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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Note on the work programmes in the economic and social fields

(Note by the Secretary-General)

1. The Secretary-General wishes to present the attached summary of the United Nations programme of work in the economic and social fields, with a view to assisting the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its review of the Budget Estimates for 1961.
2. The summary is a description of the more important programmes and activities of the Organization in these fields, indicating the main emphasis and direction of the programmes.

Introduction

1. A few words may be in place to explain what is attempted in the following pages.
2. Last year the Fifth Committee had before it, as part of the Secretary-General's budget foreword, an expanded statement in which the work programmes of the United Nations were briefly analysed in relation to budgetary and staff requirements. The Committee welcomed this statement and expressed the hope that the foreword might be amplified still further in future years.
3. In the present document there is accordingly submitted, as an annex to the Secretary-General's foreword, a description of the more important of the programmes and activities (excluding public information) that are financed from the regular budget. The treatment is not intended to be exhaustive; abundant material on the substance of each programme can be drawn readily from other sources. The aim is rather to summarize, in a text of sensible length, features of the work of the Organization that are germane to an examination of the budget. Special mention is thus made of factors likely to reduce or add to the current volume of work.
4. The intrinsic and relative importance of the different fields of activity or that of their component programmes has not determined the length at which they are described, and this may seem, at first glance, to result in a sharp imbalance, to the detriment in particular of the space devoted to political activities. But, apart from the fact that the latter are so well known that anything beyond a passing reference would be otiose, the evidence of fourteen sessions shows that the Fifth Committee customarily gives more time to the budgetary implications of economic and social programmes than to any other subject. These then are given pride of place in the text that follows.
5. The estimates for 1961 are being written earlier than in other years, and the present digest has likewise been compiled in advance of the 1960 sessions of many commissions and committees. Furthermore the Economic and Social Council intends this year to give special attention to a general appraisal of the work of the United Nations in the economic, social, human rights and related fields for the period 1959-1964. Its decisions may modify existing situations.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

Statistics

6. The functions of the Statistical Office at Headquarters, performed in co-operation with the secretariats of the regional commissions, are broadly: to collect, analyse and publish statistical data; to formulate and develop international standards; and to provide direct services to requesting Governments. The continuous expansion of the statistical work of the United Nations that has occurred in the years 1946-1960 may be ascribed, first, to the increase in the number of countries looking for assistance, and, secondly, to a marked change in the nature of the Office's responsibilities according as the requests from all sources have become progressively more complex and of wider scope. These factors of increase reflect the general intensification of national economic and social activities as well as a growing awareness on the part of Governments of the essential importance of statistics in determining economic and social policy.

7. So heavy and so diverse are the demands that the Statistical Office has no alternative but to make a strictly selective approach so that available resources may be devoted to the provision of data for which the need appears to be most nearly universal. In particular, this consideration applies to the Office's principal function - the collection and publication of data - for numerous, valid requests are received for additional statistical series beyond those issued in its basic reference books and other publications.^{1/} Furthermore, financial limitations make it, at times, necessary to halt the compilation of data in one series in favour of another series that is more urgently required.

8. Apart from the services rendered to Governments through the publication of international statistics and through the development of standards and definitions in many sectors,^{2/} the Statistical Office provides direct assistance to requesting Governments, particularly in the under-developed countries. Such assistance,

^{1/} Statistical Yearbook; Demographic Yearbook; Yearbook of International Trade Statistics; Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics; Monthly Bulletin of Statistics; Commodity Trade Statistics (quarterly), etc.

^{2/} The following may be cited as examples of the latter work: System of National Accounts; Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation; Standard International Trade Classification; Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses.

financed both from the regular budget and the Expanded Programme, is principally of two types: (a) advice on methods of developing statistical services, and (b) assistance in the training of statisticians.

9. An example of the former type of direct assistance is to be found in the programme for a statistical survey of Africa which the Economic and Social Council authorized in July 1959 on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Africa. The aim of this survey is to assemble, on as comparable a basis as possible, a statistical picture of the countries of Africa, as a first step in the development of their statistical services.

10. In illustration of the second type of direct assistance, reference may be made to the training centres in population census methods organized in 1958 in Lima and Tokyo and to the assignment of experts to the statistical centres in the University of the Philippines and the University of Cairo and to the similar centre at the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta. The work programme of the Economic Commission for Africa includes provision for demonstration centres and for the in-service training of junior and intermediate personnel as well as other projects for building up an adequate supply of trained statisticians.

Economic surveys and analyses

11. The World Economic Survey stands first in importance among the economic surveys and analyses which the Secretariat undertakes every year for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It serves as the basic document for the Council's annual review of the world economic situation, and is intended, through the appraisal it makes of the current situation and immediate outlook, to assist the Council and other competent organs in framing their recommendations for action in the economic field.

12. Beginning with the World Economic Survey, 1955, the annual Survey has contained, in addition to the appraisal proper, a comprehensive study of a major long-term issue of world-wide significance, special emphasis being given, in accordance with a directive of the Council, to "the analysis of economic problems of primary importance for the economic development of less developed countries and areas and the economic progress of the world as a whole".

13. The preparation of the World Economic Survey is a responsibility of the Division of General Economic Research and Policies at Headquarters. The work is, however, co-ordinated with similar work in the regional secretariats; as for example, the annual economic surveys of Europe, Asia and the Far East, and Latin America, similar reports on Africa prepared in the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the supplement on the Middle East, which (in the absence of a regional commission for the Middle East) is prepared by a small unit at Headquarters.

14. Apart from the World Economic Survey, other general studies for which the Division of General Economic Research and Policies is responsible include, in addition to the studies on international trade and commodity problems set out separately below:

- (a) preparation of documentation for the ministerial-level meetings of ECOSOC;
- (b) the work programme on economic projections of world production and trade requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 741 (XXVIII) on long-term economic projections. The Division's work in this area is being co-ordinated with similar work in the regional secretariats and specialized agencies; an inter-agency meeting on projections is planned for the first week of July 1960 in Geneva;
- (c) the work programme on world economic development requested by the General Assembly in resolution 1428 (XIV). The initial report under this resolution is being linked with the ECOSOC resolution on long-term projections.

