be mobilized to intensify the housing effort. The importance of providing adequate community facilities, namely protected water supply, sanitation, drainage, and electricity, was emphasized. The proposal of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials to undertake a study of costs in the building industry was endorsed. The proposed study tour in 1960 by Asian housing experts to five European countries, namely Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, was approved.

291. The Commission observed with satisfaction that the geological map of Asia and the Far East had been completed, and that the regional mineral map and later the regional tectonic map were to be taken up. In co-operation with the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (TAO), a Seminar on Aerial Survey would be convened in 1959 and a study tour of Asian geologists to the United States and Canada was scheduled for 1959.

TRADE

292. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the valuable work done by the Committee on Trade, and endorsed its report (E/CN.11/497).

293. The Commission noted that the share of the non-industrialized countries in world export trade had declined over a period of years, and that this unfavourable long-term trend, combined with the instability of commodity prices, raised serious problems for the countries of the region in their economic development. The Commission welcomed the expressions of readiness of industrially advanced countries to co-operate in solving these problems through international action.

294. The maintenance of high and rising levels of economic activity and the pursuit of liberal trade policies by the advanced industrial countries provided the most favourable conditions for the growth of exports of the under-developed countries. A commodity-by-commodity approach would also yield good results in achieving stabilization of primary commodity markets and prices. In that connexion, the advanced industrial countries were willing to discuss the difficulties pertaining to trade in any particular commodity, in accordance with the principle of participation by producing, as well as consuming, countries. Long-term trade agreements and bulk contracts would provide some measure of stability to primary commodity exports.

295. The Commission was aware that several international bodies were already dealing with primary commodity problems, viz. the United Nations Commission on International Commodity Trade, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the three committees recently set up by it, the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the various international groups concerned with particular commodities. It endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Trade that it should keep itself informed of the activities of the international agencies concerned with these problems.

296. The Commission considered that an increase in the export earnings of the countries of the region could not be achieved without active export promotion measures, and suggested that the secretariat should continue to study this subject. Since most countries of the region depended largely on a limited range of primary commodity exports, it was considered essential that the advanced industrial countries should take measures to encourage the importation of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods from the developing or under-developed countries. The Commission recognized that the expansion of tourism could provide additional foreign exchange, and recommended that steps be taken for the development of adequate transport, hotel and other facilities designed to attract tourists.

297. Attention was drawn to the harmful and disruptive effects on the trade of countries of the region which would result from unfair trading practices. Some countries in the region had taken measures to protect their local industries against unfair competition by imposing tariffs or quantitative controls on such imports. In that connexion, attention was drawn to the provision included in some bilateral trade agreements entered into by the countries of the region, under which the trading partner countries gave guarantees to each other that their mutual trade would not be harmed by unfair trade practices on the part of third countries.

298. The Commission recognized that external aid played an important part in the trade and economic development of the countries of the region. With respect to assistance given in the form of commodities (i.e. "surplus disposals"), it was considered important to

ensure that the commercial interests of third countries were not adversely affected, and that established trade patterns and channels were not dislocated. Consultations on such questions between the aid-receiving countries, the aid-giving countries and the third countries involved would help in arriving at mutually acceptable measures.

299. The Commission regarded the recent monetary measures taken in western Europe as an important step towards the establishment of a multilateral system of payments, but recognized that the liberalization of trade and discontinuance of discriminatory treatment were essential. While the European monetary measures would facilitate the abolition of the distinction between "hard" and "soft" currencies in import licensing of the countries of the ECAFE region, and also enable them to buy their requirements in the most advantageous markets without regard to the currency used, there would also be greater competition in international markets, which might have important effects on some export commodities of the region.

300. The Commission endorsed the report of the Executive Secretary on the Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks (ECAFE/43), as well as the recommendation of the Committee on Trade that the talks be continued and the next round of talks be arranged within a year. It noted that the talks had been useful in providing an opportunity to the countries of the region for exploring additional trading possibilities. With more experience and more adequate advance preparation, both by governments and the secretariat, and the participation of a larger number of governments, the talks would yield even better results in the future. To that end, member and associate member governments of the region were requested to inform the secretariat, as early as possible, of their decision to participate in the next round of talks and of the subjects which they wished to take up in the talks. The proposal to organize smaller group discussions on matters of interest to more than two governments was also noted.

301. The Commission commended the practical work done by the Working Party on Customs Administration, and endorsed the work programme outlined in that field, including the convening of a second session of the Working Party at an early date. Particular stress was laid on co-operation in preventing smuggling, preparing agreements designed to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers across frontiers, simplifying procedures and formalities concerning travellers and tourists, and improving import and export formalities and procedures.

302. The Commission considered the developments relating to the European Common Market, and noted the assurances given by the member countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) that the interests of third countries would be adequately safeguarded and that a policy of co-operation with GATT members would be pursued. Most of the countries expressed the hope that the actual policies pursued by the EEC would not be restrictive, but would be conducive to an expansion of world trade and that the products of ECAFE countries would be given fair and reasonable access to the Common Market. Most of the countries also emphasized that consultations with third countries regarding their interests should, if possible, be held before decisions and policies were implemented by the EEC, and not after. The Commission endorsed the recom-

mendation of the Committee on Trade that further developments relating to EEC should be kept under review by the secretariat.

303. The importance of fair and equitable ocean freight rates for the trade of the countries of the ECAFE region was emphasized by the Commission. Attention was drawn to several of the difficulties faced by them, such as high and frequently rising Conference line rates, lack of direct shipping services with several markets, anomalous freight rates on some commodities, and discrimination exercised by the Conference lines against new entrants into the field. The Commission noted the desirability of governments establishing machinery of consultation with the shipping lines in order to discuss, and negotiate on, these problems and difficulties. It was suggested that, in addition to action by national governments, international action was desirable. It was also pointed out that international action to secure equitable ocean freight rates was justified, just as it was justified to secure fair and equitable commodity prices. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Trade that the subject should continue to be kept under review by the secretariat. It also stressed the importance of promoting invisible exports through the development of shipping, insurance and banking facilities of countries of the region.

304. The secretariat's work on commercial arbitration and its market studies on minerals and mineral products, as well as on spices and spice products, was commended. The proposal of the Committee on Trade to undertake in due course a market study of jute and jute products was endorsed. It was suggested that thereafter a market study on engineering products might be undertaken.

INLAND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

305. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities in the field of inland transport and communications, and the progress made in the study of co-ordination of transport. It concurred with the views of the Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, which stressed the advisability of countries' creating an independent transport regulatory agency which would only regulate, and not operate or manage, the various transport undertakings. As transport development depended largely on the scale of investment, a regulatory body would be able to appreciate, in its true perspective, the development needs of each form of transport. Such a body would also be helpful in recommending the introduction of improved operational techniques and co-ordinate and administer investment policies. The Commission felt that it would be advantageous if the regulatory authority could have power to authorize, and to make recommendations for, the co-ordinated development of transport in accordance with the requirements of economic planning.

306. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning would deal with the subject of transport in relation to economic development at its meeting in 1960. It further noted that other questions, such as uniformity of accounting and statistical procedures and tariff co-ordination, the State in relation to transport, taxation, subsidies and obligations imposed and techniques and organization of interagency joint traffic, would be taken up after the session of the Working Party on Economic

Development and Planning, through *ad hoc* working parties.

307. The Commission, in approving the report of the Highway Sub-Committee (E/CN.11/TRANS/136), fully endorsed the recommendations of the Sub-Committee that early concerted action should be taken to develop international highways within the ECAFE region. It noted that, while there was still a continuing deficiency in international highway communications in the ECAFE region, there was a general awareness on the part of the governments of the need to develop such links in order to foster the economic, social and cultural development of the region. In the case of the land-locked countries, adequate land communications had assumed special importance, since highway communications were an important means of linking those areas with the neighbouring countries and thus providing outlets for trade and commerce. Though civil aviation had been playing a useful role in opening up some of these countries, it had serious limitations as a means of providing bulk transportation at low cost. The Commission realized that there were difficulties, in many parts of the region, in the way of immediate development of highways across international borders, but it was hopeful that the concerted efforts of the countries of the region would facilitate the early implementation of the project. The Commission approved, in general, the plan to implement the project as recommended by the Highway Sub-Committee, and hoped that the zonal meetings would be convened early. It also approved the recommendations that, in a phased programme for development of international highways, priority should be given to the linking of existing roads, after which their progressive upgrading to higher standards, as agreed by governments, might be undertaken, and consideration given to the construction of new links or alignments as agreed to by the neighbouring countries. This should be followed by action on other factors which would facilitate international traffic.

308. The Commission noted the invitation extended by the Government of India to member and associate member countries of ECAFE to participate in the study week on highway safety being organized in September/October 1959 in Bombay, and recommended that governments should participate fully in the study week.

309. The Commission noted that highway transportation was included as a high priority project. It approved the proposal that, after the study had been completed, a seminar should be organized to discuss the subject. It noted the offer of the Government of India to act as host country for such a seminar. The Commission also recommended that a study tour of highway transport experts to countries in Europe and America be organized at an early date.

310. The Commission welcomed the progress made in the preparations for the demonstration project with hydrofoil craft (wing boats). The Commission noted the offer of the Government of Pakistan to act as host for that pilot project. It hoped that assistance would be available from the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme and other sources at an early date for such a demonstration project.

311. The Commission emphasized the importance of the project 43-03 on model government organization dealing with inland waterway transport and river and canal conservancy, and recommended that a working party be convened on that subject. The Commis-

sion noted with satisfaction that the study tour of inland waterway transport officials of the countries of the region to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and eastern Europe would take place in 1959. It also noted the progress made in collecting views and data from governments of the region concerning the design of prototype coastal vessels suitable for the region, and felt that, after completion of the study tour, a working party should be convened to consider this subject further and make specific recommendations.

312. The Commission took note of the progress made at the Regional Marine Diesel Training Centre at Rangoon, Burma, and urged governments to make full use of it.

313. The Commission took note of the substantive activities of the secretariat in the field of railway transportation. The Commission felt that, besides detailed studies on the various projects, on-the-spot discussions with experts would be of considerable benefit to the railway officials of the region. The Commission noted with satisfaction the training being provided for railway operating and signalling officials of the region at the Pakistan Regional Railway Training Centre, and urged the countries of the region to make the fullest use of it. The Commission, recognizing that the transportation services of the ECAFE region were in the process of rapid development, felt that many technical problems would require studies and field investigations at a high technical level. It therefore stressed the important role of research institutions in ensuring that techniques most suitable to local conditions were applied at lowest cost, and in providing the most economic and efficient transport services. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the secretariat was exploring the possibility of promoting the establishment of regional railways, highways, inland waterways, and telecommunications research institutes by expanding existing facilities at the national research institutions in the region. It suggested that ways and means of equipping and staffing such institutions should be explored.

314. The Commission expressed appreciation of the progress made in preparations for convening the meeting of the Working Party of Telecommunication Experts at Tokyo, Japan, in May 1959, and hoped that all member governments would participate. It also noted the close co-operation established with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Commission expressed its appreciation to ITU for its co-operation and for the assurances of full participation in the Working Party.

315. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to keep in mind, when drawing up the future programme of meetings, the offer of the Government of Australia to act as host for the seventh session of the Railway Sub-Committee.

316. The Commission emphasized the value of exchanges of experience in the field of transport and communications between the under-developed and advanced member countries of the Commission. It therefore hoped that high level experts would be sent by the members to participate in ECAFE meetings in the various fields of transport and communications.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

317. The Commission considered the report of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development (E/CN.11/494) and the report of the Com-

mittee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (E/CN.11/500), a Committee jointly established by the Governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam. The report of the Co-ordination Committee is given in annex III.

Mekong project

318. The Commission heard the statement of the Chairman for 1959 of the Committee for Co-ordination (the representative of Laos). In introducing the Committee's report, he pointed out the importance to the riparian countries of the development of the Mekong with respect to irrigation, flood control, navigation and power generation. He reviewed briefly the adoption by the Committee of a five-year programme of investigations prepared by a United Nations Survey Mission²², and described the current stage of implementation of the programme with the help of several Member countries of the United Nations, namely, France, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States and by the United Nations and specialized agencies. He expressed the hope that the United Nations Special Fund would assist in the implementation of this project which was vital not only to the four riparian countries concerned but also to the region as a whole. On behalf of the Committee, he thanked all countries and agencies who had given assistance. He paid tribute to the secretariat, and in particular, the Executive Secretary, whose efforts had contributed much to the success of the project.

319. The Commission was informed by the representative of Canada that the authorities of that country had followed with great interest the plans for the Mekong project developed in the past few years under the auspices of ECAFE. The Canadian Government, in response to a joint request by the Co-ordination Committee, which was transmitted to it through the good offices of the Executive Secretary, had agreed to undertake the first priority phase of surveying and mapping the main stem of the Mekong at an expected cost of \$1.3 million over a period of two years. The Commission also heard the announcement of the representative of Australia that his Government was prepared to join in furthering the five-year programme of investigations of the Mekong by providing constructive aid over the next few years in the form of necessary equipment, training or expert technical personnel to a value of A £100,000.

320. The Commission heard statements from representatives of France, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States, member Governments who were contributing to the programme. The Commission was also informed by the representative of France that his Government was prepared to provide, in addition to the help already afforded, an additional sum of 50 million francs to the Mekong programme.

321. The Commission was informed by the representative of the Soviet Union that his Government was ready to extend technical assistance in the design and construction of hydroelectric projects on the Mekong; the details of such assistance could be agreed upon later with the countries concerned or arranged through the ECAFE secretariat.

²² "Programme of Studies and Investigations for Comprehensive Development, Lower Mekong Basin" (TAA/AFE/3, 23 January 1958).

322. The Commission listened with interest to the statements of representatives of the riparian States, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam. The four representatives stressed the significance of the development of water resources of the Mekong for the economic and social well-being of the 17 million people living in the lower Mekong basin, and expressed their gratitude to countries and agencies for their assistance, as well as for the support and encouragement given by the Economic and Social Council. They thanked the Governments of Australia, Canada and France for the generous offers made at current session. They would also consider other offers made at the session in the forthcoming meetings of the Co-ordination Committee. They were greatly encouraged by the sympathy and support which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had consistently given to the project. The Commission hoped that assistance would be forthcoming from the Special Fund so that the entire programme of investigations could be completed without delay.

323. The Commission was greatly impressed by the rapid progress made within such a short period in implementing the scheme, which would bring beneficial results to the area. The Commission highly commended the spirit of international co-operation shown, not only by the riparian countries, but also by countries and agencies assisting in the task, which had furnished the world with a notable example of multi-lateral co-operation of an eminently practical type. The Commission also recognized that the support and assistance of the ECAFE secretariat had been a most important factor in the rapid progress of the project, and fully shared the remarks of the members of the Co-ordination Committee with regard to the work of the Executive Secretary. The Commission also endorsed the request of the Committee to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the good offices of Mr. Narasimhan be made available as and when required in the future in connexion with the Mekong scheme.

Other activities

324. The Commission, in reviewing the report of the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development, commended the secretariat, and in particular the Bureau, for the continued high standard of professional accomplishment, which had contributed much toward the promotion of water resources development in the ECAFE region.

325. The Commission considered that the organization, in 1958, of a tour of experts to study water resources development schemes in Europe and North America was most useful, and that the publication of country surveys, supplemented by the quarterly "Flood Control Journal" had offered valuable up-to-date information on projects in the region.

326. The Commission welcomed the proposal to convene, in 1959, a seminar on hydrologic networks and a working party on earth-moving, both of which problems were of importance to the region.

STATISTICS

327. The Commission commended the report of the second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians, held in December 1958, and conducted jointly by the ECAFE secretariat, the United Nations Statistical Office

and FAO (E/CN.11/493). It noted the provisional agenda for the third session of the Conference, which would include statistics for planning and development, use of sampling methods, training of statisticians, World Census of Population, World Census of Agriculture, agricultural producer prices and preliminary work on problems of internal trade statistics. The Commission felt that the approach adopted by the Conference was balanced and practical.

328. The Commission endorsed the resolution adopted by the second session of the Conference, which drew the attention of member governments of the region to the need to adopt effective and timely measures and policies designed to strengthen national statistical services in general; these measures should include, in particular, steps (a) to arrange for intensified training activities for technical personnel at various levels, (b) to examine and revise, as necessary, the organizational arrangements and position of the statistical services so as to ensure that they enjoy effective relations with the policy and planning authorities and (c) to ascertain that adequate budgetary and other administrative provisions are made to enable the statistical services to meet the increased demands placed on them.

329. The Commission recognized the importance of censuses for planning and development, and the timely contributions being made by the United Nations Statistical Office and FAO to the censuses of population and agriculture in 1960 or 1961 in most countries of the region, as part of the 1960 World Census Programme. The Commission appreciated the work of the related United Nations/FAO Programme of Assistance, aided by the Ford Foundation. The first phase, the organization of the United Nations/FAO Census Training Centre at Tokyo towards the end of 1958, had been a marked success. The Commission urged member governments to take full advantage, at the earliest moment, of the second phase of this programme of assistance, under which a number of English speaking and French speaking experts were being made available to advise governments directly on various aspects of their censuses of population and agriculture, particularly on organization, sampling and data processing. In that connexion, the Commission appreciated the plans of the United Nations to organize in 1960 a regional seminar for evaluation and utilization of census data in the ECAFE region as referred to in paragraph 269 and in resolution 28 (XV) in part III of this report. It also noted the offer of training facilities in this field by the Government of Australia.

330. The Commission approved the recommendations of the second session of the Conference to convene, in 1959, two working groups on two highly important statistical subjects, namely, sampling and methods of estimating capital formation, and noted with appreciation that financing of these groups by the Technical Assistance Programme had been assured.

331. The Commission stressed the fact that much of the success of the work of the Conference of Asian Statisticians would depend on recognition, on the part of member governments, of the importance of developing an integrated system of statistics for use in formulating plans for economic and social development and in assessing the execution and effects thereof and on **governments realizing the need to provide funds and other facilities, including training programmes, for this purpose.**

AGRICULTURE

332. The Commission took note of the activities, in 1958, of the Joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division (E/CN.11/L.66 and Add.1), and approved the programme of work proposed for the Division in 1959/1960. The Commission expressed appreciation of the good working relationships established between ECAFE and FAO as revealed by the activities of the Joint Division.

333. The Commission commended the action being taken by governments of the region to improve the institutional environment for agricultural development, especially the establishment of credit institutions to serve the special needs of cultivators. The linking of credit to the provision of improved farm requisites and to extension advice to farmers was considered particularly important as a means of ensuring the most effective use of loan funds.

334. The Commission endorsed the suggestion advanced at the fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East for a joint regional meeting of experts on problems of target setting in agriculture, and noted that this subject might be taken up under the programme of the newly established working group of experts on techniques of programming. The Commission welcomed the case study approach being adopted by the Joint Division in its studies of the impact of community development activities on village agriculture, the relationships between agricultural and industrial growth and the utilization of agricultural surpluses for economic development, and noted that such studies had already been undertaken in respect of Japan and India.

335. In accordance with the work programme approved at the Commission's fourteenth session, a joint FAO/ECAFE Technical Meeting of Agricultural Marketing Specialists would be held at New Delhi in April 1959. The Commission welcomed the appointment, by FAO, of a regional marketing specialist for Asia and the Far East.

336. The Commission endorsed the proposal that ECAFE should participate, together with FAO, in drawing up a programme of regional meetings and training centres in agricultural economics, and authorized the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of obtaining the necessary funds for the programme from the United Nations Special Fund, as well as from outside sources, including private foundations.

CO-OPERATION WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

337. The Commission took note of the extensive activities of the specialized agencies in the region, particularly the ILO, FAO and WHO, as reported in the statement by representatives of these organizations.

338. FAO had contributed to the investigations relating to the Mekong project, and was closely associated with the United Nations in the preparation of the 1960 census of population and agriculture. In these fields, and in many other projects, co-operation between ECAFE and FAO was especially close, not only owing to the Joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division but also to other means.

339. The current and prospective food and agriculture situation in the region, and priorities for the FAO programmes of work in the region, had been reviewed at the fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East in October 1958. In addition to the ac-

tivities of FAO in the region, much of FAO's work on a world basis was also of direct interest to the ECAFE region; for example, the assembly and publication of world statistics on agricultural production and trade, work on commodity problems, including that undertaken in special study groups on, for example, rice, coconut products and grains, and economic analysis of the factors underlying recent and prospective trends in agricultural production.

340. Moreover, more than half of FAO's work in the region concerned the technical aspects of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and related matters; much of this work was carried out under the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme or through regional agencies, such as the International Rice Commission, the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council and the Asian and Pacific Forestry Commission. Close co-operation was maintained with other international organizations, for example on nutrition, with WHO and UNICEF. The Commission appreciated the assurance given by FAO that it would continue, to the limit of its resources, to do all it could in hastening the agricultural development of the region.

341. The Commission noted the activities of the ILO in the region which had a bearing on the Commission's work. It welcomed the efforts of the ILO, and particularly its technical assistance work, to promote training of skilled workers, supervisors and managers for large-scale as well as small-scale industries. The Commission felt that there was a need to continuously search for new capital saving techniques which would be suitable to the conditions of the region at their present stage of development. It noted that the aim of the ILO was to promote measures to increase output *per capita* as well as per unit of capital. The scope for co-operation between ECAFE and the ILO was considerable in matters such as the studies of industrial productivity, methods of increasing output in railways and other transport undertakings, the techniques of time and motion studies, particularly in regard to earth-moving operations, and the training of management personnel, especially through the activities of productivity training centres or institutes organized in many countries of the region.

342. The Commission noted with satisfaction the increasingly effective co-operation and co-ordination of work between ECAFE and the specialized agencies through joint projects, joint sponsorship of regional meetings, inter-secretariat consultations and joint participation in technical assistance and training schemes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

343. The Commission noted with appreciation the information paper submitted by the secretariat of the Technical Assistance Board on "Technical Assistance provided to Countries and Territories of the ECAFE Region under the Expanded and Regular Programmes" (E/CN.11/495), which gave a comprehensive account of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in technical assistance in the region. The Commission also heard statements by the representative of the Technical Assistance Operations in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters.