Surveys of world social conditions and of
programmes of social development

15. Under the programme which the Economic and Social Council approved in 1949, the Bureau of Social Affairs prepares periodic reports on world social conditions and on measures taken by Governments to improve the situation. A Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation, published in 1952, was followed by the first International Survey of Programmes of Social Development in 1955. In accordance with the alternating cycle of reports on conditions and measures, the next in the series was a Report on the World Social Situation, published in 1957, while a

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second International Survey of Programmes of Social Development was published in 1959. The next major report on the world social situation is to be submitted to the Social Commission and the Council in 1963, and will include a comprehensive review of changes in levels of living throughout the world and analyses of such special problems as the situation demands.

16. For the period 1960-61, the work programme of the Secretariat in this area comprises (in addition to preparatory studies for the 1963 report) the following main items, for consideration by the Social Commission and the Council in 1961:

- (a) A report containing (i) a brief survey of major social trends in relation to economic trends; and (ii) a study of balanced economic and social developments;
- (b) In collaboration with the specialized agencies, a study of ways and means of improving the quality of the data available for analyses of the world social situation. To this end, work relating to the establishment of contacts with centres engaged in research on problems of the economically under-developed areas will be intensified; assistance will be given to Governments and research on problems of social policy will be strengthened; a study will be made of the major gaps in information on social conditions; and a review will be undertaken of the structure and scope of the report on the world social situation, the major types of data and analyses that should be included in successive reports, and the frequency of issue.

Development of natural resources

17. Work devolving on the Secretariat in the field of natural resources has expanded rapidly. This is the result not only of a number of recent decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in recognition of the importance of resource utilization in economic development, but also of the additional substantive servicing needed by a steadily increasing number of projects requested by Governments under Technical Assistance and Special Fund programmes. It is of interest to note in this connexion that the Special Fund places emphasis on natural resources development and that, as of the end of 1959, five out of the seven Special Fund projects for which the United Nations is the Executive Agency, are concerned with the development of natural resources. A substantial

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rise in the number of such projects is anticipated in the coming years. In these conditions, it has become imperative to engage technical advisers to assist the Resources and Transport Branch in dealing with problems of a continuing character, as well as other specialists on an ad hoc basis and with sufficient flexibility to meet the changing technical requirements.

18. The Water Resources Development Centre, established at Headquarters at the request of the Council, has become the focal point for concerted action among United Nations agencies and for international co-operation on a wider scale in the field of water resources. As described in its first Biennial Report (E/3319), the Centre has had to absorb an increasing load in carrying out and developing the functions laid down by the Council with regard to co-ordination of operational activities and with regard to work on a series of substantive problems to which the Council gave priority in resolutions 675 (XXV) and 759 (XXIX).

19. As regards the development of energy resources generally, the Council, having examined a report of the Secretary-General (E/3212 and Add.1) on the work done on energy development, came to the conclusion that more attention should be given to the economic aspects of energy problems, and in particular to the evaluation of energy resources. The Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to develop a methodology for the appraisal of energy resources on a comparable basis at the national, regional or other appropriate level; and following collection of material from Governments, methods of appraisal are to be developed based not only on physical measurements (as it mainly the case at present) but also taking into account economic factors on a comparable basis; and (b) to arrange, at the request of Member Governments, for the preparation of seminars at the regional or other appropriate level to be held "in order to promote better understanding of the economic problems connected with the development of energy resources in under-developed countries, taking into account the work done by governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions".

20. At the same time, the Council requested the Secretary-General (resolution 710 A (XXVII)) to arrange for the holding in 1961 or 1962 of a United Nations conference on solar energy, wind power and geothermic energy, and,

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in this connexion, to convene during 1960 preliminary meetings of experts in preparation for the conference. The conference is scheduled to be held in August 1961 in Europe.

21. Council resolution 758 (XXIX) on petroleum questions, invites the Secretary-General to organize seminars in the techniques of petroleum development.

22. In related resolutions of somewhat broader scope (resolutions 711 A (XXVII) and 740 C (XXVIII)), the Council also requested the Secretary-General to undertake the collection, analysis and dissemination of the experience gained from technical assistance (or whatever source) in the field of industrialization and energy resources. The Council concurred in the view that, as a comprehensive analysis would make too heavy a demand on Secretariat services, the task should be approached on a selective and experimental basis. It further agreed that initially, it would be preferable to concentrate, as regards energy, on electrification, and, as regards industrialization, on problems connected with the planning of industrial development and on projects of direct practical value to economic development, e.g. projects concerning small industries, industrial zones and estates, management techniques and technological research institutes.

International co-operation in cartography

23. Since the inception in 1949 of the United Nations programme of cartography, most of the work has been aimed at assisting Governments, principally those of under-developed countries, in instituting or strengthening their cartographic services, and in obtaining adequate cartographic data for the development of programmes related to resources or communications.

24. The activities of the Secretariat (carried out by the Cartographic Section of the Resources and Transport Branch) have included the following projects: two regional cartographic conferences for the exchange of information and discussion of common problems; technical seminars to deal with surveying and mapping projects; clearing-house activities for the exchange of technical information; development of uniform international cartographic standards, particularly for the writing of geographical names; and co-ordination and promotion of the publication of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale (IMW).

25. For the study of international problems in this field and the dissemination of material concerning new techniques, a close co-operation is maintained with international scientific organizations.

26. Decisions taken in April 1959 by the Economic and Social Council (resolutions 714, 715 (XXVII)) have led to an expansion of the foregoing programme. The Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to consult the Governments of Member States and the interested specialized agencies on the convening, not later than 1961, of a third United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East; (b) with regard to geographical names, to provide encouragement and guidance to those countries which have no national organization for standardization and co-ordination in this field to establish such an organization; to ensure the performance of central clearing-house functions for geographical names; and to set up a small group of consultants to consider the technical problems of the standardization of geographical names; and (c) with regard to the revision of specifications of the International Map, to urge Governments to furnish their views on the draft proposals, and, in the light of those views, to submit specific recommendations to the Council at its twenty-ninth session (April 1960); and to consult technical organizations regarding the possibility of showing on future sheets of the International Map the existing plant cover.