344. The Commission noted that, in the last three years, there had been some increase in the technical assistance provided to the countries of the region by

the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Commission was aware that it would be unrealistic to expect any great increase in the resources of the programme in the near future, but noted that the experience acquired by the United Nations and governments in programming for technical assistance would result in increasing the effectiveness of the Technical Assistance Programme. Furthermore, additional resources, which might be available from the Special Fund, would ensure that a number of important projects in the region could be carried out. In that connexion, the manner in which the Mekong project has been developed illustrated how the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme could be used as a catalyst to develop a pattern of co-operation for promoting a multilateral and international project. Similarly, some other regional projects approved by the Commission were an important means of effectively utilizing the limited resources of the Technical Assistance Programme for the maximum benefit of the countries of the region as a whole. The Statistical Training Centre at Tokyo, the Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources, the Water Resources Study Tour, and the arrangements for the provision of technical assistance and advisory services in connexion with the 1960 World Census Programme were examples of effective co-operation between the ECAFE and the Technical Assistance Programme. The Commission fully realized that the work of the United Nations in the field of technical assistance and that of the Commission were complementary. In particular, it noted that the ECAFE secretariat's knowledge and experience was proving increasingly useful to the technical assistance experts working in the region. A number of projects, including meetings on technical problems in the Commission's programme of work, were related to the work of the technical assistance experts engaged under the country programmes. This, in the view of the Commission, offered scope for a great exchange of experience and knowledge between the ECAFE secretariat and the experts for closer interrelationship between the Commission's work and the country programme.

345. The Commission noted that the countries of the region were themselves making their experts, and their training, research and related facilities available to other countries in increasing amounts either through the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, the Colombo Plan, or bilateral arrangements.

346. The Commission also took note of the value of the advisory services rendered by the ECAFE secretariat at the request of governments. For example, advisory services rendered in the past year to Afghanistan had resulted in the development, by the Government, of several important projects for which it was hoped that assistance from the Special Fund would be forthcoming. The Commission felt that, in a number of fields, for example, the survey of water resources, and the development of basic surveys, such advisory services by ECAFE could lead to the eventual formation of more comprehensive programmes for surveys of resources, and the development of research, training and other institutions.

347. The Commission looked forward to a greater degree of integration of the technical assistance work of the United Nations in its regular work in the economic and social fields, through the recent merging of the programming and operational staff of the former Technical Assistance Administration with the Depart-

ment of Economic and Social Affairs with the new title of the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (TAO).

348. The Commission also noted that, under General Assembly resolution 1256 (XIII), a number of governments in the region had sought, through the United Nations, the services of experts who would perform duties of an executive or operational nature.

349. Finally, the Commission appreciated that the member countries outside the region, as also some of the countries in the region, had assured the Commission of their support of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, and also of their continued willingness to assist the under-developed countries of the region through technical assistance services rendered to them directly. It welcomed the new offers at the current session by the Governments of Australia, Iran, Israel and Japan to provide expert assistance, and training and research facilities to the countries of the region.

AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF PROCEDURE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Rules of procedure

350. The Commission noted the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-sixth session, as contained in resolution 693 (XXVI) and annex, entitled "Concentration of activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields."

351. The Commission noted that the Executive Secretary had, for the past several years, followed the practice of submitting to the Commission, at each session, the financial implications of proposals for new programmes or projects submitted to it, although there was no specific provision in that regard in the Commission's present rules of procedure. The Commission welcomed the suggestion that the rules of procedure of the Commission be so amended as to ensure that any new projects or programmes submitted to the Commission for action would be accompanied by a statement of their financial implications.

352. It therefore decided to add the following rule as number 23 in the rules of procedure of the Commission (E/CN.11/2/Rev.13):

"Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved."

353. The Commission also noted that Economic and Social Council, in resolution 694 B (XXVI), had requested the regional economic commissions, as necessary, to amend their rules of procedure in order to provide that the documentation for the agenda items was circulated to members six weeks before the beginning of the session. The Commission appreciated that, while the Executive Secretary would not be in a position to circulate the reports of those subsidiary bodies which generally met immediately before the Commission session, he would attempt to arrange the calendar of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies beginning after the sixteenth session of the Commission to such a way

as to make it possible to circulate the reports in time for the Commission session. Subject to that exception, the Commission decided to apply the six weeks limit and to amend rule 2 of its rules of procedure to read as under:

"The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two 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 48."

The rules of procedure of the Commission, as revised, are given in annex VI.

Terms of reference of the Commission

354. The Commission considered the proposals discussed by the Economic and Social Council during its 1029th and 1032nd meetings (E/SR.1029 and E/SR.1032) and at the 239th to 242nd meetings of its Economic Committee (E/AC.6/SR.239-242).

355. The Commission noted that the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 671 (XXV), stated that the new body would deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors. It recognized that the conditions in the ECAFE region were similar to those prevailing in Africa, and that already the work programme of ECAFE included studies in fields such as population, balanced economic and social development, community development and housing, both in their social and economic aspects. The Commission therefore decided unanimously to recommend to the Economic and Social Council to amend its terms of reference in such a way that the Commission would be able to deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the inter-relationship of economic and social factors.

356. The Commission appreciated the value of developing appropriate liaison and co-operation with the other regional economic commissions, and noted that, in recent years, the secretariat had intensified its co-operation with the secretariats of the other regional economic commissions. It recognized that, in a number of fields, the similarity of many problems in the territories covered by the regional economic commissions offered great scope for learning from each other's experience. It therefore decided unanimously to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its terms of reference should be amended to include a provision that it should establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

357. The Commission unanimously adopted a resolution to that effect the text of which appears as resolution 30 (XV) in part III.

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CARTOGRAPHY

358. The Commission considered resolution I on the "establishment of a regional intergovernmental cartographic commission or organization for Asia and the Far East", adopted by the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held at Tokyo, Japan, in October 1958.

359. It noted that the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 600 (XXI), had recommended that "those regional economic commissions which think it desirable consider the question of establishing cartographic committees for the purpose of periodic consultation among their members".

360. The Commission reviewed the existing machinery for promoting co-operation among member governments in the fields related to cartography, such as the preparation of a regional geological map and mineral maps in Asia and the Far East. It considered that the proposals for the preparation of a tectonic map for the region, and for the convening of a seminar on aerial survey methods and equipment, as also the need for a carefully prepared base map for Asia and the Far East, and the requirements of maps for the Mekong project, involved various techniques of cartography. The Commission was of the opinion that this work could best be developed through convening symposia, seminars or working parties on selected cartographic and mapping problems relating to the development and study of resources, in close co-operation with the Cartographic Section at Headquarters wherever appropriate, and that the question of establishing regional inter-governmental machinery for cartography might be considered at a future date, in the light of subsequent experience. The Commission noted that the secretariat did not need additional resources in its present work, since financial contributions had been made by governments for the preparation of the regional geological map, and assistance was available from the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. The report of such symposia or seminars should be considered by the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources and then submitted to the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East. The ECAFE secretariat was co-operating with the Cartographic Section in organizing regional cartographic conferences for Asia and the Far East, and that such co-operation would be continued.

FIVE-YEAR APPRAISAL OF THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME

361. The Commission commended the continued efforts made by subsidiary bodies, as well as by the secretariat, to co-ordinate the Commission's activities and "streamline" its work programme. The Commission hoped that the subsidiary bodies would continue to keep in mind the importance of "streamlining" in future years. It unanimously approved the secretariat's tentative programme of work and priorities for 1959-1960 (E/CN.11/L.64/Rev.1).

362. The Commission appreciated the realistic appraisal of its work for the period 1959-1964 made by the Executive Secretary in his report entitled "Forward Look" (E/CN.11/L.68).²³ It noted that, in future programmes, there was considerable scope for co-operation with, and assistance from, the various departments of the United Nations Secretariat, the other regional economic commissions and from the specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations and other bodies.

363. The Commission emphasized that a number of studies and investigations carried out under its work programme had given rise to increasing co-operation among members of the Commission. Some of the projects had now reached a stage where financial and other

assistance from the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, the Special Fund, and other sources could be increasingly utilized to achieve valuable results. All delegations highly commended the Executive Secretary's report. The Commission unanimously adopted a resolution, submitted jointly by India, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand, and endorsing the general lines of the Executive Secretary's report. The text of the resolution appears as resolution 29 (XV) in part III of the present report.

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

364. The Commission considered General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII) in the light of the action taken by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed twenty-sixth session. It also took note of the report and recommendations of the Committee on Control and Limitation of Documentation established under General Assembly resolution 1203 (XII) (A/3888), along with the Secretary-General's report (A/3921), on steps taken and the nature and extent of the reduction of documentation so far achieved. The Commission appreciated that, as a result of the steps taken by the Executive Secretary, the number and length of documents issued for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies had been significantly reduced. The Commission again considered the Executive Secretary's proposal, made at the fourteenth session (E/CN.11/464), to dispense with summary records for the meetings of its three committees, but was unable to accept the suggestion. However, the Commission endorsed the following proposals made by the Executive Secretary:

(a) The reports of the Commission, its committees and subsidiary bodies should be reduced in size by presenting, wherever possible, substantive matters in more concise form, by restricting the inclusion of the texts or the summaries of formal opening addresses and matters such as official designations or addresses of delegations in the list of participants.

(b) In regard to the material furnished by member countries, specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations for inclusion in the secretarial documentation or for publication as separate documents, the following principles should be borne in mind:

(i) The secretariat will state the form and volume of material required by it for documentation purposes when making a request for the material;

(ii) The secretariat will not accept, as a matter of course, the burden of processing all such papers or material received, irrespective of length;

(iii) Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental agencies will be requested to provide, whenever possible, a sufficient number of copies of their papers, which may then be distributed, with a covering note by the secretariat, to the Commission or the subsidiary bodies concerned.

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING OF NEXT SESSION

365. The Commission welcomed the invitation of the Government of Pakistan to hold its sixteenth session in Pakistan in 1960. Recalling that Pakistan had been host to the seventh session of the Commission and that the Government of Pakistan had extended its invitation at the thirteenth and the fourteenth sessions, the Commission appreciated the continuing interest of Pakistan in the work of the Commission. The Commission unanimously decided that, subject to the ap-

²³ See annex IV of the present report.

proval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the invitation of the Government of Pakistan should be accepted and that the date and the place of the session in Pakistan should be determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Government of Pakistan.

CHANGE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

366. The Commission recorded its deep appreciation of the outstanding services rendered by Mr. Narasimhan, its Executive Secretary, during his tenure of office. It congratulated him on his appointment by the Secretary-General as Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, and hoped that he would continue to take an interest in the work of the Commission. The Commission welcomed the appointment of U Nyun as Executive Secretary to succeed Mr. Narasimhan, and felt confident that it would greatly benefit from his vast experience and devotion to the United Nations.

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Part III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

27 (XV). Land settlement²⁴

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Taking note of the report of the Centre on Principles and Policies of Land Settlement in Asia and the Far East,

Considering it desirable to promote sound land settlement programmes in the ECAFE region as an effective measure for economic and social development,

1. *Commends to the member and associate member Governments the conclusions and recommendations of the Centre calling for action by Governments;*

2. *Recommends that a plan and programme for the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Centre be prepared and carried out, in particular,*

(a) *The organization of further training centres of limited duration in specific aspects of land settlement;*

(b) *The employment of a regional land settlement specialist;*

3. *Requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, to explore the possibility of taking the necessary measures and to seek the co-operation of the appropriate non-governmental organizations concerned for the early implementation of the above recommendation.*

*207th meeting,
13 March 1959.*

28 (XV). Population growth and economic development in the ECAFE region²⁵

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Having considered the accelerating rate of population growth in many ECAFE countries, and its impact on the levels of living,

Recalling its resolution 20 (XIII) on regional studies of demographic trends and economic development,

Noting with appreciation the secretariat study entitled "Population trends and related problems of economic development in the ECAFE Region",²⁶

Noting the proposal for a regional population conference in Asia made by the Inaugural Conference and Advisory Committee for the Demographic Training and Research Centre in Bombay,²⁷

²⁴ See paragraph 271 above.

²⁵ See paragraph 270 above.

²⁶ E/CN.11/L.67.

²⁷ E/CN.11/L.69.

Taking into consideration comments made by the United Nations Population Commission at its tenth session on questions concerning the population problems in the ECAFE region,²⁸

1. *Recommends that a regional seminar for evaluation and utilization of census data in the ECAFE region be organized in 1960 to assist the countries in the region to make the best use of the forthcoming population censuses;*

2. *Welcomes the recommendation of the Population Commission to the Economic and Social Council that, if possible, the next session of the Population Commission should be held in the ECAFE region, in order to focus attention on population problems of the region;*

3. *Recommends that a regional population conference be organized in 1961 or 1962 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations and the interested specialized agencies, with participation of specialists in population, economics and other related fields (including some specialists from outside the region).*

*207th meeting,
13 March 1959.*

29 (XV). The five-year appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of the Commission's programme of work²⁹

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Taking note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 665 C (XXIV) of 1 August 1957 calling for an appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of the regular United Nations programmes in the economic and social fields for the period 1959-1964,

Being of the view that the appraisal of the Commission's programme of work over the period 1959-1964, as set out in the Executive Secretary's report entitled "Forward Look",³⁰ reflects the progressively important role that the Commission can play in undertaking valuable studies and promoting concerted action in a number of fields relating to the economic development of Asia and the Far East,

1. *Endorses the general lines of the Executive Secretary's report referred to above;*

²⁸ ECAFE/42.

²⁹ See paragraph 363 above.

³⁰ E/CN.11/L.68 (see annex IV below).

2. *Notes* with satisfaction that the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1959-1960 takes into account the proposals made in the report;

3. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and other organs of the United Nations, as may be appropriate, to give sympathetic consideration to the proposals contained in the report.

*213th meeting,
19 March 1959.*

30 (XV). Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East³¹

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Having considered the discussions at the twenty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council on the proposals for amending the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe, of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Taking note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to refer these proposals to the three regional commissions concerned for their views,

I

Bearing in mind that increased attention is being given by the countries of the region to the social aspects of economic development,

Recognizing the vital interrelationship between economic and social development,

³¹ See paragraph 357 above.

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East be amended to add as a new sub-paragraph (f) of paragraph 1 of the present terms of reference³² the following provisions:

“(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors.”

II

Noting with satisfaction the growing co-operation among the regional economic commissions and recognizing the value of such co-operation in promoting interregional co-operation,

Recommends further to the Economic and Social Council that paragraph 12 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East³² be amended to read:

“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. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operate with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.”

*213th meeting,
19 March 1959.*

³² E/CN.11/29/Rev.9, dated 29 September 1958.

Part IV

**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 16 March 1958 to 19 March 1959 inclusive,³³ and of the recommendations, resolutions, and the programme of work and priorities contained in parts II, III and V respectively of that report.

*213th meeting,
19 March 1959.*

³³ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/3214).

Part V

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1959-1960

367. At its 213th meeting, held on 19 March 1959, the Commission unanimously approved the programme of work and priorities for 1959-1960 set forth below.

368. This programme was adopted in the light of the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission which had met since the last session of the Commission, namely, the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials (fifth session), the Sub-Com-

mittee on Iron and Steel (eighth session), the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fourth session), the Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, the Conference of Asian Statisticians (second session), the Highway Sub-Committee (fourth session), the Working Party on Customs Administration, the Committee on Trade (second session) and the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (eleventh session).

BASIC DIRECTIVES

369. As in the past, in preparing the programme of work and priorities, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies continued to follow a series of basic 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 in the economic and social fields, concentration and co-ordination of efforts and resources, control and limitation of documentation, pattern of conferences and related questions. Particular attention has been 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 (XVIII), 590 (XX), 597 (XXI), 604 (XXI), 630 (XXII), 664 (XXIV), 693 (XXVI) and 694 (XXVI).

CONCENTRATION AND CO-ORDINATION

370. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 693 (XXVI) adopted at its twenty-sixth session, noted with satisfaction the extent to which the principles of concentration and co-ordination had been applied in the review of programmes by the regional economic commissions and their secretariats, and the progress that had been achieved. The Council commended the intention of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, in implementing a number of projects, to use the services of such bodies as universities, national, private or public institutions or non-governmental organizations. During the past year, the following projects⁸⁴ were carried out according to the above policy, which enabled the secretariat to make the most effective use of its own resources:

Projects

- 02-04 Studies of role of expanded self-help measures in economic development, with particular reference to and
- 11-03(c) industrialization and village agriculture, and impact on village agriculture of community development respectively, were carried out with the assistance of the Planning Research and Action Institute, Lucknow, India, Joint-Commission on Rural Reconstruction, Taipei, China (Taiwan) and Socio-Economic Research Project, University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
- 11-07 Studies on marketing of agricultural products are being carried out in collaboration with the Institute of Economic and Social Research of the University of Indonesia.
- 11-08 Agricultural economics research was implemented with the help of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay, the professors of the Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan, and the Panjab University, Lahore, Pakistan, the Research Department of the Bank of Korea and the Joint-Commission on Rural Reconstruction, Taipei, China (Taiwan).
- 34-01 In the execution of this project on housing town and country planning, the co-operation was obtained of the Regional Housing Centre, Bandung, Indonesia and the Regional Housing Centre, New Delhi, India.
- 44-04 Studies of design and maintenance of railway track and
- 44-06 with a view to introducing long-welded rails, and review of methods of welding and maintenance of

⁸⁴ Project numbers refer to the programme of work and priorities as given in the *Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*, 29 March 1957-15 March 1958 (E/3102).

long-welded track, and engine utilization and running shed practices respectively, are being carried out with the help of the research establishments of the Indian Government Railways, the Japanese National Railways and the British Institute of Civil Engineers. These bodies prepared reports for the secretariat on the basis of their research work.

371. The Commission's resolution 22 (XIII) on land settlement was implemented by FAO in co-operation with TAA and the World Veterans Federation who convened a seminar and organized a Study Tour on Land Settlement.

372. Besides these specific instances of co-operation, the Commission, in general, continued to bear in mind the possibility of utilizing work by universities and research institutes in carrying out its work programme. It hoped to extend the application of this policy even further.

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

373. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 693 (XXVI), and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII), the Commission has kept under constant review the aim of reducing the number and length of the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* working parties. The total number of meetings convened in 1958 was fifteen as compared to eighteen held during 1957. The Commission has borne in mind the directives of the General Assembly in proposing its calendar of meetings for the period 1959 to 1960.

REGIONAL PROJECTS IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

374. As in the past, the Commission envisaged that the ECAFE secretariat would continue to be assisted by the Technical Assistance Programme in implementing various projects. Most of these projects, such as those concerning training, research and demonstration centres, seminars, study tours and the convening of working groups of experts, have been proposed in accordance with Council resolution 222 (IX). In addition, the Commission hoped that, at some ECAFE conferences and meetings of experts, the Technical Assistance Programme would be able to provide assistance in the form of services of experts from outside the region. It also hoped that substantial assistance would continue to be provided by the Technical Assistance Board for certain aspects of the investigations of the lower Mekong basin, and that further resources required for completing the programme of investigations would be available from the Special Fund.⁸⁵ During the past year, it was possible to achieve greater flexibility in implementing regional projects included in the Commission's work programme, through advance planning and continuous consultations between the various organs carrying out the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations and the secretariat. The Commission hoped that this flexibility would be maintained in the future and that it would be possible to carry out a greater number of regional projects, particularly pilot plants, research demonstration and training centres and comprehensive surveys of resources through such assistance as might be expected from the Special Fund.

⁸⁵ Assistance available from donor governments is described in paragraphs 320-322.

REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME

375. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission continued to bear in mind the Commission's policy that "strengthening" of the work programme should be their objective. A detailed statement of the changes in

A. New projects³⁶

- 02-02 Conference of Asian Economic Planners
- 03-02 Statistics development
- 21-07 Fourth Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development
- 33-04 Studies on electricity tariffs
- 36-07 Seminar on Aerial Survey Methods and Equipment
- 42-03 Highway transportation

D. Projects incorporated in major projects

Old projects³⁷

- 02-02 Mobilization of financial resources for economic development
- 21-07 Organizations for the execution of river basin development
- 37-08 Domestic and export marketing of handicrafts

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN ECAFE

376. The work programme of the Division of Social Affairs, while proceeding along the lines that have been developed since the Division's establishment in 1956, has become increasingly interwoven with that of the ECAFE secretariat as a whole. Increased emphasis has been placed on the role that the Division can play in contributing information on, and analyses of, the social aspects of a variety of economic development problems that constitute the field of study of the other divisions. The relevant projects form an integral part of the work programme of ECAFE. At the same time, the Division also carried on its work in the field of general social services, in which it continued to make contributions on the regional aspects of various reports and studies prepared by the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters in implementation of the work programmes of the Social and Population Commissions. These latter activities of the Division are not included in the work programme of ECAFE.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

377. In the past, the Commission had authorized the Executive Secretary, in dealing with the work projects, to convene, within the resources available, such conferences, expert working parties, meetings or panels of specialists as he might deem necessary, provided that he obtained prior approval from the governments concerned and had appropriate consultations with the competent specialized agencies. The Commission wished the Executive Secretary to continue that policy.

378. While it is desirable to have as firm a programme as possible, unforeseeable factors may make it

the programme of work and priorities resulting from the continuing review from the application of the criteria adopted by the Commission at its thirteenth session is given below. The total number of projects proposed in the present work programme is 83 as compared with 85 in the previous one.

B. Projects completed³⁷

- 02-05 Timber trends and prospects
- 21-08 Group visits of experts to water resources development schemes in Europe and North America
- 31-02 Seminar on Regional Planning

C. Projects deleted³⁷

- 03-02 Statistical organization and activities
- 11-04 Factors influencing demand for foodstuffs

New projects³⁸

- 02-01 Economic development and planning (c)
- 21-01 Multiple-purpose river basin development (d)
- 32-02 Economic aspects of production and marketing techniques of cottage and small-scale industries.

necessary to alter or abandon certain projects or to establish different priorities. For that reason, the Commission, as in the past, left it to the discretion of the Executive Secretary to modify or defer projects or establish different priorities within the framework of the approved programme, should he feel that unforeseen developments make that necessary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

379. The Commission noted the statement of the Executive Secretary that he would attempt to carry out, in 1959, the proposed work programme within the staff resources available to the secretariat, as provided in the 1959 budget approved by the General Assembly at its thirteenth session.

380. However, as from 1960, additional staff resources would be required to carry out the programme outlined in this report. To meet immediate needs, the Commission agreed that the Executive Secretary should submit, in his budget proposals for 1960, a request for one or two additional substantive professional posts as a first step towards augmenting staff resources. The Commission felt that it would be necessary to reassess the financial implications of the programme in the light of the action that might be taken by the Economic and Social Council in regard to the appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of the United Nations programme for the period 1959-1964 [Council resolution 665 C (XXIV)]. The secretariat would also have to be strengthened in 1960 in respect of its servicing staff, particularly languages personnel, secretaries, computers and general service personnel, who were at present somewhat overworked.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

381. The proposed programme of work is divided into six broad divisions, namely: I. General projects (including research and planning, and technical assistance and advisory services); II. Agriculture; III.