27. At its twenty-ninth session in April 1960, the Economic and Social Council took the following decisions: (resolution 761 (XXIX)) requests the Secretary-General: (a) to take the necessary steps to convene a third regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East in the last quarter of 1961 in Bangkok; (b) to consult, as appropriate, with Governments concerned, interested specialized agencies and other interested international organizations on the convening of an international technical conference, not later than 1962, to review and revise as necessary the specifications of the IMW series; and (c) to consult with the Governments members of the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the specialized agencies, on the desirability to convene a regional cartographic conference for Africa and on the place and agenda of such a conference, reporting the results of the consultations to the Council at its thirty-first session.

International trade and commodity problems

28. In 1958 the Commission on International Commodity Trade (CICT) was reconstituted with new terms of reference.^{1/} On the basis of the Commission's report on its seventh (1959) session, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly took a number of decisions entailing an expansion of United Nations work on international commodity problems. In particular, approval was given to a proposed programme of studies on the following, among other subjects:

- (a) The impact of fluctuations in economic activity in industrial countries on international commodity trade;
- (b) National and international measures to deal with fluctuations in primary commodity markets;
- (c) The prospective production of, and demand for, primary commodities;
- (d) International measures designed to compensate for fluctuations in foreign exchange receipts from the export of primary commodities.

29. In connexion with (c) above, the Secretary-General was also requested to report to the Council during 1960 on the advisability of holding a joint session of the Commission on International Commodity Trade and the Committee on Commodity Problems of FAO for the purpose of considering the first substantive report on the subject. The FAO Conference has subsequently suggested that the joint session might deal with other questions of mutual interest to the two bodies.

30. In addition, the General Assembly in December 1959 requested the Secretary-General (a) to appoint a group of experts to assist the Commission on International Commodity Trade "by examining the feasibility of establishing machinery within the framework of the United Nations designed to assist in offsetting the effects of large fluctuations in commodity prices on balances of payments, with special reference to compensatory financing", and (b) to invite the International Monetary Fund and FAO to participate in the work in a consultative capacity.

31. Among the continuing functions of the Division of General Economic Research and Policies in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reference may be

^{1/} Council resolution 691 (XXVI).

made to the preparation of a comprehensive annual Commodity Survey and of special commodity studies for the CICT, of periodic memoranda on Recent Commodity Developments and of drafts for the annual reports of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee on International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA) to the Economic and Social Council as well as to the assistance given to ICCICA in its functions relating to the convening of commodity conferences and the co-ordination of the activities of commodity groups.

Fiscal and financial activities

32. The work of the Fiscal and Financial Branch covers the fields of both public and private finance. Its substantial functions are: (a) to serve as an information centre for the publication of data of international interest in the fiscal and financial fields; (b) to undertake research on problems connected with the financing, both public and private, of economic development; and (c) to advise requesting governments on the execution and co-ordination of their national policies and the training of their officials.

33. As regards function (a), the Secretariat prepares the series entitled International Tax Agreements, the public finance chapter included in the Statistical Yearbook and the data for the triennial and interim annual reports on the International Flow of Private Capital. The latter reports also provide up-to-date information on tax and non-tax measures adopted by capital-exporting and capital-importing countries in order to promote foreign private investment. The series of country studies on the taxation of private foreign investment has, however, been discontinued since, on the basis of studies made in co-operation with the Secretariat, the material is now being published by a university research institution as part of a series of comprehensive reports on national tax systems.

34. In general, there is ground for believing that progressive improvements in reporting methods, both at the national and international level, will make it possible to expand the scope and comprehensiveness of the published data without adding to the workload and, consequently, to staff requirements. In so far, however, as research activities and advisory services are concerned, the Secretariat's responsibilities have increased pari passu with the growth of the technical assistance programmes.

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35. In the area of public finance, the Secretariat has been engaged for some years in research on budgetary structure and classification of government accounts with the object of developing a conceptual framework and technical specifications for presenting government transactions according to function and economic character. This work has now reached the stage of application to particular countries according to the degree of their economic development; it is carried out, with the co-sponsorship of the Division for Public Administration and the Secretariats of the regional commissions, through the organization of regional budgetary workshops (two in Latin America and two in the ECAFE region have been held so far)^{1/} designed to assist governments in reclassifying budgetary data with a view to providing meaningful information for economic policy formulation and development programming. The first such workshop for Africa is to be held in 1961. As the recommendations of the workshops are being implemented in a number of countries, the attention of the Secretariat is turning increasingly to the adaptation of budget management techniques to the needs of economically under-developed countries.

36. In taxation, particular attention is given, in addition to the tax issues affecting the flow of private capital into under-developed countries, to the use of tax incentives to capital formation, the effect of land reform on the taxation of agriculture (in connexion with the forthcoming report on Land Reform under General Assembly resolution 1426 (XIV)), and to the development of tax administration techniques - initially through the preparation, in co-operation with the Harvard International Program in Taxation, of a Manual on Income Tax Administration.

37. Work on the various aspects of the foreign financing of economic development has been intensified since the end of 1958, when the General Assembly in resolution 1318 (XIII) requested the Secretary-General to inquire into the fields and forms of foreign investments found to be of major interest to both capital-importing countries and private investors and to report on measures for "the channelling of an increasing flow of private capital investment into the

^{1/} A third workshop will be held in the ECAFE region in August 1960.

development of under-developed countries under mutually satisfactory arrangements". A progress report (document E/3325) was submitted in April 1960 to the Economic and Social Council, which, in its resolution 762 (XXIX), requested the submission to its 31st session of a "further report on measures - including measures to facilitate the adjustment of disputes related to private investments - designed to promote the flow of private capital".

38. As a counterpart to research, the advisory services of the Secretariat comprise the following functions, performed both at Headquarters and in the field: to assist governments in carrying out programmes of budget reform, in setting up and implementing financial policies and institutions, including especially the regulation of banks and insurance companies, in drafting and administering investment legislation, and in adjusting tax systems to development needs and policies, strengthening the structure and working of tax administrations, and rationalizing and codifying tax laws. This work is carried out by expert missions composed of Headquarters staff as well as outside experts and by the organization of training programmes, including facilities at Headquarters and special courses at universities and competent government agencies.

Industrialization and productivity

39. An appreciable expansion of the programme of industrialization and productivity has resulted from a decision taken by the Economic and Social Council in April 1959. A resolution adopted by the Council (resolution 709 A) urged the Secretary-General to strengthen further the work programme of the United Nations in the field of industrialization, in particular by expanding research activities to include studies of methods of programming and planning of the industrial sector. The Council stressed the desirability of encouraging the organization of seminars, consultations and training centres for practical implementation of the results of research and studies under the programme and of promoting the widest possible dissemination of studies and research carried out by the Secretariat, including the Bulletin on Industrialization and Productivity. At its fourteenth (1959) session, the General Assembly authorized additional funds for 1960 in respect of temporary assistance and consultant services, and concurred also in a

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strengthening (within the limits of the over-all 1960 establishment) of the Industrial Development Branch in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

40. The above resolution of the Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit to its twenty-ninth session proposals for future work in industrialization. The general orientation of the programme of work in this field was reviewed in the meantime by the Secretary-General in connexion with the request by the Council to prepare a five-year programme-appraisal of the work of the United Nations in the economic, social, human rights and related fields; this appraisal was presented to the Council at its twenty-ninth session.

41. In formulating the programme of work in industrialization the Secretary-General drew upon the recommendations of an advisory committee of experts which was convened by him in February 1957 in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 674 A (XXV) and upon the debates of the Council on this item at its twenty-seventh session.

42. In view of the imminent establishment of a new body on industrialization (see paragraphs 47-48 below) the Secretariat's proposals which were submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the Council in April 1960 covered projects to be implemented in the period 1960-1961. Among these projects were a series of studies involving analyses of economic and technological problems of industry of special interest to under-developed countries; these included a study of problems of utilization of industrial equipment in under-developed countries and work in depth on the problem of transfer of technology from the advanced to the less developed countries.

43. In the field of small-scale industry it was proposed that a current study of the use of industrial estates as a means of promoting the establishment of such enterprises be followed by a working party on industrial estates in countries of the ECAFE region to be sponsored jointly by the secretariats at Headquarters and ECAFE.

44. Another proposed set of projects relates to programming of industrialization. Among these are a study of the method of economic evaluation of industrial and other related investment projects; a study of the longer-term demand for industrial equipment in under-developed countries; and a study of patterns of industrial growth. These studies are to be carried out in co-operation with the regional commissions.

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45. Considerable stress was also placed in the programme on strengthening the substantive servicing of field operations of the United Nations in industrial development; these include activities under the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance and projects of the United Nations Special Fund. In fact, already in the course of 1960 there has been a substantial expansion of the activities of the Secretariat in providing such support and it is proposed to devote increasing resources to this aspect of the programme.

46. In addition to the regular programme of work, ECOSOC resolution 740 C (XXVII) requested the Secretary-General to undertake on a selective basis "the collection, analysis and dissemination of experience obtained in multilateral, regional, bilateral and national technical assistance in the field of industrialization and energy and to report from time to time to the Council on progress achieved in this undertaking". A first report is to be presented to the thirty-first session of the Council in 1961.

Establishment of a Committee for Industrial Development

47. With a view to strengthening the United Nations work in this field, the General Assembly recommended in resolution 1431 (XIV) that the Economic and Social Council give consideration at its twenty-ninth session to the establishment of a commission for industrial development, taking into account the expression of views made during the discussion on this question.

48. The recommendation of the Assembly was discussed by the Council at its twenty-ninth session in April 1960, which decided after considering the views expressed during the Assembly debates, to establish a Standing Committee for Industrial Development. In the consideranda, the Council stated its conviction that there was need to accelerate the process of industrialization of under-developed countries by the expansion of the means of providing advice, information and assistance through the United Nations in the planning and execution of their industrial development.

49. The Committee on Industrial Development will, inter alia, examine for the Council the work programme on industrialization of the Secretariat and make recommendations concerning its further development. To this end, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals for a long-range and expanded

work programme in this field for the consideration of this committee. The Committee's report will be considered by the Council at its thirty-first session in 1961.

50. Thus, the budgetary requirements for 1961 for the Secretariat's work on industrialization cover:

- (a) its responsibilities for implementing the research programme approved by ECOSOC;
- (b) the substantial expansion of its activities in connexion with the servicing of field operations of the United Nations in industry under the technical assistance programme and the Special Fund and related projects; and
- (c) the additional responsibilities arising in connexion with the servicing of the Standing Committee on Industrial Development, including the preparation of a long-range programme.

Transport and communications

51. In the field of transport and communications there has been a reduction in certain aspects of the work hitherto done by the Headquarters Secretariat. Three causes may be cited:

- (a) A number of international agreements have now come into force (e.g., the agreements on the Application of the International Customs Conventions on Touring; on Commercial Road Vehicles; on Road Signs and Signals; on Customs Facilities for Touring; and on the International Transport of Goods by Road);
- (b) Work concerned with maritime subjects has been transferred in large measure to the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization; and
- (c) The termination of the Transport and Communications Commission has diminished the Headquarters programme of work on certain world-wide legal and technical problems, although some residual work will continue to be done under the direct guidance of the Economic and Social Council.

52. In July 1959 the Council, on the recommendation of the Transport and Communications Commission, approved a list of subjects which should continue to be dealt with by the Council and its organs. This list comprised, as subjects

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that are primarily world-wide in scope, the facilitation of international travel and transport, the international transport of dangerous goods, technical assistance, activities of the specialized agencies, international travel and transport statistics, and contractual freedom in transport insurance; and, as subjects that are primarily regional in scope, regional developments in the field of transport and the co-ordination of inland transport.

53. Three factors tend to offset the reduction of the Headquarters work programme and to add to regional responsibilities:

- (a) The Council decided in July 1959 (resolution 724 C (XXVIII)) to continue in existence the Committee of Experts for further work on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which first met in 1959, and whose 1960 session is likely to be followed by annual sessions. It also decided to set up an expert group on the packing of explosives;
- (b) The Council likewise decided (resolution 724 B (XXVIII)) to request the Secretary-General to bring up to date, and pursue further, the technical studies in the field of international travel and tourism, and to make recommendations by 1961 for their development, reporting at the same time on the desirability of calling an international conference on those subjects;
- (c) It is intended both at Headquarters and in the regional commissions to place greater emphasis, through a series of systematic studies, on the economic aspects of transport, as a means of supporting technical assistance activities more effectively and complementing the work of the Secretariat in the field of natural resources and industrialization. This factor is indeed rapidly growing in importance and urgency.