³⁶ Project numbers refer to the annotated list of projects in this document.

³⁷ Project numbers refer to the annotated list of projects given in the Commission Annual Report (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. Twenty-sixth session, Supplement No. 2, E/3102*).

Flood control and water resources development; IV. Industry and natural resources; V. Trade and VI. Inland transport and communications. It has not been found practicable or useful to attempt a determination of priorities between these broad divisions or between the sections thereof.

382. Within each of those six divisions, or within each section of those divisions, projects are listed in accordance with Council resolution 402 B (XIII), in the following three groups:

Group 1. Continuing projects and activities of high priority

383. This group 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 contemplated are to be submitted from time to time. Each study may differ from, and supplement, the others in respect of the countries, substance, problem and period covered. No relative priorities are assigned to projects within this group, or as between groups 1 and 2.

Group 2. Ad hoc projects of high priority

384. This group consists of non-recurrent projects, the approximate duration of which 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 recommendations of the Council and its Co-ordination Committee, an estimate is given of the probable duration of virtually all projects in group 2. No relative priorities are assigned to projects within this group, or as between groups 1 and 2.

Group 3. Other projects

385. This group consists of projects which, in view of staff and budget limitations, will have to be deferred for the present and also, probably, in 1960 or 1961. An estimate duration of work or date of completion is shown for virtually every *ad hoc* project in this group. Within this group, projects are listed in the order of priority. Thus, if and when resources become available, the projects may be taken up in each division or section in the order listed.

386. The criteria used in proposing the distribution of projects in the above three groups include an estimate both of the basic importance of each project concerned, and of the most effective way of utilizing available resources.

Annotated List of Projects for 1959 and 1960

(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 Programme has been accorded 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)
Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission and Commission resolutions E/CN.11/63, 8 December 1947, and E/CN.11/222, 28 October 1949; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Publication annually of the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*. Survey and analysis of the current economic situation and problems in the region.

01-02

Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East (quarterly)

Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission and Commission resolutions E/CN.11/63, 8 December 1947, and E/CN.11/222, 28 October 1949; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Contents include 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*⁸⁸

Authority:

Commission resolution 16 (XII), 1956; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Analytical survey of economic development and of economic development planning 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 both national and international aspects, with special reference to the ECAFE region;
- (c) Analysis of the means of achieving an adequate and steady flow of domestic and international financial resources for the economic development of the countries of the ECAFE region, including studies of methods of raising the rate of domestic saving by private and by governmental action, increasing and stabilizing foreign exchange earnings, and enlarging the inflow of capital from both public and private sources;
- (d) Studies of techniques of programming economic development, including methods of economic projection, adapted to the conditions of the countries in the ECAFE region.

02-02

Conference of Asian Economic Planners

Authority:

Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, fourth session, 1958; Commission resolution 16 (XII), 1956; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) It is proposed that the first plenary session of the Conference be held in 1961 to review (i) the main findings of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning and of groups of experts to date, and (ii) the current status of economic development and planning in the ECAFE region.
- (b) Fifth session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning is to

⁸⁸ In co-ordination with projects 11-03 and 31-01.

be held in September 1959 on the subject of social and economic development. Previous session: 1955, on problems and techniques of economic development planning and programming; 1956, on development policies and means of implementing development programmes; 1957, jointly with FAO, on the agricultural sector; 1958, on industrialization.

- (t) (c) Groups of experts to be convened from time to time on technical aspects. It is expected that the first group, on programming techniques, will be convened in 1959, in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme.

02-03 *Population growth and economic development*

Authority:

Commission resolution 20 (XIII); Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Analysis of the interrelationship between population growth and economic development in the ECAFE region; in co-operation with the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

02-04 *Role of expanded self-help measures in economic development with particular reference to industrialization and village agriculture*

(s)

Authority:

Commission, eleventh session, 1955; fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Analysis of the contribution of community development to national economic development in Asia and the Far East. In co-operation with the ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division and United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs. Date of completion, 1959 or 1960.³⁹

3. Statistics

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

03-01 *Statistical compilation*

Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission; Commission resolution E/CN.11/223/Rev.1, fifth session, 1949; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

- (s) Description:

- (a) Maintenance of basic statistical series for ECAFE countries, including series regularly published in the *Economic Bulletin*. This involves close liaison with statisticians of the region and collaboration with the Statistical Office of the United Nations as well as with the specialized agencies;
- (b) Compilation of statistics for the *Economic Survey* and other recurrent and special projects of the secretariat.

03-02 *Statistics development*

Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission; Commission resolution E/CN.11/223/Rev.1, fifth session, 1949; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959; Conference of Asian Statisticians, second session, 1958.

Description:

In collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office:

- (a) Continuing study of statistical methods and standards, with a view to improving and enlarging the existing statistical basis in the ECAFE region and promoting international comparability;
- (b) Advice and assistance to member governments of the region in formulating and implementing long-range programmes of development of statistics and in building up statistical systems to meet the needs of planning and development;
- (c) Promotion of fuller participation by countries of the region in the 1960 World Census Programme, including the Programme of Technical Assistance (UN/FAO). Study and dissemination of census plans and activities, preparation of periodic progress reports, and advice in regard to census techniques and methods. In collaboration with FAO;
- (d) Assistance and advice in the use of sampling methods and in the establishment of sample survey units. Collection and dissemination of information on sampling techniques and on sample surveys in different fields of application;
- (e) Study of the statistical personnel requirements in the ECAFE countries, and of the training and other needs related to fulfilment of those requirements. Assistance in developing methods of training, and in promoting measures to secure the requisite training and other facilities.

03-03 *Conference of Asian Statisticians*

Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission; Commission resolution E/CN.11/223/Rev.1, fifth session, 1949; Commission resolution 21 (XIII), thirteenth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Third session of the Conference to be held in 1960 to consider basic industrial and mineral statistics, agricultural producer prices, internal trade statistics, censuses, statistical manpower and training, sample surveys, etc. (Organization meeting was held in April 1957; second session in December 1958.)
- (b) Working parties or groups of experts to be convened from time to time on selected statistical problems. Working groups on sampling and on methods of estimating capital formation expected to be organized in 1959. In co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme.
- The Conference and related activities are jointly sponsored by the Commission and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

03-04 *Budget reclassification*

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

(t)

Description:

Third workshop on budget reclassification and management to be convened in 1960, in co-operation with the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs and the Technical Assistance Programme. (Previous workshops in 1955 and 1957.)

³⁹ In co-ordination with projects 11-03 and 31-01.

A questionnaire designed to introduce a uniform system of reporting on budgetary data is being prepared for circulation to member governments before the third workshop.

B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

04-01 *Advisory services* (s,t)

Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

The secretariat, within available resources and in consultation with TAB, Department of Economic and Social Affairs 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 its economic development programme.

04-02 *Co-operation in the technical assistance programme* (t)

Authority:

Terms of reference of the Commission; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Assistance in the development of the technical assistance activities of the United Nations upon request of the competent bodies, as appropriate;
- (b) Co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme 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;
- (d) Exploring the possibility of providing in-service training for economists from Asia and Africa in the ECAFE secretariat from 1960 onwards.

II. AGRICULTURE⁴⁰

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* (s)

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Supply of information on food and agricultural matters required for:

- (a) All ECAFE studies with food and agricultural implications, particularly the annual and semi-annual economic surveys;
- (b) FAO Regional Office and headquarters and FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Far East.

⁴⁰ This work programme on agriculture is based on the decisions of the Commission at its fourteenth session and on the proposals agreed between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE in the light of developments since the fourteenth session of the Commission.

11-02 (s)

Agricultural financing and credit

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Collection, analysis and dissemination of information regarding institutions and methods being developed in countries of the region for the provision of finance and credit for agricultural development. (First report published in 1957—further report to be completed in 1960.)

11-03 (s)

Agricultural development and planning⁴¹

Authority:

Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (third session), September 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Studies of agricultural development and plans, including:

- (a) Study and review of agricultural development plans of countries of the region, with special attention to the methods of agricultural planning and demand forecasting being followed, and the implications for countries of the region of development plans and policies of other countries: (first report published in 1957; second in 1958; third to be completed in 1959);
- (b) Joint ECAFE/FAO technical meeting of experts on target setting in agricultural development planning, to be held in 1959 or 1960;
- (c) Relationships between the growth of agriculture and industry in expanding economies of countries of the region (report to be completed in 1960);
- (d) Impact on village agriculture of community development activities (studies integrated with project 02-04—report to be completed in 1959).

11-04 (s)

Food and agricultural price policies

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Collection, analysis and dissemination of information regarding food and agricultural price policies and agricultural support policies in countries of the region. (First report published in 1955; second completed in 1958, third to be completed in 1961.)

11-05 (s)

Agricultural surpluses for economic development

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Studies on the disposal of agricultural surpluses, with special reference to the procedures and problems involved in the utilization in the region of agricultural surpluses for economic development. (Report on Japan completed in 1958; further case studies to be undertaken in 1959.)

11-06 (s,t)

Marketing of agricultural products⁴²

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

⁴¹ In co-ordination with projects 02-01, 02-04 and 31-01.

⁴² In co-ordination with project 37-05.

Description:

- (a) Studies of marketing problems and methods in relation to selected products, such as sugar, rice, tobacco, dairy products and meat. National studies to be undertaken as far as possible by national institutions, with possible Expanded Technical Assistance Programme or other assistance; regional aspects to be dealt with by the secretariat;
- (b) Joint FAO/ECAFE Technical Meeting of Agricultural Marketing Specialists, to be held in 1959.

11-07 *Agricultural economic research*
(s)

Authority:

Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Collection and dissemination of information on agricultural economic studies and research in countries of the region. (Report completed in 1958; further report to be completed in 1961.)
- (b) Improvement of agricultural economic services and facilities for training and research; problems to be studied and assistance given to governments in planning improvements.
- (c) Preparation of a programme of regional meetings and training centres in agricultural economics; in co-operation with FAO.

III. FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

21-01 *Multiple-purpose river basin development*⁴³
(s)

Authority:

Commission, seventh session 1951; fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

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; study and analysis of problems and difficulties encountered; initiation of a comprehensive review of water resources development in the region;
- (b) Preparation of detailed reports on various specific subjects;
- (c) Analysis of planning and execution of selected multiple-purpose projects in the region;
- (d) 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.

21-02 *Flood control and water resources development of international rivers*⁴³
(s,t)

Authority:

Commission, sixth session, 1950; fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of technical problems of flood control and water resources development of international rivers in the region and promotion of co-operation among the countries concerned. Servicing,

assisting and advising the Committee on Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin. Provision of substantive and other forms of assistance to the United Nations Secretariat, TAB, specialized agencies and others participating in the programme of investigations of the lower Mekong basin.

21-03 *Flood control methods*

Authority:

Commission, sixth session, 1950; Third Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Improvement of flood control methods, including a joint study of various specific problems with technical organizations of the region. The 1959 work programme is a continuation of the study, initiated in 1954, of methods employed in earthwork construction with particular emphasis on the effective use of manual labour and machines in earthwork construction. When practicable, the scope of the study to be expanded to include steps appropriate to the sound use and maintenance of mechanical construction equipment. The various aspects as above to be studied by the Working Party proposed in project 21-06.

21-04 *Hydrologic studies*⁴⁴
(s)

Authority:

Commission, seventh session, 1951; Third Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of major deficiencies in hydrologic data (joint ECAFE/WMO project).

- (a) Hydrologic deficiencies.
- (b) Interregional Seminar on Hydrologic Network and Methods to be convened jointly by ECAFE and WMO at Bangkok in 1959.
- (c) Groundwater resources. Attention of the countries of the region to be drawn to the importance of their initiating studies concerning the extent and nature of their groundwater resources.

21-05 *Dissemination of technical information on flood control works and water resources development*

Authority:

Commission, sixth session, 1950; fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Publication of the *Flood Control Series* and the "Flood Control Journal", and distribution of technical reports and publications.

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

21-06 *Convening of a Working Party on Earth-Moving Operations in the ECAFE Region*⁴⁵
(s,t)

Authority:

Economic and Social Council resolution 597 A (XXI) and 618 (XXII): Third Regional Tech-

⁴⁴ This project was formerly entitled "Hydrologic Observations and Hydraulic Research Stations". In future it is proposed to deal with the latter part, namely, "Hydraulic Research Stations" under project 21-05. The five aspects of hydrologic studies already in hand, as approved by the Commission in earlier sessions under this project, have been regrouped here under the title "Hydrologic Studies".

⁴⁵ In co-ordination with projects 36-02, 42-01, 43-01 and 44-04.

⁴³ In co-ordination with project 43-01.

nical Conference on Water Resources Development, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

The Working Party will deal with problems of improving the efficiency and performance and reducing the cost of earth-moving operations in various types of multiple-purpose water resources development projects, canals, highways, railroads, etc., and certain types of mining operations carried out in the region, as regards manual labour, mechanized operations and combinations of both, taking into account the relevant conditions in the countries of the region; selection of equipment; problems of repair, maintenance and spare parts; training of labour for operation and maintenance, and improvement of cost accounting methods. Co-operation of the International Labour Organisation has been sought as regards the problems of training labour. The Working Party to be convened in the second half of 1959 under the joint sponsorship of ECAFE and the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs and in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme.

- 21-07 *Fourth Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development* (1960)
(f)

Authority:

Commission, sixth session, 1950.

Description:

It is proposed to hold a Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development in 1960. Preparatory work for this Conference to be commenced in 1959. The three earlier conferences were held in 1951 at New Delhi, in 1954 at Tokyo and 1957 at Manila. Co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme to be sought.

IV. INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

A. GENERAL

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 31-01 *Industrial development and planning*⁴⁶

Authority:

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

(a) Study of the problems and techniques of industrial planning and development, including problems relating to specific industries of major importance to the region, to cover metal and engineering industries, chemical industries, cement, etc. To hold the first working party in 1960 on development of basic chemical industries in the ECAFE region (sulphuric acid, common salt, soda ash and caustic soda). Working Parties on other specific industries to be convened in subsequent years.

(b) Report on "Progress and Problems of Industrialization in the Region" to be submitted to the twelfth session of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources. Continuing review by the Committee of progress and problems of industrial development.

(c) Dissemination of technical information on organization and administration of industrial establishments.⁴⁷

(d) Study of the "Techniques and Problems of Mechanization of Small Industries" to be submitted to the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources.

(f) United Nations Seminar on Management of Industrial Enterprises in the Public Sector to be convened in December 1959, in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 31-02 *Far Eastern Meeting of Experts on Pulp and Paper Industry*
(s,t)

Authority:

Commission, thirteenth session, 1957; fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

To be convened in 1960 jointly by ECAFE and FAO: participants to include leading specialists from countries outside the region. Co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme to be sought. Agenda to include, *inter alia*, manufacture of newsprint from raw materials available in the region, and manufacture of pulp and paper from bamboo and other non-wood materials.

- 31-03 *Integrated study of fuel and power resources and demands of countries of the ECAFE region*

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, second session, 1956; Sub-Committee on Electric Power, sixth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study to cover current and potential resources, production, and requirements of power and fuels in countries of the region, techniques of forecasting demand for power and fuels, costs of production, marketing and prices, comparison of advantages and disadvantages of various sources of power and kinds of fuels and the best methods of utilizing them.

B. COTTAGE AND SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 32-01 *Promotion and co-ordination of research and experiments and dissemination of technical information*

Authority:

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Reports of research, experiments, new processes and techniques in selected industries to be furnished by countries to the Working Party. Emphasis in disseminating technical information by the secretariat to be given to cottage and small-scale industries and research centres.

- 32-02 *Economic aspects, production and marketing techniques of cottage and small-scale industries*

Authority:

Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, fifth session, 1957; Com-

⁴⁶ In co-ordination with projects 02-01 and 11-03.

⁴⁷ In co-ordination with project 21-01 (d).

mittee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

(s,t)

Description:

Studies of economic aspects of selected industries, including problems of organization and management, financing, training, protection from imports, and studies of competitive relations with large-scale domestic manufacturers, including production and marketing; assistance to countries in the development of domestic and export marketing in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme and the ILO. Statistical data, information and memoranda to be furnished by governments at an early date. The Working Party will study the problems of the fruit and food canning and preserving industry at its sixth session in 1959, at Singapore. The Working Party, at a later date, will cover other specific cottage and small-scale industries in the region.

32-03 *Common-facility services for cottage and small-scale industries, including methods of standardization*

Authority:

Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, fifth session, 1957; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Reports 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 in selected cottage industries. Next report to include studies of experiences gained and difficulties encountered in selected small-scale industries and a review of progress and problems of small-scale industries in the region to be completed in 1959.

C. ELECTRIC POWER

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

33-01 *Dissemination of technical information and data*

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Electric Power, sixth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Special articles of regional interest to be circulated from time to time including (i) data and details of recently constructed power stations, transmission systems, etc. in the region and outside the region; (ii) technical reports regarding progress of assessment of hydroelectric potentials in the countries of the region; (iii) reports describing difficulties encountered in the surveys of assessment of hydroelectric potentials in the countries of the region; (iv) publications of international and national standards institutes; (v) information regarding estimates of future demands for power prepared by countries of the region including trends relating to demands of power by different categories of consumption.
- (b) Publication of "Electric Power Bulletin" annually. The bulletin to include (i) sta-

tistics and other data on generation and capacity by types of plants; (ii) transmission lines by length and voltage; (iii) consumption of fuels by types and quantities; (iv) efficiencies and load factors attained; (v) utilization by heavy and light industries and other categories of consumers; (vi) progress in rural electrification; (vii) accidents to life and property.

- (c) Electrical equipment manufacture in countries of the region. To collect and disseminate information on the growth of manufacturing industries dealing with the electrical plant and equipment, on items such as power transmitters, electric motors, switch gear, insulators and conductors required by the electricity supply systems, and electrical consumer goods, such as lamps, wires, domestic electric appliances, etc.
- (d) Technical data relating to specific projects for generation and transmission of electric power and significant details of projects, on request from interested countries.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

33-02 *Rural electrification* (s,t)

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Electric Power, sixth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Convening of a working party in conjunction with FAO on the use of wood poles for rural electrification. Assistance to the countries of the region in preparing their programmes of rural electrification with particular reference to the application of electricity to rural industries and farm use. Co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme on specific schemes to be sought by the countries concerned.

33-03 *Study on thermal electric power plant*

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Electric Power, sixth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

As a follow-up of the recommendation of the study group of electric power experts of the region who visited Europe, the United States and the Soviet Union in 1956, detailed studies to be undertaken on (i) steam boiler plant burning low-grade coal; (ii) economy resulting from the use of larger units and with high pressure and high temperature in steam power plants; (iii) improved practices of boiler maintenance.

33-04 *Studies on electricity tariffs*

Authority:

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Scientific bases for formulating electricity tariffs; methods of apportionment of costs and fixing rates for electricity in multiple-purpose projects; concept of profit in public utility industries; effect of tariff rates on the growth of industries; promotional tariff rates.

D. 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)

Authority:

Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, fifth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Convening periodic working parties of experts from member countries to review the technical, economic and social problem of housing including basic problems of building materials; to recommend measures for the promotion of housing and the development of building and building material industries; and to promote international co-operation in this regard in close collaboration with the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, the Technical Assistance Programme, FAO, 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.
- (c) Collection and dissemination of information including the preparation of studies and other documents on technical, economic, and social problems of housing, protected water supply and drainage, basic problems of building materials, results of research, experimentation and pilot projects to develop building materials and construction techniques, standardization of building components and aided self-help methods.
- (d) Periodic review of the housing situation and housing and building programmes in the region, in relation to economic and social development.

34-02 *Regional housing centres* (s,t)

Authority:

Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, fifth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Follow-up action to assist, as appropriate, the regional housing centres for the arid and humid tropical zones of the region in their various activities. To seek further co-operation from the Technical Assistance Programme if required by the countries concerned and to co-operate with other interested agencies.
- (b) To assist the regional housing centres' advisory committee with a view to strengthening the regional activities of the centres.

34-03 *Study tour by housing and building material experts from countries of the region*

Authority:

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, tenth session, 1958; Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, fifth session, 1958; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

To observe and study the latest developments, in countries to be visited, relating to methods

and techniques of programming for housing and newly industrialized areas, methods and techniques of building constructions on a mass scale, progress in the building material industries and in the organizational, administrative and research aspects of building development. It is proposed that the study tour be undertaken in 1960 and co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme sought.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

34-04 *Study of costs in building industry*

Authority:

Working Party on Housing and Building Materials, fifth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

A survey of building costs in the countries of the region. The study to include a comparative analysis of costs in the building industry in various countries of the region. The other issues to be covered include:

- (a) Administrative and organizational arrangements;
- (b) Standards of accommodation;
- (c) Architectural design;
- (d) Structural design;
- (e) Cost of materials;
- (f) Rates of wages for labour in the building industry;
- (g) Capital and running cost of builders' equipment.

Preliminary study to be completed by December 1959 for the sixth session of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials.

E. METALS AND ENGINEERING

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

35-01 *Survey of iron and steel producing industry and consuming industries and trade in ECAFE countries*

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, eighth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Iron and steel manufacturing industry—Continuing study of plans and problems of iron and steel industry and trade in ECAFE countries; dissemination of technical and economic information relating to such problems and to training of personnel. Periodic publication of the "Iron and Steel Bulletin". (Next Bulletin to be issued in 1960.)
- (b) Steel consuming industries—An over-all review of the plans and problems of the light, medium and heavy engineering industries, including a detailed survey of foundries in the ECAFE region.
- (c) Metal producing industries—Review of the status of major metal producing industries (other than iron and steel) in ECAFE countries.
- (d) Promotion of intraregional and international co-operation—Exploration of possibility of co-operation between two or three ECAFE countries to set up iron and steel and allied industries.

- 35-02 *Dissemination of information on technical and economic aspects of selected techniques in the iron, steel and other metals and engineering industries of interest to ECAFE countries*

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, eighth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

This will include information and materials on ore beneficiation, new processes of making, shaping and treating iron, steel and other metals, manufacture of engineering products, electrodes and refractories, foundry techniques and techniques of scrap collection and preparation, and on, a selective basis, information regarding engineering industries.

- 35-03 *Study of consumption trends and future demand*

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, eighth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

- (a) Periodic study of consumption trends and future demand for steel in countries of the ECAFE region. Next report to be completed in 1960.
- (b) Study of consumption trends for other metals and engineering products in ECAFE countries—To be taken up later.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 35-04 *Follow-up action on the study of iron and steel experts to Europe*
(s,t)

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, eighth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

- (a) Survey of demand for ferro-alloys and alloy steels;
- (b) Convening of a seminar on manufacture of iron without coking coals;
- (c) Organization of a study tour of Asian experts to advanced countries to observe techniques in the iron and steel consuming industries;
- (d) Exploring the possibility of organizing training courses in Japan and India;
- (e) Exploring the possibility of establishing a Regional Iron and Steel Research Institute.

- 35-05 *Iron and steel specifications*

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, eighth session, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

Study of possibilities of evolving uniform regional standards and of convening of an *ad hoc* working party on regional standard specifications.

F. MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 36-01 *Regional geological, mineral and tectonic maps and related activities*

Authority :

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

Preparation, review and revision of regional maps in co-operation with the International Geological Congress, the United Nations Cartographic Office and expert working bodies of ECAFE. Follow-up action arising from the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Party of Senior Geologists with its broadened terms of reference. The regional geological map completed in 1958 is to be published in 1959. Regional mineral distribution maps to be completed in 1960/61. Oil and natural gas map of the region to be completed before 1962.

- 36-02

Regional mining development review

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, second and third sessions, 1956 and 1957; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

Periodic review of current mining activities in the region including discoveries of new mineral deposits, development of new mines, installation and expansion of mineral processing plants, and economic aspects of mineral production.⁴⁸ The review is to include statistics on mineral production both in quantity and value; also salient features such as better production methods developed in other regions. Earlier reports have reviewed progress from 1945 to 1957. Review to include studies on mineral trade.

- 36-03

Dissemination of information relating to methods of exploration, exploitation and processing of minerals, and technical studies on selected minerals

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, third session, 1957; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description :

- (a) Dissemination of information on radioactive minerals, aerial survey methods, use of helicopters, and improvements in existing methods of exploration, exploitation and extraction of all minerals; and equipment used therefor.
- (b) Technical studies so far completed cover coal, iron ore, aluminium, sulphur, kaolin and ilmenite ore. Studies in respect of ores of copper, lead, zinc to be undertaken in 1959. Studies on ores of tungsten, tin and rare elements to follow.
- (c) Dissemination of information and study on mineral conservation measures.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

- 36-04 *Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources of Asia and the Far East*
(t)

Authority :

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, third session, 1957; Symposium on the Development of Petroleum Resources of Asia and the Far East, 1958; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

⁴⁸ In co-ordination with project 20-06.

Description:

First meetings of the Symposium held in 1958; proceedings of the first meeting to be published in early 1959; second meeting to be held in 1962/63. Follow-up action arising from the conclusions and recommendations of the first Symposium to be undertaken including:

- (a) Standardization and publication of petroleum industry statistics of the region and the reporting of petroleum exploration activities;
- (b) Study of the possibility of establishing regional petroleum institute(s) for Asia and the Far East;
- (c) Exchange of information on petroleum resources development;
- (d) Co-ordination of stratigraphic correlation between sedimentary basins of the region;
- (e) Study on the possibility of manufacturing petroleum exploration and production equipment in the region through international co-operation and/or co-operation with the manufacturing industry outside the region;
- (f) Compilation of case histories of the discovery and development of oilfields in the region.

36-05 *Working Groups of Experts on Mining Legislation*
(s,t)

Authority:

Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

The report of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs is now before the countries of the region. The working group will pool experience and assess the effectiveness of various forms of legislation in promoting the further development and conservation of mineral resources. Co-operation of the ILO to be sought in regard to legislation on health and safety. Assistance of the Technical Assistance Programme and United Nations Office of Legal Affairs required. The Working Group is to meet in 1960.

36-06 *Study tour of geologists and mining experts from ECAGE region to the United States of America and Canada*
(t)

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, second session, 1956; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

To arrange, in co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme and host countries concerned, a tour for the study of current practices, and processes and equipment used in the United States and Canada for prospecting, mining and extracting minerals. Study tour to be undertaken in 1959.

36-07 *Seminar on Aerial Survey Methods and Equipment*
(t)

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, third session, 1957; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

In co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme and the United Nations Cartographic Office, to convene the Seminar in 1959.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

36-08 *Classification and utilization of coals of the region*

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, third session, 1957; Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, eleventh session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Framing a draft classification of coals mined in the countries of the region, and a study of their proper utilization. International exchange and laboratory investigation of coal samples to be promoted in co-operation with ECE.

V. TRADE

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

37-01 *Development of trade and trade promotion services*

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Trade, first session, 1958; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Review of developments in the trade and commercial policies of ECAGE countries, and assistance to national trade promotion agencies by furnishing information and advice on problems of trade policy and promotion including organization of training courses and seminars in trade promotion techniques and services.
- (b) Report on current developments in trade and trade policies submitted to the second session of the Committee on Trade in 1959. Next report to be presented to the Committee at its third session in 1960.
- (c) Review of developments relating to the European Common Market and the proposed Free Trade Area in Europe. Report presented to the second session of the Committee on Trade in January 1959. Work to be continued in co-operation with member governments GATT, the secretariat of the European Economic Commission and other international bodies concerned.
- (d) Secretariat work to be continued on other questions of trade policy, namely, import and export licensing policies, export promotion techniques, state trading, and long-term agreements and bulk contracts.

37-02 *Clearing house for collection and dissemination of commercial information not generally available to the countries of the region*

Authority:

Commission, sixth session, 1950; Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Trade, first session, 1958; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Publication of "Trade Promotion News"; collection and dissemination of information on national trade promotion agencies, international fairs and exhibitions, trade missions, commercial intelligence and market research activities, trade promotion techniques, commercial arbitration, standardization of commodities and products, certification and marketing procedure, and shipping rates and availabilities.

37-03 *Methods of expanding international trade*

Authority:

Commission, tenth session, 1954; Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Commission, thirteenth session, 1957; Committee on Trade, first session, 1958; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Study on methods of expanding international trade with a view to removing obstacles to trade.
- (b) Study of trade in selected commodities and capital goods. Preliminary report on trade in minerals and mineral products (coal and iron ore) submitted to the Committee on Trade, second session. Work to be continued on trade in other mineral products, including graphite, tin, chromite, aluminium, copper, lead, manganese, sulphur, zinc, tungsten and antimony.
- (c) Stabilization of markets and prices of primary commodities of the region; secretariat to keep the Committee on Trade informed of the activities of other international bodies concerned in this field.
- (d) *Intra-regional trade*: Intraregional trade promotion talks among interested member countries of the region convened in January 1959, as recommended by the Commission at its fourteenth session. Next round of intraregional trade promotion talks to be convened in 1960.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

37-04 *Regulations, procedures and practices concerning the conduct of international trade*

Authority:

Commission, eleventh session, 1955; Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Trade, first session, 1958; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) 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.
- (b) First report issued in November 1956; report revised with the assistance of governments and to be issued in printed form in 1959.
- (c) Working Party on Customs Administration, in co-operation with interested international organizations, to formulate practical recommendations for the simplification of customs formalities and procedures with a view to facilitating the flow of international trade. First session of the Working Party convened in November 1958. Next session to be convened in first half of 1960. Work to include the following:
 - (i) Review of implementation of the recommendations of the first meeting of the Working Party by countries of the region;
 - (ii) Possibilities of agreements among groups of countries; especially contiguous countries in the ECAFE region, on freer movement of goods and passengers;
 - (iii) Survey of training facilities in customs administration;

- (iv) Association of trade interests with customs authorities in an advisory capacity;
- (v) Procedures for safe storage of goods while in customs custody and compensation for losses or damage to goods while in customs custody;
- (vi) The role of customs brokers/customs clearance agents;
- (vii) Procedures for dealing with claims for refunds and drawbacks and methods for ensuring quick settlement of such claims.

37-05

*Market analysis*⁴⁹

Authority:

Commission, seventh session, 1951; Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Survey of selected products of countries of the ECAFE region. Report on coconut and coconut products completed and submitted to the Sub-Committee on Trade in 1956.
- (b) Report on market analysis of spices and spice products submitted to the Committee on Trade and its second session in 1959. Next study on marketing of jute and jute products to be carried out in co-operation with FAO.

37-06

(f)

Organization of training courses in trade promotion

Authority:

Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Trade, first session, 1958; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

In co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme it is proposed to organize a Training Centre in trade promotion in Japan in 1959, and in India in 1961, with host facilities to be provided by the two Governments.

37-07

Commercial arbitration facilities

Authority:

Commission, ninth session, 1953; Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Promotion, in co-operation with the appropriate national and international organizations concerned, of arbitral facilities in the region, and assistance to countries in the formulation of laws, rules and regulations on arbitral procedure, incorporation of standard arbitral clauses in trade contracts and enforcement of international arbitral awards.
- (b) Work to include (i) collection and dissemination of information about laws, regulations and court decisions and similar documents bearing on commercial arbitration; and (ii) analysis and comments on the information obtained. In co-operation with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. Report submitted to the Committee on Trade at its session, 1959. Next report to be presented to the Committee on Trade, third session, 1960, will include an analysis of the problems and difficulties experienced by the

⁴⁹ In co-ordination with project 11-06.

countries of the region in the field of commercial arbitration.

37-08 *Study on ocean freight rates*

Authority:

Commission, eleventh session, 1955; Sub-Committee on Trade, second session, 1956; Committee on Industry and Trade, ninth session, 1957; Committee on Trade, second session, 1959; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) 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 appropriate national and international organizations. Reports presented by the secretariat to the Sub-Committee on Trade in 1956 and to the Committee on Trade at its second session in 1959.
- (b) Continuing review by the Committee of measures taken by the countries of the region to improve port facilities, to increase national shipping and to achieve equitable freight rates and adequate shipping services and routes for their foreign trade, especially exports. Secretariat to continue to study the above questions in co-operation with governments and appropriate international organizations.

VI. INLAND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. GENERAL

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

41-01 *Collection, analysis and dissemination of information*

Authority:

Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Inland Transport, 1950; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Collection, analysis and dissemination of information with regard to general transport problems, railways, highways and inland waterways;
- (b) Library and film service;
- (c) Publication of a quarterly "Transport Bulletin".

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

41-02 *Co-ordination of transport*

(t)

Authority:

Inland Transport Committee, first session, 1951; Working Party on Co-ordination of Transport, 1958; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Working parties to be convened on subjects approved by the Inland Transport Committee on such aspects as uniformity of systems of accounting, statistical procedures and problems of tariff co-ordination, the state in relation to transport, taxation, subsidies and obligations imposed on transport, techniques and organization of inter carrier traffic. First Working Party convened in December 1958. In co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

41-03 *Comparative studies of freight-rate structures in transport undertakings*

Authority:

Inland Transport Committee, seventh session, 1958; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Studies of principles and methods of preparation of freight rates for different types of inland transport with special reference to cost of transport, adequate returns on capitalization and quality of service.

B. HIGHWAYS

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

(see also project 41-01)

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

42-01 *Road construction and maintenance*⁵⁰

(a) *Bituminous construction terminology*

Authority:

Highway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1958; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Preparation of standardized technical terminology used in bituminous construction. The preparation of the glossary will be undertaken in consultation with the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, Paris, in order to conform to any similar terminology prepared by it.

(b) *Highway financing and administration*

Description:

Detailed studies of current methods of highway financing and administration both within and outside the ECAFE region, with a view to formulating recommendations for adoption by the countries of the region. Final report 1959.

42-02 *International Highways*

(t)

Authority:

Highway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1958; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study and review of, and recommendations on, development of international highways in the ECAFE region with special reference to laying down technical standards. Financial and other aspects which would facilitate international traffic also to be studied. Convening of area working parties of experts from contiguous countries for formulating recommendations. Co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme to be sought.

42-03 *Highway transportation*

(t)

Authority:

Highway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1958; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Studies will include various aspects of the operation, management and financing of highway transport with special reference to governmental control and financial aspects. The secretariat will, in consultation with the Technical Assistance Programme, examine the possibility of arranging a seminar to discuss the organizational, operational and financial aspects of highway transport, as well as the possibilities of arranging a study tour to advanced countries in Europe and America to observe current development in this field.

⁵⁰ In co-ordination with project 21-06.

- (a) Studies on operational, organizational and financial aspects of road motor transport.
- (b) Possibility of holding a seminar on organizational, operational and financial aspects of road transport.
- (c) Possibility of arranging a study tour of highway transport experts to advanced countries to study the various aspects of development of highway transport.

C. INLAND WATERWAYS

GROUP 1. CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF HIGH PRIORITY

(see also project 41-01)

43-01 (t) *Improvement of inland waterway transport*

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

- (a) Collection and dissemination of information, on improved methods of river and canal conservancy⁵¹ for navigation, and methods of improving efficiency of inland waterway transport. Reports and information papers on different aspects are issued from time to time. Next report, on current inland waterway development, to be issued in 1959.
- (b) Assistance to governments, upon request, on their inland waterway transport projects, taking into account the need for a regionally co-ordinated approach.

Co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme to be sought, if necessary.

GROUP 2. *Ad hoc* PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

43-02 (t) *Improved design and operation of craft*

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Demonstration projects on fast passenger craft;

(a) Wing boats;

Trials with hydrofoil-supported passenger craft in interested countries of the region in order to demonstrate the feasibility and to determine the economy of passenger transport with this type of vessels on various waterways connecting important population centres.

(b) Other types of fast passenger craft.

In co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme. Proposed duration: 1959-1960.

43-03 *Model government organization to deal with inland waterway transport and river and canal conservancy*

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, second session, 1954; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of advantages and disadvantages of existing systems; recommendations of suitable structure and terms of reference for government organization, including the legislative aspects. A working party to be convened in 1959.

43-04 (t) *Study tour*

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, third session, 1955; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Arranging for a team of experts from countries of the region to study modern methods and techniques in inland waterway transport and river and canal conservancy in the Soviet Union and, if possible, in the Danube basin. In co-operation with the Technical Assistance Programme.

Tour to take place in 1959.

43-05 (t)

Prototype coasting vessel

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Arrangement for formulation of specifications, design and tank-testing of coasting vessels suitable for countries of the region.

Proposed duration: 1959-1960.

Co-operation of Technical Assistance Programme to be sought.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

43-06 *Classification of inland waterways*

Authority:

Inland Transport Committee, third session, 1954; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of the possibility of establishing standards for classification of waterways and determination of suitable standard dimensions of waterways, structures and craft for each class.

Duration: two years.

43-07 (s,t)

Water weed clearance

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of the possibility of combating water weed, especially water hyacinth, in navigable waterways by various means, including mechanical means, chemicals and herbivorous water animals; organization of a demonstration project to show the usefulness of the most promising methods.

Duration: two years.

Co-operation of the Technical Assistance Programme and/or FAO to be sought.

43-08

Dredging of inland waterways

Authority:

Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, third session, 1955; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of dredging methods and equipment suitable for use in inland waterways and inland ports.

Proposed 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 signalling in relation to speed, safety and increase in line capacity*

Authority:

Railway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1956; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

⁵¹ In co-ordination with project 21-06.

Description:

Study and recommendation for the improvement of signalling and operational methods with a view to enhancing speed, ensuring safety and increasing line capacity without incurring heavy costs involved in doubling of track.

Duration: 1959-1960.

44-02 (s) *Repair and maintenance of rolling-stock in workshops*

Authority:

Railway Sub-Committee, second session, 1953; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Comparative study of workshop procedures and practices with a view to improving workshop productivity and quality of output. Interim report completed. Further report to be considered by the Working Party of Mechanical Engineers to be convened in 1959.

In co-operation with the ILO.

Duration: 1959-1960.

44-03 *Study on the feasibility of introducing container transport on railways, with special reference to operating costs and financial aspects*

Authority:

Railway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1956; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study with a view to ascertaining the type of traffic dealt with by the railways of the region as regards suitability for container transport, including its financial and operational implications.

Duration: 1959-1960.

44-04 *Design and maintenance of railway track with a view to introducing long welded rails and review of methods of welding and maintenance of long welded track*

Authority:

Railway Sub-Committee, fifth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of current methods of permanent way design and maintenance⁵² with a view to future installation of long welded rails, and review of techniques of welding and maintenance of long welded track.

Duration: 1959-1960.

⁵² In co-ordination with project 21-06.

GROUP 3. OTHER PROJECTS

44-05 *Comparative studies of railway administrations*

Authority:

Railway Sub-Committee, fourth session, 1956; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

(a) Comparative study of the types of organization most suitable for the railways of the ECAFE region.

(b) To disseminate information on management techniques in the field of railways.

Duration: 1958-1960.

44-06 *Engine utilization and running shed practices*

Authority:

Railway Sub-Committee, fifth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

A comparative study of locomotive utilization and running shed practices and procedures with a view to making recommendations for improving locomotive utilization and availability and efficient working of running sheds.

Duration: Two years.

E. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

GROUP 2. Ad hoc PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

45-01 *Special telecommunications studies*

(s,t)

Authority:

Inland Transport Committee, sixth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Study of regional and national telecommunications requirements in relation to economic development generally, and specifically to meet the urgent needs for regional telecommunications links, with special reference to those of transport. A Working Party to be convened in co-operation with ITU and the Technical Assistance Programme, in 1959.

45-02 *Training of telecommunications personnel*

(s)

Authority:

Inland Transport Committee, sixth session, 1957; Commission, fifteenth session, 1959.

Description:

Exploration of the possibilities of establishing regional or national training centres for training telecommunications personnel.

In co-operation with ITU.

Duration: 1959-1960.

VII. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS IN 1959 AND 1960

1959

Meeting	Date	Site
1. FAO/ECAFE Technical Meeting on Agricultural Marketing	27 April-6 May	New Delhi
2. Working Party on Telecommunications	4-10 May	Tokyo
3. Inland Waterway Experts Study Tour	June/July	Eastern Europe and USSR
4. Joint ECAFE/WMO Inter-regional Seminar on Hydrologic Networks and Design Methods	14-27 July	Bangkok
5. Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing—Canning and Bottling of Fruit and Food—in co-operation with FAO	17-24 August	Singapore
6. Study Tour of Geologists and Mining Engineers	August/September	U.S.A. and Canada
7. ECAFE Bureau of Economic Affairs Working Party on Earth-Moving Operations	1st half September	New Delhi

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Site</i>
8. Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fifth session, on balanced economic and social development)	2nd half September	Bangkok
9. Railway Sub-Committee (sixth session) and Working Party of Railway Mechanical Engineers	October	Lahore
10. Sub-Committee on Electric Power (seventh session) and ECAFE-FAO Working Party on Utilization of Wood Poles	September or October	Tokyo
11. Inland Waterway Sub-Committee (fifth session)	11-16 November	Bangkok
12. Inland Transport and Communications Committee (eighth session)	18-24 November	Bangkok
13. United Nations Seminar on Management of Industrial Enterprises in the Public Sector	December	New Delhi
14. Seminar on Aerial Survey Methods and Equipment	December	Bangkok

1960

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Site</i>
1. Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (twelfth session)	1st half January	Open
2. Conference of Asian Statisticians (third session)	2nd half January	Open
3. Intraregional Trade Promotion Talks	February	Bangkok
4. Committee on Trade (third session)	February	Bangkok
5. Commission (sixteenth session)	March	Pakistan

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

List of representatives and observers at the fifteenth session of the commission

MEMBERS

Afghanistan

Representative: Mr. Mohammad Sarwar
Alternates: Mr. F. N. Alefi, Mr. G. D. Azizi

Australia

Representative: Mr. R. G. Casey
Deputy Representative: Mr. C. F. Adermann
Alternates: Mr. R. W. C. Swartz, Sir John Crawford, Mr. W. D. Forsyth, Mr. C. V. Gray, Mr. F. O. Grogan, Mr. G. D. Grant, Mr. G. O. Gutman
Advisers: Mr. J. W. C. Cumes, Mr. P. E. Davies, Mr. M. L. Johnston, Mr. G. A. Low, Mr. W. P. J. Handmer, Miss E. King, Mr. J. White

Burma

Representative: U Than Hla
Alternate: U Soe Thwin

Combodia

Representative: Mr. Ty Kim Sour
Alternates: Mr. Sonn Voensai, Mr. Long Chuon, Mr. Nou Hach

Ceylon

Representative: Mr. P. H. William de Silva
Alternate: Mr. B. F. Perera
Advisers: Mr. W. A. de Silva, Mr. C. Abeysekera, Mr. B. Ekanayake, Mr. M. P. Perera, Mr. R. M. Seneviratne

China

Representative: Mr. T. K. Chang
Alternates: Mr. W. H. Fei, Mr. J. C. Huang, Mr. S. Wang, Mr. P. C. Ma, Mr. T. F. Wu
Adviser and Secretary: Mr. T. J. Liu

Federation of Malaya

Representative: Mr. Tan Siew Sin
Deputy Representative: Dato L. T. Gunn
Alternates: Mr. Raja Mohar, Mr. A. H. Stoneham, Mr. M. F. Garling, Mr. G. K. Rama Iyer, Mr. Abdul Rahman
Secretary: Mr. T. H. Yogaratnam

France

Representative: Mr. G. Georges-Picot
Alternate: Mr. G. Ladreit de la Charrière
Advisers: Mr. E. Mayolle, Mr. R. Grière, Mr. Lautard, Mr. J. Massenet

India

Representative: Mr. N. Kanungo
Alternates: Mr. H. A. Sujan, Mr. B. V. Radhakrishnan
Alternate and Secretary: Mr. R. Venkateswaran

Indonesia

Representative: Mr. S. Djojosoegito
Deputy Representative: Mr. A. Soenartadirdja
Alternates: Mr. K. S. Sie, Mr. S. Godjali, Mr. P. J. Sigar
Secretary: Mr. I. Jasin

Iran

Representative: Mr. Hassanali Mansour
Alternate: Mr. A. Majidian
Advisers: Mr. B. Mostofi, Mr. A. Alikhani
Secretary: Mr. Mansour Elddin Jahanbani

Japan

Representative: Mr. S. Shibusawa
Alternates: Mr. A. Uyama, Mr. Y. Asano, Mr. S. Kurosawa, Mr. Y. Ohkawara, Mr. S. Kakitsubo, Mr. T. Iwata
Experts: Mr. M. Tachibana, Mr. K. Takahashi, Miss M. Uwano, Mr. T. Takahashi, Mr. M. Kono
Advisers: Mr. R. Takagi, Mr. K. Okabe, Mr. T. Nakaya

Korea

Representative: Mr. P. W. Han
Alternates: Mr. K. J. Song, Mr. P. W. Min, Mr. S. K. Dong

Laos

Representative: Mr. O. Souvannavong
Alternate: Mr. K. Ratanavong

Netherlands

Representative: Mr. J. Vixseboxse
Alternates: Mr. J. Lips, Mr. B. van Eldik
Alternate and Secretary: Mr. J. A. Kernkamp

New Zealand

Representative: Mr. P. N. Hollaway
Alternates: Mr. J. Weir, Mr. G. H. Datson, Miss J. R. Leicester