Public administration

54. Programmes in the field of public administration financed from the regular budget of the United Nations fall into two distinct categories:

(i) advisory, training and research services; and

(ii) provision of Operational, Executive and Administrative Personnel (OPEX).

The primary responsibility for the substantive planning and co-ordination of both programmes rests with the Division for Public Administration; the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations provides the necessary administrative support in implementation.

Advisory, training and research services

55. This programme began in 1951 but was crystallized in its present form in 1953 (General Assembly resolution 723 (VIII)). The annual budgetary appropriation of \$145,000 was soon found inadequate and in 1956 the Secretary-General secured Assembly approval for an increase in the activity and enhanced the size of the appropriation to \$300,000.

56. The basic purpose of the programme is to assist the less developed countries to improve the efficiency of their administrative machinery so that the resources devoted to economic development and social welfare may be spent to the best advantage. The assistance is given in the form of preliminary surveys and consultation services, provision of expert advisers, establishment of training institutions, fellowships for training abroad, the organization of seminars and workshops and research, collection, analysis and exchange of technical information. Similar assistance is also given to requesting countries from the Expanded Programme funds. The wider range of activities and greater flexibility permissible under the Regular Programme is used to supplement, support and make more effective the aid given under the Expanded Programme. Expenditure from the Regular Programme in Public Administration has remained steady at \$300,000 per annum for the past three years while that under the Expanded Programme averages at about \$850,000.

57. Separate and self-contained annual reports describing the United Nations activities in public administration were submitted to ECOSOC and the General Assembly in 1958 and 1959 (E/3085 and E/3230). The report for the work done in

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1959 is included as a separate section of the consolidated report for all United Nations technical assistance activities to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the thirtieth session of the Council. The following items indicate the range of work in 1959: provision of 104 experts and 150 fellowships for a total of forty-three countries and three regional projects; the provision of teaching staff to the Advanced School of Public Administration in Central America (ESAPAC) and training institutes at Addis Ababa, Ankara, Cairo, Khartoum, Tripoli; a workshop of international experts on "Public Administration Aspects of Community Development Programmes" at The Hague and a Seminar on the Management of Public Industrial Enterprises in New Delhi; two budgetary workshops;^{1/} work on two research projects directly at Headquarters and two more with the assistance of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) respectively.

Provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel

58. This programme is intended to meet the needs of countries which are unable, through grave shortage of trained personnel, to assimilate and implement the advice given by experts provided under the normal technical assistance programmes. These countries need experts who would not only advise on what should be done but also do the work themselves until the local staff has been trained sufficiently to take over. The General Assembly approved the launching of the programme on an experimental basis and on a modest scale. It provides for the appointment, for service with the requesting governments, of experts to perform operational, executive and administrative functions in the desired field of specialization. The expert is recruited by the United Nations but enters the service of the requesting government for the performance of such specific duties as may be assigned to him by that government, and is paid by it the same salary as a national of that country would receive if he had filled the post. The United Nations supplements this payment by an amount calculated to equate the officer's emoluments to what he would have received as an advisory expert in the

^{1/} See Section on Fiscal and Financial Activities.

United Nations technical assistance programmes. The OPEX officer is under express obligation, as part of his duties, to train local personnel to take over as soon as possible.

59. During 1959 a budgetary appropriation of \$200,000 was made on the understanding that not more than twenty-five appointments would be made. A total of 106 requests for assistance under the OPEX programme were received from thirty countries by the middle of 1959 and five officers had already taken up their duties. The position was reviewed at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly on the basis of the Secretary-General's interim report (A/4212) and it was decided that the experiment should be continued for a further year, and, to allow the Secretary-General adequate scope in carrying it out, the budgetary appropriation was increased to \$300,000.

60. A detailed report on the progress of the scheme is to be considered at the ensuing summer session of the ECOSOC and later at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. By May 1960 the number of requests received had mounted to 173; sixteen officers had already taken up their duties and six more approved candidates were expected to be in position before August. Recruitment of another ten to fifteen candidates was in process. The requests are not confined only to the field of general administration but cover a wide variety of fields such as: Agriculture, Industry, Public Health, Telecommunications, Economic Planning, Resources Development, Statistics, etc.

Population problems

61. Action taken by the Economic and Social Council in 1959, on recommendations of the Population Commission, reflects the increasing magnitude and urgency of the population problems of the less developed countries and the importance which the Council attached to demographic factors in the planning of their economic and social development.

62. Specific recommendations of the Council (resolution 721 (XXVII)) have intensified the work of the Population Branch at Headquarters and of the regional economic secretariats in the following directions:

- (a) Emphasis is to be given to the publications of regional and interregional surveys of various aspects of population trends as these relate to economic and social conditions and problems;
- (b) Methods of improving and extending population projections will be studied and developed, together with other forms of demographic analysis, in order to gather essential information on the economic and social implications of population trends;
- (c) The Secretary-General was requested to put at the disposal of requesting Governments of under-developed countries the co-operation of the United Nations in carrying out, over the next few years, a limited number of demographic pilot studies or other projects calculated to demonstrate the value of utilizing demographic data, and especially the results of censuses, in connexion with development programmes; and
- (d) A new field of work was outlined by the Council in requesting the Secretary-General to offer assistance to less developed countries in connexion with studies of the magnitude and characteristics of internal migration (from rural to urban areas) as a factor in the problems of industrialization, urbanization and agricultural development.

Community development

63. The programme of community development, to which the Economic and Social Council has given a high priority, is designed to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, particularly in rural areas, in under-developed

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countries, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress. For the achievement of these ends, the participating organizations (United Nations and specialized agencies) seek, first, to foster individual and group action at the community level in the form of basic education, analysis of community needs, utilization of technical assistance, and training of personnel, and, secondly, to mobilize community action in the direction of promoting both physical improvements (housing, educational and health facilities, roads, irrigation, drainage and better farming practices) and functional activities such as education, recreation and the protection of health.