Pakistan

Representative: Mr. G. A. Faruqi
Alternate: Mr. S. S. Jafri
Alternate and Secretary: Mr. F. H. Choudhury

Philippines

Representative: Mr. P. E. Laguio
Alternates: Mr. R. Lazatin, Mr. A. B. Bartolome, Mr. A. B. Isip

Thailand

Representative: Luang Thavil Sethapanichkarn
Alternates: Mr. K. Suphamongkhon, Mr. S. Hongsayonta, Mr. B. Binson, Mr. B. Kantabutra

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Representative: Mr. N. P. Firubin
Deputy Representative: Mr. P. M. Chernyshev
Alternates: Mr. A. Kakharov, Mr. G. M. Prokhorov

Advisers: Mr. A. I. Korolev, Mr. E. V. Novikov
Experts: Mr. N. S. Vasilenko, Mrs. A. G. Pirojkova, Mr. A. N. Mamin, Mr. V. M. Lessiovski, Mr. A. P. Mikhailov
Secretary: Mr. S. A. Androsof

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Representative: Lord Carrington
Alternates: Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. D. D. Condon, Mr. D. K. Burdett, Mr. I. M. Hurrell, Mr. J. M. Dutton

United States of America

Representative: Mr. C. H. Phillips
Alternates: Mr. F. A. Waring, Mr. J. R. Fluker
Principal Adviser: Mr. R. E. Simpson
Advisers: Mr. J. H. Boulware, Mr. W. W. Diehl, Mr. B. F. Dixon, Mr. E. A. Dow, Mr. W. E. Knight, Mr. H. McConeghy, Mr. C. R. McAvoy

Viet-Nam

Representative: Mr. Tran le Quang
Alternates: Mr. Vu Van Thai, Mr. Pham Huy Son, Mr. Tran Ngoc Oanh, Mr. Nguyen Huu Tan

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Hong Kong

Representative: Mr. Dhun J. Ruttonjee
Alternates: Mr. E. S. Kirby, Mr. M. D. A. Clinton

Singapore and British Borneo

Representative: Mr. Abu Bakar
Alternates: Mr. V. K. Chiew, Haji Muhammad Suaat, Mr. W. C. B. Wilson
Alternate and Secretary: Mr. C. Y. Lim

OTHER STATES

Belgium^a

Representative: Mr. W. Stevens

Canada^a

Representative: Mr. T. W. L. MacDermot

Czechoslovakia^a

Representative: Mr. J. Zitek
Alternate: Mr. M. Lukas

Hungary^a

Representative: Mr. J. Nagy
Alternate: Mr. G. Czigany

Israel^a

Representative: Mr. M. Yuval

Italy^a

Representative: Mr. E. Prato
Alternate: Mr. A. Biasi

Poland^a

Representative: Mr. R. Zielinski

Sweden^a

Representative: Mr. C. Bergenstrahl

^a Member of the United Nations, participating in a consultative capacity under paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Yugoslavia^a

Representative: Mr. Z. Josilo

Federal Republic of Germany^b

Representative: Mr. G. Blank
Alternate: Mr. M. Spandau

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mr. R. Livchen

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. P. G. H. Barter

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BANK) and International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Mr. A. Basch

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Mr. C. C. Liang

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mr. Ralph E. Page

Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (ICITO/GATT)

Mr. M. J. Royer

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD

Mr. C. Hart Schaaf

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category A

International Chamber of Commerce

Mr. R. J. Wood, Mr. S. Tanabe, Mr. K. Tsuji

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Mr. V. M. N. Menon, Mr. W. P. Evans

International Co-operative Alliance

Mr. S. F. A. Dalglish, Mr. D. Lynch

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

Mr. J. A. Jones

International Organization of Employers

Sir Lewis Burne, Mr. P. J. Self

World Federation of Trade Unions

Mr. K. B. Panikkar

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Mr. A. J. Symonds

World Veterans Federation

Mr. E. Kosunen, Mr. E. J. Tavanlar

Category B

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Rev. T. Rees Thomas

International Alliance of Women—Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities

Miss A. V. Smith

International Council of Women

Mrs. T. C. Metcalfe

^b Participating in a consultative capacity under ECOSOC resolution 617 (XXII) dated 27 July 1956.

International Federation of University Women
Mrs. E. B. Freeman
International Federation of Women Lawyers
Miss A. V. Smith

Pan Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association
Mrs. J. Gold, Mrs. E. Bythe
St. Joan's International, Social and Political Alliance
Mrs. Fogarty

ANNEX II

List of publications and principal documents issued since the fourteenth session

A. PUBLICATIONS

MAJOR STUDIES (*printed*)

- Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, Vol. IX, Nos. 1-3 May, September and December 1958. [English]
- Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*, 1958. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59, II.F.1 [English] (Vol. IX, No. 4, of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, March 1959)
- Food and Agricultural Price Policies in Asia and the Far East*. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58, II.F.2 (E/CN.11/484) [English]
- Report of the Seminar on Engineering and Traffic Aspects of Highway safety*. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58, II.F.3 (E/CN.11/486) [English]
- Agricultural Economics Research in Asia and the Far East*. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58, II.F.4 (E/CN.11/487) [English]
- Proceedings of Third Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development*. Flood Control Series No. 13. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59, II.F.2 (ST/ECAFE/SER.F/13) [English]
- Regulations and Procedures concerning the Conduct of International Trade in countries of Asia and the Far East*. (E/CN.11/489) [English]

PERIODICALS (*mimeographed*)

- Flood Control Journal, ST/ECAFE/SER.C/35-38 and special issue (1958)
June-December 1958 inclusive
- Trade Promotion News, ST/ECAFE/SER.H/65-70
January-October 1958 inclusive
- Transport Bulletin, ST/ECAFE/SER.E/26-28
January-December 1958 inclusive
- Industrial Development Series, ST/ECAFE/SER.M/9-12
July-December 1958 inclusive
- Electrical Power Bulletin, ST/ECAFE/SER.L/4
December 1958

B. PRINCIPAL DOCUMENTS

COMMISSION

- E/CN.11/483 Official records of the fourteenth session

Fifteenth session

- E/CN.11/485/Rev.3 Agenda (fifteenth session)
- E/CN.11/488 Activities in the field of inland transport and communications
- E/CN.11/490 Control and limitation of documentation (Note by the Executive Secretary)
- E/CN.11/491 Amendment of the Commission's rules of procedure and terms of reference (Note by the Executive Secretary)

E/CN.11/492

E/CN.11/493

E/CN.11/494

E/CN.11/495

E/CN.11/496

E/CN.11/497

E/CN.11/498

E/CN.11/499

E/CN.11/500

E/CN.11/501

E/CN.11/502

E/CN.11/503

E/CN.11/504

E/CN.11/505

E/CN.11/NGO/24

E/CN.11/NGO/25

E/CN.11/NGO/26

Date and place of the Commission's sixteenth session

Report of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (second session) to the Commission (fifteenth session)

Activities in the field of flood control and water resources development

Information paper on Technical Assistance provided to countries and territories of the ECAFE region under the expanded and regular programmes

Activities of FAO of special interest to ECAFE

Report of the Committee on Trade (second session) to the Commission (fifteenth session)

Resolution I adopted by the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East on regional co-operation in cartography.

Report of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (eleventh session) to the Commission (fifteenth session)

Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

Communication from the Deputy Representative of the USSR at the fifteenth session of the Commission

Communication from the Deputy Representatives of the USSR at the fifteenth session of the Commission

Activities of the International Labour Organisation of interest to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

Resolution on population trends and economic development in the ECAFE region

Resolution on land settlement

Communication from the International Confederation of Free Trade Union

Fluctuations in prices of primary products — Statement and resolution of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions — Asian Regional Organization

Development of international travel and tourism: Resolution adopted by XIIIth General Assembly of IUOTO

E/CN.11/NGO/27	Memorandum of the World Federation of Trade Unions on the Economic Situation in Asia
E/CN.11/NGO/28	Statement by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on Item 4—Economic Situation in Asia—to the fifteenth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
E/CN.11/NGO/29	Tourism in the ECAFE Region. Statement on behalf of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations
E/CN.11/NGO/30	Communication from the Representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers
E/CN.11/NGO/31	Programme of work and priorities (Statement by the Representative of International Federation of Women Lawyers)
E/CN.11/L.61	Report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (fourth session) to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (fifteenth session)*
E/CN.11/L.64/Rev.1 and Corr.1	Programme of work and priorities, 1959-1960
E/CN.11/L.65 and Add.1	Organization of the Commission's activities in the field of economic development and planning
E/CN.11/L.66 and Add.1	Activities of ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division in 1958
E/CN.11/L.67	Population trends and related problems of economic development in the ECAFE region
E/CN.11/L.68	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East: Forward look (Note by the Executive Secretary)
E/CN.11/L.69	Population growth and economic development in the ECAFE region (Note by the Executive Secretary)
E/CN.11/L.70	Some aspects of agricultural development planning in Asia and the Far East

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Eleventh session

E/CN.11/I&NR/10	Report of the Working Party on Housing and Building Materials (fifth session) to the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (eleventh session)
E/CN.11/I&NR/12	Report of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel (eighth session) to the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (eleventh session)

* Published in *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*, vol. IX, No. 3, December 1958.

E/CN.11/I&NR/13	Report of the Symposium on Development of Petroleum Resources in Asia and the Far East
E/CN.11/I&NR/14	Progress and problems of industrialization in the region
E/CN.11/I&NR/L.5	Proposed study tour of Asian experts in the field of housing and building material (Note by the Executive Secretary)
E/CN.11/I&NR/L.7	Progress of work on the geological map of Asia and the Far East since the tenth session of the Committee

SUB-COMMITTEE ON IRON AND STEEL

Eighth session

E/CN.11/I&NR/Sub.2/L.11	Report of the Study Group of Iron and Steel Experts from Asia and the Far East on their visit to Europe
E/CN.11/I&NR/Sub.2/L.12	Engineering industries—Consideration of the types of industries to be included in future studies
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SYMPOSIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

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E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.3	Units used in petroleum industry statistics in the ECAFE region
E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.4	General review of the petroleum industry of the ECAFE region
E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.5	Outline of the petroleum geology of the ECAFE region
E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.6	Prospects for development of petroleum resources in the ECAFE region
E/CN.11/I&NR/PR/L.7	Regulations governing petroleum resources development
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WORKING PARTY ON HOUSING AND BUILDING MATERIALS IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Fifth session

E/CN.11/I&NR/HBWP.5/L.2 and Corr.1	Housing in relation to regional development in Asia and the Far East
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E/CN.11/I&NR/HBWP.5/L.3	Study on building costs and measures for reducing them
E/CN.11/I&NR/HBWP.5/L.5	The Regional Housing Centres at Bandung (Indonesia) and Delhi (India) and their Advisory Committee
E/CN.11/I&NR/HBWP.5/L.6	Housing, building and planning: Current activities of the United Nations, its regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies
I&NR/HBWP.5/11	Report of the Seminar on Regional Planning

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Second session

E/CN.11/TRADE/L.13	Marketing and trade in spices in countries of the ECAFE region
E/CN.11/TRADE/L.15	Ocean freight rates
E/CN.11/TRADE/L.16	Current developments in trade and trade policies
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E/CN.11/TRADE/L.20	The European Common Market and the proposed European Free Trade Area
E/CN.11/TRADE/L.21	Future activities in the field of commercial arbitration
E/CN.11/TRADE/L.22	Intraregional trade promotion talks (Report by the Executive Secretary)

WORKING PARTY ON CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

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E/CN.11/TRADE/CAWP/L.3 and Add.1	Problems in customs valuation
E/CN.11/TRADE/CAWP/L.4	Formalities and procedures concerning imports and exports
E/CN.11/TRADE/CAWP/L.5	Customs formalities and procedures in respect of businessmen and tourists
TRADE/CAWP/NGO/1	Simplification of trade formalities (secretariat of ICC)

INLAND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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TRANS/WPCT/2	Major aspects of co-ordination
TRANS/WPCT/4	Brief review of information regarding measures taken for the co-ordination of transport received from some countries of the region subsequent to the issue of document (E/CN.11/TRANS/WPCT/L.1)
TRANS/WPCT/5	Study of present co-ordination policies in some countries outside the ECAFE region
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E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.5	Agricultural producer prices
E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.2/L.6	Promotion of the Agricultural Census in Asia and the Far East
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ANNEX III

Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

(February 1958—March 1959)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin was established jointly by the Governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam in October 1957, in response to the decision taken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at its thirteenth session in March 1957. In accordance with the statute of the Committee, a report^a was submitted to the Commission at the fourteenth session thereof in February 1958. The present report describes the activities of the Committee in the period from February 1958 to March 1959.

PROGRAMME OF INVESTIGATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

2. The main function of the Committee, as set forth in its statute, is to promote, co-ordinate, supervise and control the planning and investigation of water resources development projects in the lower Mekong basin. With a view to accomplishing speedy and orderly development of the water resources of the lower Mekong basin, the Committee, at its second session in February 1958, adopted a five-year programme of investigations which was prepared by the United Nations Survey Mission^b in January 1958, at the request of the four riparian governments.

^a Report of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin to the fourteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.11/475; 24 February 1958).

^b United Nations Survey Mission, "Programme of Studies and Investigations for Comprehensive Development, Lower Mekong Basin", (TAA/AF/3; January 1958).

3. The programme called for the collection of essential engineering and related data, and the planning of projects in the main river as well as in the major tributaries. In the first two years, efforts were to be directed toward the collection of basic data in the main river. The work involved (a) the establishment of a system of hydrologic stations at key points along the main river, as well as on the major tributaries, (b) the levelling of the main river from the Burmese border to the sea, (c) the aerial mapping of three reaches of the main river, (d) the execution of detailed topographic, hydrologic, geologic and other surveys and investigations of promising sites on the main river, and (e) the undertaking of special studies relating to agriculture, mineral resources, powermarkets, transport and general economics. After sufficient data had been collected in the first two years, planning of projects in the most promising sites on the main river was to be undertaken in the third year.

4. Along with the investigations in the main river, a reconnaissance survey of the major tributaries was also to be taken up in the first two years, with a view to locating promising project sites and exploring ways and means of using and controlling the water in the tributaries; on completion of the reconnaissance work in about two years' time, the various kinds of investigations (such as levelling, mapping and surveys) to be carried out in the main river as described in the previous paragraph were also to be embarked upon in the major tributaries in the third and fourth years of operation; this was to be followed by the planning of projects in the fifth year. It was envisaged that, as soon as the planning of projects in the main river and the major tributaries had been completed, a skeleton plan for the development of water resources in the Lower Mekong Basin would be worked out.

5. The total cost of the five-year programme of investigations was estimated by the United Nations Survey Mission at \$9.2 million. The cost estimate showing the various items of work and the schedule of operations over a five-year period is given in table 1. This programme has been adopted by the Committee, and forms the basic plan for the execution of the investigations.

Table 1

Programme of investigations

(Figures show expenditure in thousands of US dollars)
 —1st priority group —2nd priority group

Item	Year				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
1. Reconnaissance of major tributaries.....	120 (Japan)	120 (Japan)			
2. Hydrologic observation	1,140 (USA, France, New Zealand, WMO)	240	240	^a	^a
3. Survey and mapping:					
(a) Levelling	370 (USA)		170		
(b) Aerial mapping	340	330	540	530	
(c) Supplementary spot levelling.....	310	300	180	180	
(d) Detailed topographic and hydro- graphic survey		150		190	
(e) Flowage damage survey.....		50		50	
(f) Construction material survey.....		50		90	
(g) Geological investigation and borings		240		470	
(h) Soil survey		60		130	
(i) Hydrographic survey	30 (USA)	30 (USA)			
4. Related and special studies.....	200 (TAA, FAO)	200	100		
5. Preliminary planning:					
(1) Promising reaches of the main river			900		
(2) Other reaches of the main river and major tributaries and skeleton basin plan					900
6. Advisory service to Co-ordination Com- mittee	50 (TAA)	50 (TAA)	50	50	50
Annual expenditure	2,560	1,820	2,180	1,690	950
Accumulated expenditure	2,560	4,380	6,560	8,250	9,200

^a Operation and maintenance by countries concerned.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

6. The governments of the riparian countries, when considering the establishment of the Committee for Co-ordination in 1957, recognized the urgent need for the establishment of a programme of investigation and also for funds for the implementation of such a programme. At its first session in October/November 1957, the Committee requested the Executive Secretary to negotiate, on its behalf, with governments and agencies interested in extending assistance for the development of the Mekong Basin. At the same session, the Executive Secretary conveyed to the Committee the wish of the Government of France to participate in the financing of studies on the development of the lower Mekong basin, for which it was appropriating a sum of 60 million francs out of its 1957 budget. The Committee gratefully accepted the offer of the Government of France, and decided to utilize the sum on equipment immediately needed for hydrologic observation.

7. At the fourteenth session of the Commission, held at Kuala Lumpur in March 1958, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, on behalf of his Government, made an offer of the equivalent of \$100,000 to assist in financing a part of the required studies and investigations. The representative of the United States of America announced the offer by his Government of a sum of \$2 million (which was subsequently increased to \$2.2 million) for the collection of basic data and the provision of the equipment and engineering services necessary to enable the Committee to undertake, without delay, the programme of studies and investigations. The representatives of

the four riparian countries gratefully accepted these offers. They also expressed appreciation of the assistance which would be forthcoming in 1958 from the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme of the order of \$200,000. The Commission welcomed these efforts and adopted a resolution^c urging the United Nations to give highest priority to the Mekong project when the Special Fund was established. This resolution was noted with satisfaction by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-sixth session in July 1958.^d

8. The Co-ordination Committee, at its third session in May 1958, carefully considered the items of investigations that could best be carried out with the aid offered from various sources. With the concurrence of the donor governments, the Committee decided that French aid, New Zealand aid and a major part of United States aid would be used for hydrologic observations as listed under item 2 in table 1, which includes the establishment of a system of hydrologic and meteorological stations, provision of survey launches and equipment, training of personnel and operation of the stations for a limited period of time. The rest of the United States aid would be utilized for completing a continuous levelling of the main river from the Burmese border to the sea (item 3a in table 1, first priority group) and the hydrographic survey of the navigable channel (item 3i in table 1). All operations under the United States aid programme were to be carried out by a United States engineering firm.

^c ECFAE resolution 25 (XIV), 12 March 1958.

^d Economic and Social Council resolution 679 (XXVI) of 10 July 1958.

9. Under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, FAO and TAA would provide experts to undertake the various special studies relating to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, minerals, transportation, flood control and general economics (item 4 in table 1). TAA would also provide three top ranking engineers to serve on the advisory board (item 6 in table 1), and WMO would provide a hydro-meteorologist to assist in the work relating to hydrology and meteorology (item 2 in table 1).

10. During the same session, the Executive Secretary conveyed to the Committee the offer of the Government of Canada to depute an expert, at its expense, to study the scope and cost of an aerial survey of the lower Mekong basin (item 3b in table 1). The Committee gratefully accepted this offer, on the understanding that the investigation by the Canadian expert would not commit either the Canadian Government or the riparian countries in any way.

11. After the conclusion of the third session of the Committee in June 1958, the United States International Co-operation Administration (ICA) was actively engaged in the selection of a competent United States engineering firm to undertake the agreed items of investigations. In the meantime, TAA, FAO and WMO deputed experts to the field to undertake the various special studies. The Canadian expert on the aerial survey completed his investigations in October 1958.

12. In December 1958, the Committee held a special session at Bangkok which was attended by representatives of all the donor countries and of the United Nations and the specialized agencies participating in the programme. The Committee considered in more detail the programme of investigations, and gave special attention to co-ordinating the detailed items of work on hydrologic observation (item 2 in table 1), which involved aid and equipment donated by three countries, namely France, New Zealand and the United States, as well as the services of experts from the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It decided that French aid should be used to purchase part of the hydrologic equipment, New Zealand aid to purchase part of the survey launches and United States aid to take up the rest of the programme. WMO would depute experts to assist in the work on hydrologic observations. The Harza Engineering Co. International, selected by ICA to carry out the United States aid on the Mekong project, was to prepare a programme of operations for hydrologic and meteorological observation, levelling and hydrographic survey for 1959, which was to be considered by the Committee later.

13. During the special session, the permanent representative of Japan to ECAFE reiterated the offer of his Government, which had already been communicated to the Executive Secretary, to undertake a reconnaissance survey of the major tributaries of the Mekong basin which had been included in the recommendations of the United Nations Survey Mission (item 1 in table 1). The reconnaissance would be carried out by a team of Japanese experts over a period of two years and at a total estimated cost of \$240,000, to be borne by the Japanese Government. The Committee gratefully accepted the offer.

14. With all these operations in progress, the Committee considered it desirable that an Executive Agent of the Committee should be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the entire programme. Representatives from countries and specialized agencies giving aid to the Committee were requested to maintain close liaison with the Executive Agent, when appointed. The Committee requested TAA to make available the services of a suitable Executive Agent, together with the necessary supporting staff.

15. In February/March 1959, the Committee held its fourth session in Vientiane, Laos. During the session, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the Government of the United Kingdom had offered assistance from Colombo Plan funds of up to £20,000 for the purchase of a launch and meteorological equipment, which was accepted by the Committee with gratitude.

16. The Committee adopted a resolution requesting the Government of Canada to assist in undertaking the first priority phase of the survey and mapping of the main stem of the river

as proposed in the report prepared by Colonel G. S. Andrews, the Canadian specialist.

17. At the same session, the Committee reviewed the contract between ICA and the Harza Engineering Co. International, and adopted a detailed programme of work for the levelling of the main river, for the establishment of a system of hydrologic stations and execution of the hydrographic survey of the river. It was decided that operations would start immediately on the basis of the funds made available by France, New Zealand and the United States.

18. Prior to the session, work on the reconnaissance survey of the tributaries had been commenced by the team of experts sent by the Government of Japan.

19. The Committee further considered detailed reports prepared by FAO on agricultural development in the lower Mekong basin, and by WMO on meteorological and hydrologic investigations, and also a paper on the need for a manpower study, prepared by the ILO. It decided that, at its next session in June 1959, when the studies conducted by experts from TAA would be available, it would request the United Nations Special Fund for assistance. Meanwhile, it decided to request TAB for the services of one hydro-meteorologist from WMO to assist the Executive Agent.