64. Systematic work in this field was first undertaken in 1953, attention being concentrated in the earlier years on the tasks of defining the problems to be studied and developing a programme for concerted inter-agency action. The former task was carried out by means of fact-finding surveys of national programmes already in operation, regional seminars and conferences, and a series of study tours in the main regions of the world while the direct assistance rendered to individual Governments in treating a wide range of problems furnished the experience on which to base a sound programme.

65. Within the long-range programme, as approved by the Council in 1957, the United Nations has assumed the major responsibility for the planning, organization and administration of community development in its over-all aspects; social welfare in rural areas; housing and village planning; and public administration. These functions, which are performed or directed by the Bureau of Social Affairs (through the Community Development Group), the Division for Public Administration, and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, call for close inter-agency co-operation both on research and on individual projects.^{1/}

66. The activities of the United Nations, present and prospective, in this field give particular emphasis to the following aspects:

^{1/} Apart from the sums provided under regular budgets, project costs for community development (all organizations) under the Expanded Programme were as follows:

<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
\$	\$	\$	\$
1,554,000	1,725,000	1,791,000	2,073,000

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- (a) To formulate community development policies in relation to national plans for economic and social development, and to draw up programmes in support of national and regional plans for increasing productivity and raising the levels of living; and for these purposes, to define the social prerequisites for such accelerated development, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) To study and promote community development in relation to the economic development of rural areas (co-operative organizations; cottage and small-scale industries; low-cost housing; problems of land reform);
- (c) To study the social aspects of community development (problems connected with the introduction of economic and technological innovations and the consequent need for social readaption at the community level; social problems arising out of the introduction of higher levels of nutrition, health, education, etc.);
- (d) To study and promote the contribution of community development to resource development schemes, including reclamation and irrigation projects;
- (e) To study and promote the application of community development methods to urban areas, having regard especially to the need of counteracting the negative effects of urbanization.

Land reform

67. While the major technical responsibility in the field of land reform rests with FAO, the United Nations Secretariat has since 1950, in response to directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, undertaken in co-operation with that agency and the ILO work on this general subject as well as on subjects such as conservation of resources, community development, agricultural taxation reforms, population, migration and resettlement, etc. that have a bearing on the problems of land reform. The work has been carried out partly at Headquarters by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, partly by the regional economic commissions which have a growing and very definite interest in the matter.

68. Reports and studies prepared under this programme were submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1951, 1954 and 1957.^{1/} The report submitted in

^{1/} United Nations publications, Sales Nos.: 1951.II.B; 1954.II.B.2; 1954.II.B.3; 1956.II.B.3.

February 1959 (E/3208) summarized the progress achieved in work for the advancement of land reform in the period 1955-58, and outlined a prospectus for a further report to be considered by the Council in 1962.

69. On the basis of the latest submission, the Council has laid down the direction of work on land reform for the three years 1960 to 1962, under four main headings:

- (a) The effects of land reform on productivity in agriculture and on farm output in both the subsistence and the commercial sectors;
- (b) The effect of land reform on employment in rural communities, with particular reference to productivity of labour and the level of employment and the extent of under-employment;
- (c) The financing of agrarian reform: tax policy; the needs of the new cultivator for production capital; financial rights and obligations of former landholders;
- (d) The relationship of land reform to community development: (i) the role of community development in the solution of specific problems arising from land reform schemes; (ii) the impact of national community development programmes on the agrarian structure.

70. This work programme not only entails a considerable increase in activity, but represents a shift in emphasis, at least for the period under reference, from reporting on the general aspects of land reform to specific items of substance that are basic to the over-all problems. The United Nations contribution to the 1962 report will be mainly concerned with the relation of land reform to community development and with the financial and fiscal questions (points (d) and (c) above).

71. As a further step towards the development of practical measures of assistance, the General Assembly in December 1959 (resolution 1426 (XIV)) requested the Secretary-General to examine in consultation with the Governments of Member States and with FAO and other interested agencies, the results of the land reform programmes in the under-developed countries and the effects of those programmes on economic development. To this end, a number of country studies are planned.

Housing, building and physical planning

72. The United Nations programme in housing, building and physical planning dates back to 1947, when provision was made, at the request of the Economic and Social

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Council, for the Secretariat to study problems relating to housing and town and country planning. Since then, the programme as a whole has undergone a number of modifications, and in recent years progressively greater attention has been given to (a) the problems of low-cost housing, especially in the less developed areas, as part of general economic and social development; (b) the methods and techniques of environmental (physical) planning; and (c) the training of technical and administrative personnel.

73. In July 1959 the Council approved (resolution 731 B (XXVIII)), on the recommendation of the Social Commission, the principles and general lines of a long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of housing. This programme, which was the product of inter-agency consultations, comprises five broad areas of work that lend themselves to concerted action:

- (a) Planning, organization and administration of programmes of low-cost housing and community facilities;
- (b) Mobilization of individual and group efforts for extending low-cost housing;
- (c) Provision of community facilities;
- (d) Increasing the productivity and capacity of the building industry; and
- (e) Education and training.

74. Although a number of projects are proposed under each of these heads for the period 1961-1965, the Council has recognized that, in view of the budgetary and administrative implications, work in the years 1959-1961 should be confined to preparatory studies. The Secretary-General is to report to the Council in 1960 on specific projects planned jointly or individually by participating organizations on a long-term basis.

75. In so far as the United Nations is concerned, the preparatory work in question represents an extension of a continuing programme in housing, building and planning which consists largely of substantive support for technical assistance activities, such support being given by the Bureau of Social Affairs (Housing, Building and Planning Branch) in close association with the regional economic commissions.

Social welfare

Social services

76. From its original responsibilities, inherited from the League of Nations and encompassing mainly child welfare and the protection of particular vulnerable groups, the United Nations programme for social services has evolved towards larger objectives. Today this programme is directed towards raising the standards of living, particularly in the under-developed countries, and places emphasis on the contribution of social services to community development in urban and rural areas, to improving living conditions for families and children, and to preventing and meeting social problems connected with urbanization and industrialization.

77. Through research and direct assistance, the United Nations is endeavouring to help Governments to develop national programmes for social services, the major areas of assistance being (a) the planning, organization and administration of social services; (b) the training of qualified personnel.

78. The decision adopted in 1959 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund to extend UNICEF's aid to social services for children has increased the responsibilities of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs in the social service field. One of the first new requirements is to prepare guides for the use of Governments, UNICEF and technical advisers regarding the development of social services for children and for appraising and implementing various types of projects in this area. Criteria for certain specific types of services must be evolved in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned. Because non-governmental organizations traditionally play an important role in this field, attention must also be given to encouraging their co-operation and to the relationship between government and voluntary action in the development of social services.

Social defence

79. Action taken by the Council in July 1959 will result in a reorientation of the social defence programme in the direction of greater technical aid to countries seeking to improve their programmes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. To this end, steps are being taken to establish regional

institutes in Latin America and in Asia and the Far East for the purpose of training personnel for such programmes and undertaking practical field studies for application to urgent national problems of crime prevention and treatment. In addition, certain activities will be transferred, together with the supporting staff, to the European Office, with a view to achieving better co-ordination with regional inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Operational activities in the social field

80. This programme has its origin in General Assembly resolution 418 (V) of 1 December 1950, is financed under section 17 (social activities) of the regular budget, and closely co-ordinated with the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

81. Projects are of five types, namely, expert advisers, fellowships, regional seminars, demonstration and training centres, and technical materials and equipment, while the fields in which assistance is rendered include the following: social development, population, housing and physical planning, community development, family and child care, rehabilitation of the handicapped, and training in social services.

82. Expenditure for 1959 in respect of operational programmes amounted to \$927,000 under the regular budget and \$650,000 under the Expanded Programme. Decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1959 have resulted in a marked expansion of the 1960 programme. On the recommendation of the Social Commission, the Council in July 1959 requested the Assembly to take into consideration the necessity for a further development of the advisory services, basing this request principally on the growing number of countries, including the newly independent countries of Africa, participating in the technical assistance programme; the gradual expansion of social programmes within the context of the development plans of Governments; the increased need for relatively long-term assistance for social programmes and, in particular, for the training of personnel; and the 1959 decisions of UNICEF in regard to aid for community development programmes and for social services for children, which in turn call for supporting technical assistance at the national level.

83. In December 1959, the General Assembly appropriated under the regular budget, a sum of \$1,200,000 (an increase of \$275,000 over 1959) for the operational programmes, on the understanding that the resulting expansion of activities would not entail any addition of staff.

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Technical assistance operations

84. The scale of United Nations technical assistance operations is constantly expanding and the operations themselves call for greater participation by the Secretariat than heretofore. The expansion of activities, compared with previous years, is especially marked in the case of countries in Africa which have or will shortly have independent status. Arrangements have been made in the planning of the Expanded Programme operations to allocate separate country targets for 1961 and 1962 for these countries and the coming months will be marked by intensive negotiations with them in the study of the immediate developmental needs and the selection of priorities. Correspondingly, funds have been set aside in the regular programme to accommodate a more than proportionate increase of technical assistance activities in Africa. It is expected that the tempo of technical assistance operations in other regions of the world will be maintained at approximately the same level as in the past. Operations are being programmed in a flexible manner, so as to take advantage most effectively of any possible increase in resources.

85. The United Nations has already begun to play its role in undertaking the execution of projects for which it has been designated as an Executing Agency by the Governing Council of the Special Fund. The Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations is expected to act as the main arm of the Secretariat in carrying out these activities. So far, seven Special Fund projects valued at \$5.6 million have been allocated to the United Nations for execution; preparation and planning for these projects are now in progress. However, the main task, in so far as operations in the field are concerned, would fall in the latter part of 1960 and later years. In the meantime, additional projects are likely to be allocated to the United Nations by the Governing Council of the Special Fund for execution. As the magnitude of these activities increases, a strengthening of the Secretariat establishment is likely to be called for; this expansion may, in part, be financed by the contribution from the Special Fund towards the Executing Agency's administrative costs.

86. In the specific fields of technical assistance operations for which the United Nations has special responsibility, an immediate intensification of activities is foreseen in the field of industrialization; this has been

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emphasized by the Economic and Social Council with the establishment of a Standing Committee on Industrialization. Also, with the development of the activities of the Water Resources Development Centre, a further increase in the technical assistance operations in water resources and river-basin development is anticipated.

87. The United Nations now awards about one thousand fellowships annually under the technical assistance programme and is seeking to make arrangements for the training of national personnel over and above the arrangements already existing with host countries for the training of United Nations fellows. Steps are being taken to develop more intensive programmes and to combine wherever necessary academic training with practical observation. Increased attention would thus be given to the needs of individual fellows and at the same time arrangements would be made to secure facilities for the training of fellows in groups wherever practical.

88. The reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, resulting from the unification of the former Technical Assistance Administration, has enabled the Secretariat to undertake additional responsibilities in the field of technical assistance more effectively. The processes of adjustment entailed in the reorganization have now been largely completed.

Regional economic commissions

89. In earlier sections many instances have been cited of economic and social work being undertaken co-operatively by Headquarters and the secretariats of the regional economic commissions. Regional programmes are planned and developed in harmony with policies which the Council and the General Assembly lay down on a world-wide basis, and accordingly each of the programmes, while directed principally to the needs of a particular region, encompasses most of the economic and related social problems with which the United Nations as a whole concerns itself. It follows that much of the work of the regional commissions is referred to, explicitly or by implication, in preceding summaries of programmes although this work in each case constitutes a self-contained entity and is discussed by the Council as such.

90. It is clear that the Economic Commission for Africa will show progressive increases of activity for some years to come, and that, if measured by requirements, its resources must eventually equal, and perhaps even exceed, those allotted to ECAFE and ECLA. Among these three commissions (despite a wide difference in the stages of their evolution) a common factor can be discerned in the major emphasis of their work, which is directed, first, towards co-operative efforts and concerned inter-governmental action for economic development, and secondly (as a related trend), towards the strengthening of intra-regional economic relationships in harmony with the expansion of economic relations with other parts of the world.