20. The Committee carefully considered the question of the responsibilities of the Executive Agent and his working relation with ECAFE. It decided that the Executive Agent would advise the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin and, through the Committee, as might be appropriate, the Governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam on the administrative and technical co-ordination of plans for the over-all development of the basin. He would assist the Committee in the day-to-day co-ordination of the engineering, economic, agricultural and other studies undertaken at the request of the Committee by the United Nations and specialized agencies and also under bilateral programmes, and would report to the Committee at regular intervals on the progress of the work. In the performance of these studies, the Executive Agent would maintain close liaison with the ECAFE secretariat and be subject to the direction and guidance of the Executive Secretary of ECAFE in regard to policy matters.

CONCLUSION

21. In reviewing its work, the Committee expressed satisfaction at the significant progress already made with the Mekong project within a relatively short time, which fully demonstrated the spirit of international co-operation not only among the riparian countries but also among Member Governments of the United Nations, as shown by their generous contributions to the implementation of the programme. It wished to thank the United Nations, TAB and specialized agencies, and also the members of the Advisory Board assisting in the implementation of this gigantic task. It wished to commend particularly the good offices of the ECAFE secretariat.

22. Considering that Mr. C. V. Narasimhan would soon formally vacate the office of ECAFE's Executive Secretary, the Committee specially recalled his personal contribution to the progress of the Mekong scheme, and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

1. *Resolves* to place on record its profound appreciation of the untiring efforts on behalf of the Committee of the Executive Secretary of ECAFE, Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, now under orders of transfer as Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

2. *Hopes* that Mr. C. V. Narasimhan will continue to take interest in the implementation of the Mekong programme of investigations and that his good offices will be available to the Committee at all times, and especially in regard to the obtaining of financial assistance, both under bilateral aid and under multilateral aid, from the Special Fund, the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available the services of Mr. C. V. Narasimhan as and when necessary in the interests of the Committee, including, in particular, his attendance at future meetings of the Committee as often as possible.

ANNEX *Part B, section II, of Economic and Social Council resolution 679 (XXVI) on the Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*

The Economic and Social Council

Notes with satisfaction resolution 25 (XIV), of 12 March 1958, of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

ANNEX IV

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

Forward Look Note by the Executive Secretary

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INTRODUCTION

At its eleventh session held in 1957, the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 1094 (XI) requested the Economic and Social Council to undertake an appraisal of the over-all programme of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic and social fields over the next five or six years.

The Economic and Social Council considered the question at its twenty-fourth session (Geneva, July-August 1957) and unanimously adopted resolution 665 C (XXIV) in which, *inter alia*, it:

"Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the principles set forth in the annex to its resolution 664 (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, to make an appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of the regular United Nations programmes in these fields for the period 1959-1964 for consideration by the Council at its twenty-eighth session;

"Invites 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 and the World Meteorological Organization, to consider the most appropriate and practical methods of preparing similar appraisals of their own programmes for the same period, equally based on the principles contained in the annex;

"Requests the Secretary-General and *invites* the executive heads of the specialized agencies concerned to consult together, as soon as possible, with a view to the preparation by the various organizations concerned of the appraisals referred to above in comparable form;

on the Development of the Lower Mekong Basin, and the statute and rules of procedure of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations annexed to the annual report of the Commission, and especially the contributions from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and directly from Member Governments of the United Nations towards the implementation of the programme of investigations, as well as the co-ordinating role of the secretariat of the Commission servicing the Committee;

1029th plenary meeting,
10 July 1958.

"Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to present to the Council at its twenty-sixth session a special report regarding the preparation of these appraisals, with particular reference to any major problems that may have been encountered;

"Decides to consider at its twenty-sixth session the arrangements necessary for preparing on the basis of the above mentioned appraisals a consolidated report with conclusions, to be submitted together with the appraisals to the Council at its thirtieth session."

The Council at its twenty-sixth session, in its resolution 694 D (XXVI), clarified and amplified its request for the programme appraisal for the period 1959 to 1964. It affirmed that the appraisal should emphasize the over-all development, general direction and trend of the programmes, rather than attempt to define individual programmes and projects, and include programmes undertaken within the framework of the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme and the new Special Fund.

This note constitutes the Executive Secretary's contribution to the Secretary-General's report requested by the Economic and Social Council. The Commission may wish to incorporate in its report to the Council its views and observations on the appraisal of the Commission's programme of work over the next five years.

The Council is aware that the Commission has, in the past, on a number of occasions, reviewed its work, and determined the lines on which its work should progress. More recently, at its eleventh session held in 1955, the Commission, in line with the policy of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, laid emphasis on the appraisal and promotion of economic development, the promotion of specific measures of international co-operation and the rendering of advisory services to governments (Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East-Annual Report, 19 February 1954-April 1955, E/2712, paragraphs 217-226). At its twelfth session, the Commission again reviewed progress and recorded the main phases of its work since its inception (*Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*, 8 April 1955-14 February 1956: E/2821, paragraphs 299-311). The Commission noted that it had gradually passed from fact-finding to analysis, and from cataloguing the reconstruction needs to the more purposeful examination of specific economic and technical problems relating to industry, trade, natural resources (including water), inland transport and other matters, and that its successive work programmes for the past several years had been largely directed to promoting economic development in line with the priority system established by the Economic and Social Council for all organizations and bodies within the United Nations family. At its thirteenth session, the Commission, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary, further reviewed its work and achievements. For its future work, it adopted the following criteria with a view to further concentrating its efforts and streamlining the work programme (*Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*, 13 February 1956-28 March 1957: E/2959, paragraphs 201-212, 316-322):

(a) In general, projects should be of regional importance, or at least of importance to a number of countries in the region;

(b) Preference should be given to work directly bearing on the formulation and application of policy;

(c) There should be increased concentration on larger, and continuing, problems of major long-term importance (even here, of course, aspects of these problems could be studied year by year, so that the results could be made available to the Commission annually, and the Commission's guidance sought in regard to the future lines of work);

(d) Preference should also be given to those projects which promised practical results in the short term.

The Economic and Social Council, at its twenty-fourth session, noted with satisfaction the efforts made by each of the regional economic commissions to co-ordinate its activities and to streamline its work programme [resolution 664 (XXIV)]. The Council, at its twenty-sixth session, in resolution 693 (XXVI) again noted with satisfaction the extent to which the principles of concentration and co-ordination had been applied in the review of programmes by the regional economic commissions and their secretariats, and the progress that had been made in this connexion.

The United Nations General Assembly, at its twelfth session, in resolution 1158 (XII), also noted "with satisfaction the efforts being made by each of the regional economic commissions to further co-ordination of its activities and to streamline its work programme . . .". In resolution 1155 (XII), it further noted that the work of the regional economic commissions had been extremely useful to the economies of under-developed countries in Asia and Latin America, and considered that the commissions had performed valuable functions within their respective areas and that their work was vitally important from the point of view of the United Nations.

BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

In the light of the above reviews made by the Commission itself, and of the guiding lines laid down by the Council and the General Assembly, it may be desirable to recapitulate the basic considerations that govern the scope and trend of the Commission's work during the next five-year period:

The region has a total population of some 1,400 million, which is about half of the human race and which is larger than that of any other region of the world. It has a total area of over 20 million square kilometres, which is about one-seventh of the land surface of the world. Thus, the region has a comparatively high density of population. It comprises some of the most important of the economically under-developed countries of the world. Poverty is still the common lot of most of the people, whose diet is below minimum nutritional standards; disease and illiteracy rates are high, housing and shelter are insufficient and of poor quality and educational and training facilities are lacking. However, a determined effort is being made by the countries concerned to overcome these difficulties, to develop their economies and to proceed with planned industrialization and with long-overdue improvements in agriculture, development of other natural resources, and the creation of basic services, such as transport and utilities.

While considerable economic progress has been made in the area in the last ten years, the rate of growth must be accelerated. The process of economic development itself raises the old problems of low savings, low living standards, inadequate housing, lack of basic services and shortage of trained personnel. Industrial output and the rate of agricultural development must be increased concurrently. A high rate of investment in economic development leads to inflationary pressures and balance of payments difficulties. The countries concerned have to devise ways and means to reduce these pressures without slowing down the rate of economic growth. The rate of population increase in the region is another factor which makes it difficult to achieve steady growth in *per capita* real income.

The countries of the region must also increase productivity and learn the "know-how" of modern industrial production, starting almost from scratch in an age when rapid scientific and technical advances are being made by the industrially developed countries. The economic renaissance which the countries are endeavouring to achieve similarly calls for the

modernization of administrative machinery, and for changes in the social, cultural and other aspects of life.

The ECAFE region is to some extent unique in the vastness of its geographical area, in the diversity of the economic, social, religious and cultural conditions. Hence the difficulty of identifying problems that are of highest current interest to a large number of countries. In view of the economic problems of Asia and the resources available to the Commission in its effort to help governments to solve these problems, it is clear that an "approach" or "philosophy" is necessary. Apart from the magnitude of the tasks faced by the Commission—to help solve these basic problems in such a manner as to realize the aims of the United Nations Charter—it must also be remembered that, in implementing decisions, the Commission can only recommend, advise and persuade, and thus has far more limited powers than national governments. The Commission's terms of reference expressly provide that it shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the government concerned.

At the same time, the Commission, representing as it does the collective thinking and will of the governments of Asia and the Far East, has the advantage that its decisions and recommendations represent a common denominator which cannot be identified with any purely national approach. Through its work, the Commission can be considered not just as a partner in the efforts of its constituent parts (the members), but also as a sympathetic and objective 'observer'. As such, it can see both the efforts and their results in clearer perspective, and is thus able to draw objective lessons for the future.

The Commission has at its disposal an independent international secretariat which is a part of the United Nations Secretariat. The secretariat has an opportunity, not only to offer objective advice, but also to draw attention to the full implications of certain problems and policies which might escape national governments. The secretariat can also indicate basic scientific criteria for decisions on policy. The integrity and the independence of the secretariat is of great value in the work of the Commission.

It follows that the Commission should concentrate on those activities where its characteristic advantages can be turned to good account, and on the kind of work which it is in a position to do better than individual national governments. The Commission should accordingly concentrate on five main objectives:

(a) It can identify problems of general interest, and draw attention to their full implications, with special emphasis on problems arising in the process of economic growth. These include such basic problems as saving and mobilizing domestic resources, attracting foreign capital, achieving progress without endangering stability, and the economic aspects and consequences of an increasing population. In dealing with these problems, the secretariat can help the Commission, particularly by providing information, analysis and studies.

Economic problems other than those just mentioned should also receive attention. Indeed, it is important that the secretariat should increasingly come to play the part of an economic "family doctor" in the service of member governments—ready to offer, if so requested, or to obtain from other sources, a diagnosis or even a prescription.

(b) The Commission can promote greater regional as well as general international awareness among member countries, and draw attention to the implications of national plans for the economies of other countries. The Commission need not attempt the co-ordination of national economic development plans of the region, since, among other things, the time might not yet be ripe for such a step.

The Commission should draw attention to the dangers of policies aimed at "self-sufficiency" (as distinct from diversification of national economies), and point to the opportunities for co-operative action which are increasingly revealed as regional awareness grows. In this task, the Commission is helped by its Working Party on Economic development and Planning, and by its committees and other subsidiary bodies.

(c) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations in the various fields of

economic and related activities. The facilities of the Commission and its secretariat also provide opportunities to governments to exchange views, to keep member countries informed of other members' policies and progress, and to devise measures for solving common problems through concerted action. The Commission can thus directly promote international co-operative action, although progress in the early stages may be slow, as many member countries achieved independence only recently and the habit of international co-operation is not yet fully established. The experience of the Commission in considering the question of holding intraregional trade promotion talks, the progress of the lower Mekong investigations, the preparation of the geological and mineral maps of the region, and the agreement on such measures as the Convention regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels employed in Inland Navigation, all show the advantages of an international agency such as a regional economic commission in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operative action.

(d) The Commission has a special responsibility in regard to the spread of new technology among the region's under-developed countries. It may be in the new field of nuclear energy, or it may be in the application of older, but not so well-known, techniques. Here the Commission has a special role to play in regard to the adaptation of new techniques to the existing situation.

(e) The Commission has a special role to play in the establishment of training, demonstration and research institutions within the region. The United Nations has now a highly diversified system of assisting in the establishment of such institutions through its Technical Assistance Programme, now strengthened by the setting up of the Special Fund.

The Commission, in pursuing its activities in these main fields, especially under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, is likely to find continuing scope for gradually increasing concentration of effort and streamlining of activities. In regard to activities under paragraphs (d) and (e), a fairly large number of smaller projects, where concrete benefits can be expected to follow, may have to be taken up.

The regional commissions have now come to occupy an important place in the United Nations family. In view of ECAFE's membership and methods of work, its members have a special sense of belonging, and a "club" mentality gradually develops. This is largely promoted by certain activities, such as study tours and conferences of specialists. In this way, a United Nations "feeling" is developed and strengthened; and the habit of international co-operation in the economic and social fields becomes more firmly established.

MAJOR AREAS OF WORK

Broadly speaking, the Commission's activities fall into two distinct categories: (a) basic information on the economic (and social) situation; (b) economic (and social) policy and development. Within these two areas, the Commission's work may be itemized under the following major headings:

Research including economic surveys and economic analyses.

Economic development and planning: development policies and techniques of programming (including social aspects of economic development) along with special studies such as financing of economic development, mobilization of domestic savings and stimulation of international flow of private capital, fiscal policies and practices.

Natural resources (non-agricultural): Water resources; Mineral resources; Energy.

Industrialization and productivity

Housing, building and physical planning

International trade including intraregional trade and commodity problems and the impact thereof on under-developed countries.

Transport and communications

Agriculture

Social affairs: social policy, population and community development.

SCOPE OF WORK

It is assumed that the geographical scope of the Commission will remain more or less the same as at present. The Commission, at its fourteenth session, recorded the views of several members that any further extension of the geographical scope of the Commission would require most careful consideration.

Attention is also invited to the decision taken by the Council at its twenty-sixth session to seek the advice of three of the regional economic commissions (Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and Economic Commission for Latin America) on a proposal to include in their terms of reference social aspects of economic development, as in the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa. Within the foreseeable future, consideration of social aspects will, for practical reasons, be limited to certain fundamental questions of social policy (including those relating to the balance between economic and social development) population, and community development in the ECAFE region.

At present, there is a Social Affairs Division in the ECAFE secretariat which co-operates with the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters in respect of social policy, demographic aspects of economic development, community development, and so forth. No substantial alterations in these arrangements would be required should the Commission recommend, and the Council approve, the inclusion of the social aspects of economic development in ECAFE's activities.

The Commission, after a great deal of consideration and repeated reviews, has now evolved a structure of Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Parties and Conferences in its main areas of activities. The countries of the region are in the process of steady economic growth, and are making great efforts to accelerate it. Hence, some degree of latitude and flexibility within the Commission's structure is desirable. However, the major fields of work in each of the areas have in recent years become more clearly defined. The organizational pattern of the secretariat generally corresponds to the structure of the Commission's main subsidiary bodies.

Within these broad areas, the complexity and variety of problems faced by this region, which has now embarked on a great and purposeful drive for economic and social development, will, to a great extent determine the precise content of the work programme. Below is a projection, for the next five years, of the present trends.

RESEARCH

Economic survey

The review and analysis of the current economic situation, together with other analyses prepared for publication in the *Survey* and *Bulletin*, is a continuing activity which has been undertaken by the Commission almost since its inception. These publications provide the basis for the Commission's annual debate on the current economic situation, serve as an instrument of practical help to governments in solving problems of economic policy-making and of long- and short-term economic planning and provide some assistance in the preparation of the World and Economic Survey of the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters. The *Survey* and *Bulletin* have been found increasingly useful, if not indispensable, by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and by governments, as well as by research institutions and the public. In 1953, the *Survey* concentrated on systematic reviews of current developments on a country-by-country basis. In the 1957 issue, however, further modification of the treatment was found to be possible in view of the growing number of annual country surveys issued by government agencies themselves, and desirable in order to enable the secretariat to concentrate on analyses of major aspects of economic development. The main features of the *Survey* and the *Bulletin* have now been fairly well established for the period ahead. One issue of each volume of the *Bulletin* will presumably continue to be devoted to articles, studies or reports on selected economic topics; another to a semi-annual or mid-year review, which will henceforth generally include brief

summaries of individual countries for the full preceding year; a third to papers relating to meetings on economic development and planning. The annual *Survey* will probably, as now, consist mainly of a preliminary review of the preceding calendar year and a study of some one major subject or problem. (Selection of problems long in advance is difficult, since current interest should play an important part in the choice, but a five-year series beginning in 1959 might include trade, transport, energy, money and banking, and fiscal problems—each examined in relation to economic development. The selection of subjects is often related to major topics under review by various subsidiary bodies, e.g. for 1958, part II of the *Survey* deals with postwar industrialization, a topic that was considered at the latest session of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning). Individual country studies, at a rate of about one a year, will appear in either the *Survey* or the *Bulletin*, or in both. The latest Asian economic statistics will continue to be published in all issues.

Thus the changes foreseen relate not to organization and content but to further improvement in quality. More specifically, the work should be improved along the following lines: (a) better analysis (which also presupposes better statistical and other data), (b) better presentation and (c) inclusion of occasional country studies in moderate "depth"; for example, recent economic developments in a selected country might be broadly reviewed, and a particular aspect, such as the status of its industry and the plans, measures and prospects for its further industrialization, might be more closely examined. It would also be desirable to add (d) a new *Bulletin* feature, consisting essentially of an editorial appraisal of the economic significance of recent ECAFE meetings, reports, etc. This would significantly enhance the use of ECAFE reports, particularly by government departments which have not always paid adequate attention to them, and it would thereby promote integrated and balanced thinking on policy.

To obtain a better supply of data, various methods will have to be explored (apart from the development of better statistics by the countries themselves, which is discussed in the next section). On such method would be the appointment of local economists as correspondents in countries from which the supply of current information is particularly slow and limited.

For better analysis and presentation, and for occasional country studies in some "depth", as well as for the proposed new feature in the *Bulletin*, the staff of the Survey Branch must be strengthened. Better analyses, of course, as already stated, must also rest on improved data.

Statistics

A serious deficiency from the point of view of the size of staff exists in ECAFE's present inability to handle, even with the assistance of the United Nations Statistical Office, its increasing statistical responsibilities. Unless this deficiency is speedily remedied, the Commission will find itself unable to take full advantage of the unusual opportunity for progress afforded by the newly organized Conference of Asian Statisticians.

There is a dearth of good and comparable quantitative data in Asia which are, however, vitally needed for purposes of economic development, and for planning in particular. Comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date statistics unquestionably form one of the prerequisites for the formulation of sound and realistic plans for development and for the evaluation of progress in their execution.

The essential statistical work may be divided into two distinct types: correct statistical compilation and analysis of statistics required for immediate purposes, and the development and improvement of national statistical offices. ECAFE's current statistics programme labours under the handicap that the number of ECAFE's statistical staff (especially clerks and computers) has never been in balance with the number of demands for statistical compilations, and has become less so in recent years. Moreover, it is expected that the number and scope of the Division's economic projects requiring statistical assistance will continue to grow, and the demands made on

the statistical staff by other ECAFE divisions are likewise expanding.

The work on the development of statistics, in which ECAFE serves primarily as a catalytic agent, has just been initiated, and is expected to develop systematically and rapidly. Substantial progress must be made soon in order to meet the obvious needs and to take advantage of the strong government support at present available.

Under the heading of current statistics, there are three major fields of activity: (a) *Publication and dissemination*, mainly the gradual enlargement and improvement of the Asian Economic Statistics published quarterly in the *Bulletin* and *Survey*; (b) *Statistical servicing*, which involves not only computing in the strict sense but frequently also complicated and time-consuming special compilations (sometimes requiring the use of advanced mathematical techniques) to meet the needs of other units of the secretariat and in certain cases those of government officials. It may be noted that other specialists and research workers also turn to ECAFE for assistance; (c) *Special statistical studies relating to planning and development*, for example, studies of demand elasticities commodity balances, capital-output ratios, trade matrices or other quantitative relationships or phenomena for which the needs of economic analysis, as reflected in the current state of planning of the countries of the region, may create a demand.

The general scope and outline of the long-term programme of the Conference of Asian Statisticians, and consequently of the statistical development work in ECAFE are based on the terms of reference of the Conference, and are designed to meet the needs of the countries of the region. The 1958 session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians has planned a long-term programme of work, the main elements of which are as follows:

Substantial attention will have to be given, on a continuing basis, to at least the following subjects: (a) *Basic statistics for planning and development* (including also budget reclassifications, and various statistics indicating the progress of economic development plans and their impact on the economy). This subject will be a standing item on the agenda of all Conference sessions; (b) *Census and sampling surveys*, including the 1960 World Census programmes for population and agriculture. Sampling is of particular importance where complete enumerations are as difficult and costly as they are in Asia; (c) *Training in statistics*, with due emphasis on the practical aspects of data collection, processing and interpretation, in order to overcome, in time, the present general lack of trained personnel in this field; (d) *International standards and quality of data*, looking towards a satisfactory degree of comparability; (e) *Preparing and servicing the sessions of the Conference of Asian Statisticians itself and its various working groups*, of which two or more will probably be organized each year (e.g. groups on sampling and on capital formation during 1959).

The scope of work to be done suggests the magnitude of the increase in professional and computer posts required. It is estimated that the staff needs to be approximately doubled in the next five years.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Economic development and special economic studies. This is the most important field for analytical work, and central to the Commission's objectives. It covers basic economic problems and policies (financial and otherwise), techniques of planning and programming, and the experience of member governments in making and carrying out development plans. It also entails the preparation and serving of meetings at which government planning experts exchange experience and views.

The approach is action-oriented, but analysis, in some cases, has to be more exhaustive, and takes considerable time to produce results. While the projects could be classified in several different ways, it is convenient for the purposes of this appraisal to regard them as falling into three broad categories.

Work immediately necessary for preparing and servicing the sessions of the Working Party on Economic Development

and Planning (and, in future, other related meetings, as noted below) may be considered first.

The work done on "Economic development and planning", since that project was formally approved by the Commission at its eleventh session and the corresponding secretariat unit set up, has related largely to the preparation of papers for the annual sessions of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning. With the experience gained and the assistance expected, not only from United Nations Headquarters and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), but also from the specialized agencies under the "sectoral" approach agreed on for the Working Party, it is now possible to make long-term plans for work in this field. The 1959 session on social and economic development might be followed by subsequent sessions on transport in relation to economic development, energy, foreign trade and exchange, and the financing of economic development.

The Commission has approved the proposal to convene a series of groups of experts, the probable phasing of whose investigations by subject cannot yet be indicated. It has also approved a proposal to convene a Conference of Asian Economic Planners every three years, the first session to be held in 1961. The Commission will, of course, continue to review the problems of economic development and planning at its annual sessions. All these will demand considerable staff time on a continuing basis. Even a limited study of the technical and policy aspects involved in economic development and planning will increase the total work load of the secretariat in this field.

The related study of national economic development plans as such, which started a year or two ago with the simple attempt to determine their salient features, is now beginning to lead towards a more systematic examination of the basic data which they contain and of the important conclusions to be derived from them. This study will, in the first place, permit various comparative analyses of economic planning to be made which should prove useful to planning experts of the region. Beyond that, it aims at bringing to light, as requested by the Working Party at its recent fourth session, any duplications or mutual inconsistencies among the various national plans. By pinpointing such phenomena as double-counting of future export markets, for example, it will provide basic data for whatever co-operative action (for example, in the field of trade arrangements, or in the mutual adjustment of plans) member governments may wish to initiate.

Such information should be combined with the central body of data, estimates and projections, which are already being developed in connexion with the population and timber trends projects, and certain "models" found serviceable by the working groups of experts could be used. It will thus be possible to undertake long-term projections of the region's economy under selected alternative assumptions.

The second broad category of work relates to special studies which have a bearing, in one way or another, on economic development, and are sometimes clearly of major importance, but which originate in the interest attaching to specific problems rather than in the main stream of economic development and analysis as such. Recent and current examples are the joint community development study, the timber trends study undertaken with FAO, and the Mekong analysis.

The third category in this part of the programme consists of studies which usually deal with long-term or deep-seated problems, but which seem to be basic to an improved understanding of how economic development can be accelerated.

Reference has already been made to the working groups of experts to be established, in close relation to the existing Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, for the more intensive study of programming techniques and related matters. However, in view of the importance of providing for a general review of, and guidance on, all aspects of the work in this central field at a high level of expert competence, it is desirable to establish a standing body to be called the Conference of Asian Economic Planners. At its plenary sessions, in addition to reviewing the reports of working groups of experts and setting priorities for future working groups,

the Conference would discuss selected major issues, or the general state of planning or of economic development in the region.

The studies in this category are definitely designed to tie in ultimately with the work under the proposed Conference of Asian Economic Planners and related groups, but they require considerable time to complete, that is to say, to bring to the point where conclusions can be ventured on the best methods of solving a given problem. The project on "Population growth and economic development", being carried out in co-operation with the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters, may be considered as belonging generally in this group. Other basic subjects represent selections within the broad scope provided by the projects on "Studies of basic economic development problems and policies", and "Mobilization of financial resources for economic development". These would offer opportunities for co-operative work, not only with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters, but also with the specialized agencies and other regional economic commissions.

For the economic development and planning studies in these three categories, a moderate strengthening of staff is required at senior professional levels.

NATURAL RESOURCES (NON-AGRICULTURAL)

Water resources

The importance of controlling floods and of the integrated development of water resources for flood control, irrigation, navigation and power generation was recognized by the Commission, at an early stage, when it adopted a resolution in 1947 on the establishment of the Bureau of Flood Control in ECAFE. It was subsequently renamed the Bureau of Flood Control and Water Resources Development. The Bureau is carrying out studies of flood control methods and organizations, country by country surveys of multiple-purpose river basin development, and technical and economic surveys related to the flood control and development of international rivers in the region. It disseminates technical information through the publication of the *Flood Control Series* and the "Flood Control Journal", convenes periodically technical conferences on flood control and water resources development, and co-operates with specialized agencies, such as the World Meteorological Organization, on hydrologic problems of water resources development. The work of the Bureau is developed in the light of the measures for co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies through the machinery of the Inter-Agency Meetings of International Co-operation with Respect to the Development and Utilization of Water Resources. The Bureau works in co-operation with, and is assisted by, the Centre for the Promotion of Water Resources Development and Utilization under the Bureau of Economic Affairs at United Nations Headquarters.

The Bureau works in co-operation with national agencies responsible for planning and programming water resources development. To serve the purpose of promoting water resources development, it is proposed that the Bureau should concentrate its effort on such problems as would help the countries to frame a water policy and to formulate a water development programme along sound lines.

There are many problems of a technical or scientific nature which are of vital importance to water resources development, such as the sedimentation of river beds and reservoirs, the choice of different kinds of dams, methods of canal lining. It is felt, however, that such problems can be more effectively dealt with by research institutes. The Bureau does not have any research facilities of its own.

In addition to problems of general interest, projects undertaken should be of basic and common importance to most countries of the region. Furthermore, projects of regional importance should also be examined to see whether they could be more effectively handled by ECAFE or by other international and regional agencies.

The work of the Bureau may be developed in the future on the following lines:

Basic services in water resources development

There will be a continuing need to improve basic services for planning and developing the region's water resources. The present work of the Bureau has emphasized the importance of hydrologic data and mapping. The study of the major deficiencies in hydrologic data undertaken by the Bureau, therefore, will have to be continued. A seminar on hydrologic training is proposed for 1959. Work on hydrologic surveying and mapping may then be undertaken as a new project in this field.

Policy for water resources development

The Bureau's work will be increasingly geared to meet the needs of countries to formulate a sound policy for the development of water resources by the countries. The concept and study of multiple-purpose river basin development, emphasized by the Bureau, now needs to be followed up by governments. The Bureau would therefore have continuing advisory and research functions to perform. This work may be developed in co-operation with Headquarters and the specialized agencies concerned.

Methods of developing water resources

In the development of river basins, attention has to be devoted to methods, procedures and standards of river basin development. So far, the Bureau's work has been confined to the study of earthwork construction and of the effective use of manual labour and/or combination of manual labour and machines. A working party on earth moving operations will meet in 1959 in co-operation with the Bureau of Economic Affairs at Headquarters. There is also the larger question of evolving an appropriate and effective form of organization for the execution of river basin development. The work initiated by the Bureau will be followed up in this regard by further intensive study of specific aspects of organization for river basin development. The countries of the region are also paying increasing attention to water codes designed to regulate the use of water, and to the need to develop a sound legislative system in this regard. This is a field in which the Bureau can render immense help to countries by carrying out studies, disseminating information and rendering advice to governments. Finally, the periodic review of the progress made and the analysis of the problems of water resources development should continue to be an important function of the Bureau.

Promotion of regional co-operation

Through the Regional Technical Conference on Water Resources Development, held every three years, the Bureau has attempted to bring together experts and high-ranking technical officials engaged in water resources development, with a view to promoting an exchange of ideas and experience and to creating a climate conducive to increased co-operation among the countries of the region. It is intended to continue to convene such conferences every three years. However the intervals in between such conferences, technical meetings or working parties might be organized which would consider specific aspects of the question, such as earth moving operations, use of machinery and hydrologic observations.

International co-operative action

Apart from promoting international co-operation in such technical matters as the exchange of hydrologic data, adoption of common standards for hydrologic measurements, establishment of joint flood warning and hydrologic forecast systems, other methods of promoting international co-operative action have been tried by the Bureau; for example, the reconnaissance of the basin of an international river (the lower Mekong), and the establishment of an inter-governmental body (the Committee for the Co-ordination of Investigations composed of the four riparian countries, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam). It is worth recalling that the initial impetus for the important work on the lower Mekong basin was given by secretariat studies followed by investigations by a survey team, and currently through the assistance provided by several governments in addition to that by the Technical Assistance Board (TAB), Technical Assistance Administra-

tion (TAA) and specialized agencies. The Economic and Social Council, in a resolution adopted at its twenty-sixth session, noted ECAFE's role in the work on the lower Mekong basin. This work will continue to demand increasing attention and will also require greater staff resources. If conditions permit, it may be possible to take up initial studies of other international rivers with a view to promoting international co-operation on the same lines. There are eighteen major international rivers in the region which may also offer vast possibilities of development by international co-operation.

Spreading of new technology

Information on new techniques and methods developed in the various fields of water resources development are being published in the "Flood Control Journal".

In order to spread a new technology, it is not sufficient to disseminate technical information. It is also necessary to introduce new techniques through such means as a demonstration or pilot projects. Assistance from the Special Fund or TAA to finance such projects is necessary.

The following problems may form the subject of pilot or demonstration projects: artificial precipitation; exploration of ground water resources with the help of radio-active isotopes; prevention of saline water intrusion, reclamation of salt-impregnated lands.

Training, demonstration and research institution

In addition to the demonstration projects on new technological development mentioned in the previous section, it is considered desirable to establish, possibly with the help of the Special Fund, a training centre on water resources development.

Since 1949, the Bureau has pursued a suggestion that a kind of "on-the-spot" training be organized at project sites. While universities and graduate schools give instructions on the theoretical aspects of water projects, there is at present no institution that offers systematic training on the planning, execution and operation of projects. Training at a project site, in particular when the project is under execution, yields most fruitful results. It is felt that, if advantage is taken of the many major water development projects now being executed in Asia, a training centre can be organized to meet this need.

Another useful way of assisting many countries in this region is to strengthen basic national services for water resources development. This involves the provision of much-needed equipment and of experts to the hydrologic stations, engineering experiment stations and hydraulic research institutes. A case study should be initiated at an early date with a view to carefully identifying the needs and preparing a programme of assistance in the establishment and operation of hydrologic stations.

Mineral resources

The work in this field commenced with a general assessment of the mineral resources situation and of the status of national geological surveys of the region. With the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development after the successful Mineral Resources Development Conference held in 1953, the scope and opportunities for co-operative action between members of the Commission were explored. Study tours were arranged by ECAFE in co-operation with TAA. The secretariat also arranged for laboratory and research facilities in some advanced member countries to be put at the disposal of the ECAFE countries for testing their coal, iron ore and other minerals. Advisory services were rendered to governments in the preparation of a number of projects for the development of, for example, coal and lignite. A Working Party has been established in co-operation with the International Geological Congress in order to prepare a regional geological map for Asia and the Far East by a co-operative effort on the part of the governments of the region.

The Commission has already approved the proposals for preparing mineral maps on the same lines, and, later on, a tectonic map for the region. These maps may also be co-ordinated with other regional maps. The work on the dissemination of information and the annual review of the mining

situation in the region has now become a regular feature of the secretariat's activities. *Ad hoc* studies, such as the one on mining legislation, might be taken a stage further. The success of the Symposium on Petroleum Resources of the region, which was held in 1958, indicates that more work is required in this field, and it is hoped to hold a second symposium about 1962. The work currently being done in the field of geological and mineral mapping will be further continued, bearing in mind the decision taken by the Commission on the suggestions of the United Nations Cartographic Conference held in Tokyo in 1958. Surveys should also be undertaken to evaluate the adequacy of existing knowledge of the deposits of metals and ores other than coal, iron ore, aluminium, sulphur and titanium so far covered in the secretariat surveys. New techniques of aerial mapping offer possibilities of co-operative action by neighbouring countries. Already, a number of adjoining countries have agreed to carry out joint geological surveys of their border areas.

Power

Since its establishment in 1952, the Sub-Committee on Electric Power has kept under continuous review the problems of electric power generation and supply. It has studied the problems of rural electrification, which has an important part to play in the agricultural and rural life of the countries of the region. The use of indigenous material, such as wood poles for transmission lines, has been examined in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Work has been commenced on the study of the applicability of various techniques of assessing the hydroelectric power potentials in the light of local conditions. The countries of the ECAFE region are still in the early stages as regards the development of electric power. Conventional natural resources for generating hydroelectric and thermal power are not yet fully exploited. At the same time, in the development of electric power for industrialization, greater emphasis should be laid on work pertaining to the assessment of energy balance, taking into account the possibilities of conventional and also non-governmental sources of electric power. The secretariat will bring to the notice of countries the need to develop further their fuel resources in order to keep pace with rising needs. ECAFE can most usefully assist countries of the region by disseminating information on the vast accumulated knowledge and experience acquired in the more advanced countries on power development, and thus enable these countries to avoid teething troubles and to speed up progress. The dissemination of technical information would cover a wide range of subjects, including surveys, planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance, utilization and tariff problems. The methods and practices followed by the more advanced countries should be adapted to conditions in the region. ECAFE has a special responsibility for assisting countries by arranging consultations and exchange of views.

The publication of the "Electric Power Bulletin" and studies on rural electrification are two continuing projects in the programme of work. The former gives an account of the progress being achieved in power development in the region. The Sub-Committee on Electric Power will continue to guide the studies of the technical and economic problems of rural electrification with a view to reducing costs and working expenses and to improving efficiency.

Among the problems which the Sub-Committee would tackle in the next five years are: (a) comparative study and formulation of tariffs on a scientific and rational basis, (b) standardization of voltages, frequency, methods and practices, (c) integrated development of thermal and hydroelectric power resources, (d) co-ordination of power and industrial development, and (e) long-term forecasts of energy requirements in the countries of the region.

Technological developments are taking place in the field of nuclear power with astounding rapidity. It would therefore be in the long-term interest of the countries of the region to keep themselves fully informed of the latest developments. In this regard, ECAFE, in co-operation with ECE, and with the help of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will act

as a clearing house for the collection and dissemination of information.

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

Shortly after the Second World War, when many Asian countries became independent, some of them wished to set up iron and steel industries of their own, and at the same time to develop their mineral resources and electric power generating capacity. Their governments also desired to assist cottage and small-scale industries, and to improve housing. In order to meet the changing and diverse needs of the countries of the region in the field of industrialization, the Commission established a Committee on Industry and Trade and a number of subsidiary bodies such as Sub-Committees and Working Parties relating to the above fields.

Within the means available, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and the secretariat developed their attention to promoting the planning of the development of iron and steel industries, the initiation of geological and mineral surveys, the development of electric power, devising measures for greater state assistance to cottage and small-scale industries and creating a keener interest in more and better housing, especially for low-income groups.

The Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel, since its establishment in 1949, has periodically reviewed the plans and problems of the iron and steel industries in the ECAFE region, and their steel consumption trends and future demand; it has also attempted to evolve uniform standard specifications for iron and steel applicable in the region. Among the other questions studied by the Sub-Committee were the promotion of interregional trade in iron and steel, a survey of laboratory facilities, possibilities of interchange of research and technical facilities, and consideration of the problems of technical personnel for the iron and steel industries.

Study tours were arranged to Japan and Europe. The dissemination of information and the "Iron and Steel Bulletin" have now become regular features of the secretariat's activities. In addition to advisory services, the secretariat is also rendering assistance to countries by facilitating interchange of research and laboratory facilities and training.

Several countries have now made some progress with their iron and steel industries, and there are a number of problems which need continuing attention as mentioned in the current programme of work. With the development of steel industries, the steel processing and transforming industries have gained in importance. Accordingly, the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, at its last session, recommended that its scope of work should be expanded to cover foundry steel-consuming and other metal industries, including both the economic and technical problems involved. The Commission has approved this recommendation.

At the same time, it is realized that small-scale industries will continue to occupy an important place in this region. The Working Party on Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, established in 1951, studied the organizational, technical and economic aspects of the industries producing textiles, ceramics (pottery), leather and leather goods. It sponsored, in co-operation with the TAA, a study group of cottage industry experts to Japan, and attempted to promote the establishment of common facility services for cottage and small-scale industries, and the co-ordination of research and experiments. This work will be continued.

In the field of manufacturing industries, the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources will continue to review the over-all picture of progress and problems. The secretariat will take up for study the problems of specific large-scale industries of importance to the region, one by one. In the work programme, the Pulp and Paper Conference to be convened jointly with FAO is scheduled for 1960. The secretariat is also preparing to undertake a study of the heavy chemicals industry in the region. After this, work on other industries, such as fertilizers, cement and glass, will be taken up. Each industry will be intensively studied, both from the technical and the economic point of view. In addition, information on these

industries will be disseminated through the publication of the "Industrial Development Series".

Useful work can be done to encourage co-operation between two or more countries of the region in the promotion of industrial development. Relevant studies could make the countries concerned aware of industrial possibilities for certain industries, for which one principal raw material or facility is found in one country and the other in another country. ECAFE could study the possibilities of setting up industries for two or more national markets in the case of industries requiring economies of scale by the adoption of large-scale production, as has been done for Central America by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). The work done at Headquarters, in accordance with the Council's programme of work on industrialization, would also provide a basis for joint projects with the Bureau of Economic Affairs at Headquarters. The proper balance between the employment of machinery and labour in respect of earth-moving operations is to be dealt with jointly by the ECAFE secretariat and the Bureau of Economic Affairs. The studies on scale of production and on problems of management, undertaken by the Bureau of Economic Affairs, will be useful in regard to the problem of capital-intensity versus labour-intensity in industrial operations in this region. Inadequate attention is at present paid to the problem of demand surveys for industrial products in the region. As the industrialization process gathers momentum, the problem of the market will assume increasing importance.

With the establishment of the Special Fund and the possible availability of financial assistance for setting up pilot plants, training centres and research institutions for industries, the secretariat can assist the countries of the region in preparing schemes for such plants, training centres and institutions, which could aim at promoting co-operative measures by groups of countries. These institutions could be so conceived from the beginning as to serve regional needs.

HOUSING, BUILDING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

The present work of the Commission in this field is designed to meet the needs of the region for adequate housing, a building industry and increased supplies of building materials. The question of low-cost housing and reducing building costs is of vital importance to the countries of the region. The housing needs of low-income groups are assuming increasing urgency with the growth of urbanization. The continuing survey and analysis of the components of building costs will therefore remain one of the major long-term tasks of the secretariat.

The Working Party on Housing and Building Materials keeps under periodic review the housing situation in the region, and co-ordinates, at the regional level, the work of the various agencies on the basis of the work programme of ECAFE, the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council. The secretariat will also have to continue to advise and assist the two Regional Housing Centres which are being assisted in their work by the TAA and the specialized agencies.

In addition, countries of the region should be made keenly aware of the resources for the manufacture of building materials such as cement, lime, bricks, roofing tiles, bagasse boards, casement doors and windows.

Having regard to the important social and health aspects of housing, co-operation with other agencies requires strengthening. It is expected that this objective will be largely achieved within the framework of the concerted long-range programme of international action in the field of low-cost housing and related community facilities which is being prepared in consultation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Commission's work in international trade began with the convening of trade promotion conferences, which revealed the need to devise ways and means of stimulating intraregional and interregional trade and tourism. The Committee on In-

dustry and Trade devoted special attention to the problem of increasing, through international trade, the foreign exchange resources of the countries of the region for the financing of the import of capital goods and essential materials. The Sub-Committee on Trade which was subsequently established kept under periodic review the development of trade of the region, the improvement of trade promotion machinery, the simplification of customs and other procedures affecting international trade, problems of arbitration, standardization, and the holding of international fairs and exhibitions. As the economic development of the region began to gather momentum, the need for increasing the region's trade became even more pressing. The Sub-Committee on Trade became the Committee on Trade in 1957—a change which reflected the importance of the Commission's work on trade.

In the next five years, work on international trade is expected to assume even greater importance, as is evident from the programme of activities of the Committee on Trade. A basic task, undertaken by the Committee, in accordance with its terms of reference, and with the help of the secretariat, is a continuing review of developments in trade and trade policies. Various aspects of the problem have been selected for attention from year to year. Attention has been paid to international fairs and exhibitions, trade missions, trade agreements and export promotion techniques and practices. In the coming years, analyses of the commodity pattern of trade, the increasing role of governmental trading activities and enterprises, market research and trade promotion training are likely to come to the fore.

A major field of activity may be the promotion of intraregional trade. The first round of intraregional trade promotion talks was held in January 1959, with results which encouraged the continuation of such activity. As decided by the Committee on Trade, the secretariat will undertake a study of the principal commodities exchanged in intraregional trade, with a view to exploring ways and means of expanding it without prejudice to international trade. In this context, the impact of economic development plans on the structure of trade, and the scope for specialization and co-operation in establishing industries which could serve the markets of neighbouring countries, and thereby promote regional trade—all these aspects may assume greater importance in the work of the Committee on Trade. Attention will also be devoted to the changes in the volume and composition of goods imported by the countries of the region, in relation to the trend showing increasing imports of capital goods and raw materials.

The secretariat will continue to analyse existing regulations, procedures and practices concerning international trade, and to make recommendations for their simplification and streamlining. There will thus be a continuing review of import, export and exchange licensing procedures and policies.

A major field of activity in which great interest has been shown by governments is the simplification of customs procedures and formalities in order to facilitate international trade. The response to, and the results of, the first Working Party on Customs Administration clearly indicate the scope for practical action in this field. The Working Party is expected to review the implementation of measures recommended to countries, and to explore further the possibilities of agreements between countries for the freer movement of goods and passengers. Co-operation is envisaged with the secretariat of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies working in this field.

It is also expected that, while attention will continue to be given to questions connected with ocean freight rates and shipping availabilities, the secretariat work on this subject will necessarily be confined to the collection and dissemination of information. The governments of the region attach very great importance to this project, as can be seen from the fact that it was upgraded to the category of *ad hoc* projects of high priority by the Committee on Trade at its first session. It is therefore foreseen that more systematic collection and dissemination of information will be undertaken with the assistance of other international organizations.

Commercial arbitration, too, offers scope for intensified activity. In co-operation with the national and international organizations, and with the assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs at Headquarters, existing data on arbitration laws and procedures are being studied. At a later stage, a working party of experts on the subject is envisaged, as recommended by the Sub-Committee on Trade at its second session.

In the secretariat, some reorganization may be necessary to cope with the expanded scope and increased tempo of work in the field of trade. It may be desirable to split up the Industry and Trade Division and have separate Divisions for Industry and Trade. Such a reorganization would, of course, have financial implications.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The shortage of transport capacity in the region continues despite vigorous and large-scale development. There is also a lack of trained personnel to man key positions in the transport services, a shortage of funds and materials, and inadequate repair and maintenance facilities.

There are very few technical and other specialized institutions in the ECFAFE region equipped to undertake technical studies on inland transport. Consequently, it has been necessary for ECFAFE to fill this gap to some extent by initiating and carrying out studies on selected technical problems, and to act as a clearing house for technical information. The Inland Transport and Communications Committee and its sub-committees on railways, highways and inland waterways provide a forum for experts from within and outside the region to exchange their knowledge and experience.

Scope of work

The terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee, now called the Inland Transport and Communications Committee, were recently enlarged to include work on telecommunications, on which preliminary studies, conducted jointly with the International Telecommunication Union, have just commenced. While the volume of work will continue to grow, the scope of the work of the Inland Transport and Communications Committee will not be expanded.

Hitherto, the main need has been for the study of technological problems. Technological studies, particularly those with broad regional implications, will probably continue to be of interest, e.g. demonstration and pilot projects, the drawing up of conventions on certain aspects of transport operations, the development of international surface communication links, and the standardization of transport equipment. However, institutions such as the Railway Research and Testing Centres of Japan and India, the Highway Research Centres in the Philippines and in India, the Soil Testing Centre in the Federation of Malaya and the Hydraulic Laboratories in India and Japan, could be increasingly used to facilitate the study of these problems. The question of setting up a regional organization, on the lines of the International Union of Railways in Europe, to take over research work in the purely technological field was examined by the Inland Transport and Communications Committee and the Railway Sub-Committee, but was not found to be feasible. For the time being, the secretariat has to continue to perform the task of an international clearing house for technical information. The Commission has played a useful part in sponsoring the establishment of training centres, such as the United Nations Railway Training Centre at Lahore (Pakistan), and the Regional Training Centre for Diesel Marine Mechanics at Rangoon (Burma). A comprehensive review of the facilities available for training both within and outside the region in relation to actual requirements of individual countries is being undertaken by the secretariat; it will help governments in deciding how best they might avail themselves of existing training opportunities.

Fields of future activities

In the rehabilitation, improvement and development of transport systems, there is a need to increase the operational efficiency and carrying capacity of all forms of transport. Technical studies may be confined to problems such as dieselization,

operational matters, such as improvements in signalling, in methods of construction and in the maintenance of railway tracks and other engineering fields which directly influence the economy of operation. For some of the projects requiring field study and research, some assistance may be obtained from research institutions and non-governmental organizations working in these fields. The secretariat will also investigate, in consultation with governments, the possibilities of expanding national institutions into regional institutions, with a view to undertaking research and tests on specific problems, as recommended by the Inland Transport and Communications Committee.

In addition, greater attention will have to be paid in future to the economic aspects of transport and communications. Studies such as (a) transport as a factor in economic development, (b) the application of planning techniques to transport development, (c) studies on the financing of transport development in individual countries, (d) basic commodity transport studies, and other aspects, would help to emphasize the importance of transport in the development of the various sectors of the economy. It is already envisaged that the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning may consider, in 1960, the question of transport as a factor in economic development.

Moreover, there is scope for the further promotion of international co-operation in the field of transport. The Commission has already secured agreement among a number of countries on matters such as the Convention on Measurement and Registration of Craft Employed in Inland Navigation, Uniform System of Buoys and Shore Marks and International Highways. Further work might include studies on methods of financing international railway and highway communications, conventions on maximum moving dimensions for railways and on standard couplings in order to facilitate the exchange of rolling stock, and the standardization of transport equipment. The secretariat can also assist in the development of international railway and highway traffic and in the improvement of existing traffic. It will continue to work in co-operation with the International Union of Official Travel Organizations and its Regional Travel Commission, with a view to promoting international travel by simplifying frontier formalities and similar measures.

The future work programme in the field of transport, then, might be on the following lines:

General projects

Planning techniques have to be applied to transport development, and transport policies in relation to economic development need examination. In addition, specific studies on comparative rate and fare structures, scales of provision of facilities and financial aspects, including investment and financing of transport development, may be undertaken.

Transport also requires special study as a major factor in industrialization; in the first instance, it is proposed to undertake studies on the transport of basic commodities, namely, specific primary and finished products.

Work will be continued on the co-ordination of inland transport on the lines suggested by the Working Party convened in 1958. With a view to assisting the development of international transport, it is proposed to promote, by technical meetings, inter-governmental consultations for the simplification of frontier formalities and the removal of barriers to the development of international traffic.

Highways

After the examination of the purely technical aspects has progressed sufficiently, the main work might cover studies on problems such as economics of labour-intensive and capital-intensive methods of road construction, specific aspects of low-cost road construction, including financial ones, and promotion of highway safety through the organization of study weeks for traffic safety and other projects designed to stimulate national action.

In view of the growing importance of highway transportation, it is proposed to undertake studies on organizational and

operational aspects of highway transport. Studies will also be carried out on the development of international highways, including economic, technical, financial aspects of the question as also on the standardization of equipment, bearing in mind the scope for inter-governmental co-operation in these matters.

Inland waterways and ports

The main work on inland waterways and ports will be to stimulate governmental action in order to develop inland waterway transport, including the organizational and legislative aspects thereof. Other work will cover the unification of regulations concerning navigation on inland waterways, and the simplification and standardization of documents used in inland navigation. Co-operation in the work of developing the lower Mekong river basin will be continued. The secretariat will also effect liaison work with regional and international research organizations for tank testing of craft and for the development of prototype designs for vessels for inland and coastal navigation.

Railways

The present examination of the problems of track, traction, equipment and operation, including signalling, will cover both the technical and economic aspects thereof, such as lower investment cost, higher efficiency and maximum utilization of carrying capacity. In order to assist in the development of international railway traffic, it is proposed to undertake studies on standardization of equipment, and also on the possibility of drawing up a convention on maximum moving dimensions.

Telecommunications

Work in this field will be based on the recommendations of the Working Party which will meet in May 1959, and will be effected in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The present studies cover regional and national telecommunications requirements in relation to economic development needs, and also the exploration of the possibilities of establishing and expanding regional and national training centres. These studies will continue for some years to come. The future programme will include the convening of working groups of experts to deal with matters such as the application of planning techniques to communications development, methods of co-ordinating isolated projects within a country, the financing of telecommunication plans, the establishment of junior technical schools in all countries, and training of higher level personnel and instructors abroad.

AGRICULTURE

Background

From the very outset, ECAFE has been interested in problems of agriculture, which is the principal activity of the people of the region. In the early years of the Commission, the most urgent need in agriculture was for reconstruction, and this was reflected in the Commission's first work projects. As the effects of war-time damage and neglect began to be overcome, the attention of governments was directed to the planning and implementation of economic development programmes. The scope of ECAFE's work in this field has been gradually expanded in response to the growing interest of member countries in the economic aspects of food and agricultural problems.

Co-operation with FAO

It was apparent from the beginning that ECAFE's interest in agricultural problems ran close to, or overlapped, the field of competence of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and that close working relations would have to be established between the secretariats of the two organizations. The Commission has recognized FAO's primary responsibility for questions concerning food and agriculture, and has worked on the economic aspects of regional agricultural problems in close consultation with that organization. The Joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division was finally set up in 1952 as the means of integrating study and action

by ECAFE and FAO in relation to mutually agreed fields of work, and its personnel comprises officers of both organizations. The programme of work for the Division is, each year, submitted jointly to the Commission by the Director General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE. After approval by the Commission, the work programme is executed in close consultation with FAO. A feature of the work is the joint sponsoring by ECAFE and FAO of regional meetings on economic aspects of agricultural problems. This co-operation has worked well, and is likely to continue.

Trends in work programme

The activities of the Joint Division in the region seem to be developing along four main lines. First, there is the preparation of current reviews of developments in the field of food and agriculture. Secondly, a series of major work projects relating to agricultural development policy and planning. Thirdly comes the study and improvement of facilities for agricultural economics work. More or less isolated projects that may be necessary from time to time constitute a fourth group.

1. *Review of current developments.* The purpose of this project is to appraise the current state of food and agriculture in the region, and the bulk of the work involves the preparation of the sections on food and agriculture in ECAFE's annual and semi-annual surveys. Similar regional or country studies may also be undertaken for the purposes of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Far East, and of FAO Headquarters. The Division supplies appropriate information on food and agricultural questions required for ECAFE studies in addition to the regional economic surveys. This type of activity will continue to be necessary, and may have to be expanded in the future to include projections of demand and supply in relation to agricultural products.

2. *Agricultural development policy and planning.* The main fields of work that have evolved under this general heading are as follows:

(a) Studies of plans and planning

The Division has, since 1956, continued the study of the methods of agricultural planning followed in the countries of the region. The third meeting of the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, held in September 1957, concentrated on the agricultural sector and was co-sponsored by FAO. The recommendations of the Working Party reflected the fact that development programming on a countrywide basis was a comparatively recent origin in the region, and emphasis was placed on the requirements for agricultural planning, namely trained personnel, suitable organization and better statistics.

The Fourth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East, held at Tokyo in October 1958, discussed the report of the Working Party and recommended FAO to convene, possibly in conjunction with ECAFE, a group of experts to examine the technical problems of target-setting in agricultural development planning. The Conference also recommended broader studies of the general principles of realistic agricultural programming, and drew attention to the implications of national agricultural development plans and policies for the programmes of other countries.

It is apparent that work in this field will require more time, and become more fruitful as more governments of the region embark on more systematic planning for agriculture. The Working Party on Economic Development and Planning hoped that the ECAFE and FAO secretariats would continue to collect data and undertake reviews of the agricultural and general economic development plans of the countries of the region and of the progress made in their execution, and would issue such studies for the information of member governments and the general public.

For a study of the relationships between agricultural and industrial development in economies typical of the region experiencing rapid growth, a beginning has been made with the collection and preliminary examination of the relevant statistics of the countries of the region. It is hoped to continue the project by means of a case study in depth in a suit-

able country. Studies of this subject will become increasingly important.

With a view to throwing some light on the contribution of community development programmes to agricultural development as such, and to economic development in general, three intensive field studies were initiated in 1958 in China (Taiwan), India and Pakistan, in co-operation with local research institutes. Such field studies of special aspects of agricultural development will be continued, as far as possible, with a view to seeking original data on important regional problems. Capital formation in agriculture is considered a suitable subject for similar field inquiries in various countries.

(b) *Agricultural financing and credit*

Studies of the credit problems of small farmers have been undertaken by the Division. It will continue to be essential to collect and analyse information on the methods and institutions being evolved in the region to provide finance and credit for agricultural development.

(c) *Food and agricultural price policies*

Most governments of the region have continued to intervene in food and agricultural prices to a varying degree at some or all stages in the passage of the commodity from the producer to the consumer, although objectives and methods differ from country to country.

At its tenth session, the Commission decided to undertake work in this field, and two comprehensive studies of food and agricultural price policies in countries of the region have been made by the Division, one in 1955 and the second in 1958. In 1958, also, a joint FAO/ECAFE Centre on Policies to Support and Stabilize Agricultural Prices and Incomes in Asia and the Far East was organized. Further regional studies and activities in relation to this subject are necessary.

(d) *Marketing of agricultural products*

The marketing of agricultural products in many countries of the region frequently leaves much to be desired. The Commission has expressed interest in the collection and study of selected marketing regulations and practices. In 1955, the Division prepared a report on the Marketing of Major Edible Oils (Liquid) and Oilseeds in the ECAFE Region, but more recently it has concentrated on promoting and facilitating surveys of domestic marketing, especially of paddy and rice, by national research institutes. This type of work has only just begun, and will continue in co-operation with the recently appointed FAO Regional Marketing Specialist for Asia and the Far East.

3. *Agricultural economics.* Agricultural economics work in the countries of the region is of considerable importance, especially in relation to the requirements of data and analytical studies and of trained personnel for agricultural development and planning. Such work has progressed in only a few countries of the region.

A review of the status and scope of agricultural economic studies and research was completed in 1958. Further national research is urgently needed for development planning, and there is also a need for creating or strengthening special agricultural economic units in the Ministries of Agriculture and for improving the training and research facilities in this subject at universities.

It is considered that further regional studies and activities in this field would be useful.

4. *Special studies.* From time to time, it may be possible to do useful short-term work in relation to a particular problem or subject of regional interest. For instance, at its thirteenth session, the Commission approved a programme of case studies on the utilization of agricultural surpluses from overseas for economic development in countries of the region. One such study, in relation to Japan, was completed in 1958, and others will be undertaken in 1959.

Future activities

Most of the subjects now being covered by the Division are of long-term interest and importance, and are expected to

require attention on a continuing basis over the next five years. The main emphasis may shift in any year from some subjects to others, depending on the appropriate time for a major effort, such as a comprehensive regional study of developments in the various countries, or a regional technical meeting. At other times, the collection of data and information from countries must continue on each subject.

It is anticipated that the work will steadily expand, not so much because of an increase in the number of subjects, as of a deepening of the study of those already selected. This is particularly likely in agricultural development plans and planning.

It is intended to make the fullest use of existing national research institutions in the study of regional problems. To a considerable extent, this is dependent upon the availability of funds to engage the staff of such institutions as short-term consultants.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Broadly speaking, the work programme of the Division of Social Affairs covers social policy (including social aspects of economic development), population, community development, and social services. In the first three of these areas, the work programme is at present derived from the Commission's work programme as well as from the directives of the Social and Population Commissions. The interdependence and interaction of social and economic problems has been increasingly recognized in the recent discussions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and, as noted earlier, it has been suggested that the terms of reference of the regional economic commissions be enlarged to include the social aspects of economic development.

So far as the next five years are concerned, if the Commission decides to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the inclusion of the social aspects of economic development in its terms of reference, and if the Council accepts this recommendation, a closer relation may be desirable between all the social activities, including social services, and the Commission's work on development planning, industrialization and resources development.

Social policy

In the field of social policy, problems of balanced economic and social development, urbanization and industrialization are becoming increasingly important. Specifically, ECAFE will be directly concerned with work on the problem of balanced economic and social development. Material has already been collected for a country case study of this problem in Ceylon, and it is expected that the draft of the study will be completed shortly. Preparatory work has been started for a similar case study, involving planning for balanced economic and social development in the Damodar Valley of India. Both these case studies will be presented to the 1959 session of the ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, which will consider the problems of balanced economic and social development.

The social aspects of industrialization in the ECAFE region are discussed in the "Review of Postwar Industrialization", a study which constitutes part II of the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1958*. The most important conclusion of this study, insofar as social aspects are concerned, is that these aspects cannot be treated as a group of separate problems; the various chapters dealing with specific problems of industrialization therefore contain sections concerning social aspects of such problems as the availability of human resources and the effects of industrial growth on welfare and the social structure.

Work in the field of urbanization has engaged the attention of ECAFE for some time. A regional seminar on that topic, co-sponsored by ECAFE, the Bureau of Social Affairs and UNESCO, was held in Bangkok in 1956; pursuant to a recommendation made at that meeting, another seminar devoted specifically to problems of physical planning and the location of industry was held in Tokyo in 1958.

Future work in the field of social policy is expected to continue along the broad lines indicated; details of work in this area will be further defined within the framework of the review of the Commission's terms of reference referred to above.

Population

A major problem of economic development in the ECAFE countries is that of the rapidly growing population. The magnitude of present and prospective future population changes and their implications for economic development programming are to a considerable extent unknown. The programme of population studies on which work has begun in accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session, and by the Population Commission at its ninth session, will be a major undertaking in the next five years.

In view of the inadequacy and inaccuracy of information on the demography of most countries in the region, a detailed review and evaluation of available data will be carried out. The effects of population trends on manpower, capital formation and investment will be studied. The magnitude and trends of internal migratory movements and their impact on industrial and agricultural development will also be investigated. Conversely, the effects of economic development upon population growth will be considered.

A major handicap in the study of population on the national level is the absence, or the small number, of experienced demographers in most countries of the region. The Demographic Training and Research Centre established by the United Nations and the Government of India in Bombay will help to fill this gap. Its programme should be supplemented by special courses for the training of experts whose main foreign language is French. As the numbers of trained personnel in the various countries are increased and national programmes of demographic studies are developed, there will be an increasing need for the ECAFE secretariat to provide advisory and consultative services to government agencies and other institutions working in this field.

Advisory services will be rendered in the design of demographic field studies and the analysis of material collected in the population censuses to be taken in many countries in or about 1960. Regional seminars and technical working groups will have to be convened in order to assist governments in the planning and execution of the 1960 and 1961 population censuses, with particular reference to the evaluation and utilization of census results. The Division will also assist the Bureau of Social Affairs in undertaking demographic pilot studies in the region. The Commission has decided to organize a regional conference on population, as proposed by the Inaugural Conference as well as at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Demographic Training and Research Centre; for this purpose, comprehensive preparations will have to be made.

Community development

In a number of countries, governments have inaugurated community development programmes aimed at enabling the villagers, who constitute the large majority of the population, to participate in the improvement of their economic, social and cultural conditions, and to integrate rural communities into the life of the nation. ECAFE has been keenly interested in these programmes, and has undertaken a study of the role of expanded self-help measures in economic development, with particular reference to industrialization and agriculture, in co-operation with the Bureau of Social Affairs and FAO.

It is envisaged that the major emphasis in the field of community development during the next five years will be placed on providing assistance to governments in the formulation and implementation of their community development programmes, with special reference to:

(a) The formulation of community development policies in relation to over-all national plans for economic and social development;

(b) The role of community development in relation to economic development of rural areas;

(c) Social aspects of community development;

(d) Community development in relation to resource development projects;

(e) Community development in relation to urban development;

(f) Public administration aspects of community development; and

(g) The training of community development personnel.

ECAFE may provide a forum where government officials and other experts can exchange experience and views, and it is expected that assistance to governments may be effected, as before, mainly through the provision of experts and fellowships, the organization of seminars, and the undertaking of case studies relating to the subject indicated. In view of the serious problems of rapid urbanization in many countries in the region, increasing attention may be given to analogous problems in urban communities. The extent to which the principles and methods of community development can be applied to urban areas would be examined in this connexion.

ADVISORY WORK AND TRAINING

The Commission, particularly at its eleventh session, contemplated the provision by the secretariat in an increasing measure of advisory services in the field of economic development. This work could be further developed in the light of experience gained by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) in its studies of long-term economic development trends and policies in a number of individual countries, and in its studies relating to economic integration in Central America, and by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in respect of the economic development of southern European countries. Account must also be taken of the increasing importance of the secretariat's responsibilities for advising governments on request and for back-stopping technical assistance experts.

The need for an in-service training programme in ECAFE is keenly felt. There are special problems which are characteristic of ECAFE and which do not exist in ECLA and ECE, where such programmes are already being carried out. The trainees, on their return, would serve primarily their governments, and it would generally not be possible to secure their services for the ECAFE secretariat in view of the shortage of personnel in the countries themselves. The programme would have to be confined to a limited number of trainees who should be very carefully selected. The trainees would have to be taken from those countries which would benefit most by such training. It might be necessary to exclude candidates from some of the relatively more advanced countries of the region. It is proposed to explore the possibility of commencing, on an experimental basis, an in-service training programme with the help of such assistance as may be secured from the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. If the experiment is successful, the programme may be continued on a long-term basis.

There is also a need to promote the improvement of education and research in the field of economics in the universities of the countries of the region. The survey of research in Agricultural Economics undertaken by the joint FAO-ECAFE Division has revealed that there is scope for improving the work of universities in these fields, particularly through providing refresher courses and study-travel abroad to university teachers and promising research students. This is a matter which requires consultation between the secretariats of UNESCO and ECAFE.

METHOD OF WORK

The value of ECAFE's work increases proportionately with the effective participation of the member governments in all its activities, and hence the fullest possible exchange of international experience. It is realized that most of the meetings convened under the auspices of ECAFE deal with subjects of interest to practically every member government. It is

therefore necessary to ensure the participation of member governments, particularly of the region, in all ECAFE meetings. For the sessions of the Commission, of its main committees, of Sub-Committees and of other subsidiary bodies, governments generally send very senior officials in order to present their country's case properly and also to obtain a better understanding of mutual problems.

Having regard to the directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has attempted to restrict the number and duration of meetings. One of the most practical methods of achieving this object is to carry out preparatory work by convening technical meetings of the seminar or working group type before convening the regular meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, discussions at the sessions of the Commission and of the subsidiary bodies, as well as the secretariat studies in a number of fields, have reached a stage where policy decisions already taken now require discussion of tasks and methods of implementation. The Commission has repeatedly emphasized the importance of keeping under review the extent to which and the methods whereby the decisions and the recommendations of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies are implemented by member governments. For these purposes, *ad hoc* groups of experts, working parties of experts, and perhaps seminars, will have to be convened much more frequently than has been the case during the last ten years. This natural but inevitable re-orientation of the Commission's method of work has financial implications. The convening of expert groups and seminars will, in conformity with the normal procedures of the United Nations, involve the payment to participants of travel expenses and *per diem*. It is estimated that the additional funds required will amount to some \$25,000 a year.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The budgetary implications of the trend of the work over the next five years, as described above, cannot be given in any

ANNEX V

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, seventeenth and twenty-sixth sessions and revised in consequence of General Assembly resolution 1134 (XII) of 17 September 1957

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 the 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;

degree of detail. The Council's request in resolution 694 D (XXVI), paragraph 6 (c), is for an "estimate" of the "the magnitude of likely changes in the budgetary requirements of applying the cost factors known from experience to new and developing parts of the programmes".

On the basis of past experience, the implementation of the new and developing parts of the programme would seem to call for a target addition to the staff, by the end of the five-year period (1964), of 24 posts in the Professional category. The bulk of these additional posts would be at the P-3 level, with the remainder divided about equally between P-4 and P-5. The additional staff called for in the General Service is estimated at 28 posts, a large proportion of which would be for statistical clerks and computers.

By far the largest single need for an increase in staff relates to the statistical work of the secretariat, which, it is estimated, will require an addition of some 6 posts in the Professional and 12 in the General Service categories. The remaining requirements are spread fairly evenly among the other divisions of the secretariat.

The additional requirements for such items as office space and supplies, printing, etc., cannot yet be estimated in any detail; the same applies to the figures under the heading "Travel", additions to which would result not only from the extra posts required, but also from the greater need for travel that will result from the improvements proposed in the work of the secretariat.

It is estimated that a total additional budget of approximately \$500,000 annually would be required to implement the programme. It includes the estimated provision of \$25,000 for convening groups of experts, working parties and seminars referred to in the preceding section. The total additional annual funds of approximately \$500,000 would not be needed at the beginning of the five-year period, but could rise steadily and reach the target figure at the end of the period (1964).

(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, Iran, 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, the Federation of Malaya, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, 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 Singapore and British Borneo (i.e., Singapore, North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak).

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

ANNEX VI

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, eleventh, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission (E/CN.11/2/Rev.14)

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 forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the open-

ing 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 48.

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 B (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.

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-Chairman 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.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

CHAPTER VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the power 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 26

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 27

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 28

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 29

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 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

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 32

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 33

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 34

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 35

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 36

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 37

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 38

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 39

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 40

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 41

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.

Rule 42

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connexion with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

CHAPTER VIII. LANGUAGES

Rule 43

English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 44

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

CHAPTER IX. RECORDS

Rule 45

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 46

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 47

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 48

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 on the Register.

CHAPTER X. PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 49

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 50

Non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the Register may designate authorized representative to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission.

Rule 51

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 52

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 either of the official languages.

Rule 53

(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 54

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 52 (d) shall not apply in this case.

CHAPTER XII. SUB-COMMISSIONS, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 55

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 56

The Commission may establish such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 57

Sub-Commissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, sub-committees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

CHAPTER XIII. REPORTS

Rule 58

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

CHAPTER XIV. AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 59

Any of these rules of procedures 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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