91. In the following paragraphs salient features of the work of each commission for the period 1960-1961 are summarized.

Economic Commission for Africa

92. ECA can be said now to have completed the initial stage of its establishment. The Commission, at its second session, has elaborated a detailed and heavy programme of high priority work, the implementation of which requires the continued and steady expansion of the resources at the disposal of the Commission. In the fields of statistics, natural resources, industrial development and trade the first important results are likely to accrue during 1961; the preparation and publication of two issues of an Economic Bulletin for Africa is planned for that year.

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93. Attention will also continue to be given to commercial legislation, community development, the inter-play of economic and social factors, and the social aspects of economic development, as well as the provision of advisory services, training projects and meetings of experts. The increase in the Commission's resources for 1961 is limited to what is envisaged as indispensable and, at the same time, feasible growth.

94. It is relevant to point out that in establishing the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa [ECOSOC resolution 671 A (XXV)], the Council called on the Commission secretariat to undertake studies of the social aspects of economic development and the relationship of economic and social factors. In the case of the ECAFE and ECLA, this development in their terms of reference was effected only after they had been in existence for more than ten years.

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

95. The work of ECAFE has shown an accelerated rhythm over the last three or four years. The period of more intensive work may be considered as having begun with the undertaking of the initial work on the development of the Lower Mekong Basin, a project in which the Secretariat of the Commission plays an important role that has been endorsed by the Council (resolution 679 B (XVI)). Recently ECAFE has also undertaken another co-operative inter-governmental project looking towards the creation of an Asian international highway. At its last session in April 1960 the Commission took a number of decisions (resolution 31 (XVI)) on measures for co-operative action for the development of industrial ventures on regional or sub-regional bases, the related expansion of intra-regional trade and arrangements for broadening exchanges of goods manufactured in the countries of the ECAFE region.

96. Among the other areas in which ECAFE's activities are expanding the following may be mentioned:

(a) Economic development and planning. A conference of Asian Economic Planners (holding triennial plenary sessions and assisted by periodic meetings of expert groups) has been established for the purpose of reviewing the work and progress in the area of economic planning as a whole. In addition to the expert groups, the Conference will rely on the services of a subsidiary body, the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning.

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(b) Statistics. In this field there has been a substantial expansion of the secretariat's work-load, the Commission having endorsed a programme elaborated by the Conference of Asian Statisticians, in response to increasing demands for statistical compilation and servicing. This programme provides for an enlargement of advisory services to Governments and for intensified training of statistical personnel in the countries of the region.

(c) Industrialization and productivity. At its 1960 session the Commission decided that the ECAFE secretariat should assist countries of the region in the establishment of a regional petroleum training and research institute. The Commission also recommended the undertaking of "industry possibility surveys" and the establishment of a network of regional geological survey, industrial research, extension and training centres which should be based to the greatest possible extent on existing national facilities. The Commission will study measures for the development of the machine-tool industry in the region as a high priority project.

(d) Transport. In addition to the work being done on the development of an Asian highway, the Commission is continuing its work on the economic and technical aspects of various modes of transportation and telecommunications. The 1960 Meeting of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning is to be devoted to transport development in economic development planning and will be followed by continuing work in this broad field.

(e) Agricultural economics. At its 1960 session the Commission decided that, in co-operation with FAO, increased attention should be given to measures designed to provide greater security of tenure, stable prices, and incentives to individual agricultural producers.

(f) Population. The Commission at its 1960 session called for increased international efforts, to parallel national endeavours through exchange of experience in research and training, to cope with the region's population problems. The Commission decided to convene an Asian Population Conference in 1962 when the results of the 1960-1961 programme of world censuses would be available. It is proposed that the Conference should devote its attention particularly to problems of disguised unemployment in rural areas, the effects of changes in agricultural methods of organization, population increase in relation to resources, and to the improvement of demographic data.

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97. These developments place an increasingly heavy strain on the secretariat resources which will be only partially relieved by the modest increase in staff envisaged for 1961.

98. In July 1959 the Economic and Social Council amended the Commission's terms of reference to provide that ECAFE should "deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors". A Social Affairs Division in the ECAFE secretariat has for some years been working in co-operation with the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters in respect of social policy, demographic aspects of community development, community development, etc. The enlargement of functions, while not calling for any extensive alteration in existing arrangements, may be expected to lead to a closer interrelation between the social activities and the Commission's work on development planning, industrialization and resources development.

Economic Commission for Latin America

99. The following major and interrelated projects account in large part for the substantial increase that has occurred in the work of the Commission's secretariat.

100. The common market and payments. In December 1959 the General Assembly in resolution 1430 (XIV) recommended that ECLA should continue to assign a high priority to work in this field which comes within the province of the Trade Committee of ECLA and its subsidiary bodies (Central Banks Working Group; Working Group on the Latin American Regional Market). Since then, seven Latin American Governments concluded in February 1960, in Montevideo, a treaty bringing into existence a Free Trade Association. This treaty assigns an important consultative role to the ECLA secretariat. ECLA will also have to undertake a number of activities related both to the effects of the common market and to the prospects of broadening the market to encompass a larger number of countries. It should be noted that it is the activities of ECLA that have been of fundamental importance in the developments leading to the creation of the Latin American common market which may bring about major transformations in the Latin American economy over the coming years. The Commission's secretariat is called upon to service meetings of sub-regional committees and prepare a number of urgent studies on the types of industries and commodities which will require regional markets in order that production may take place on an economic scale.

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101. The Central American economic integration programme was accelerated with the signature in 1958 of treaties setting up the Central American Common Market. It gained further momentum after a special meeting of the Central American Committee of Economic Cooperation which was held in San José, Costa Rica, in April 1960. This meeting requested the secretariat to prepare a new draft treaty for the more rapid integration of the Central American economies with the idea of reducing the original period of ten years to a maximum period of five years for the establishment of the Central American common market. This draft treaty will be discussed by the Trade Sub-Committee in July 1960 and again by the full Committee in August 1960.

102. Training, and advice and assistance to Governments in economic development programming. This project is based on an ECLA resolution of May 1957 recommending that the secretariat "devote attention to the specific problems relating to programming by sectors and by regions, and to the preparation, presentation and evaluation of individual projects, and that it advise Governments, which so request, on such matters..." To help meet the Latin American Governments' needs for assistance in programming economic development through the fullest use of the resources at the disposal of the United Nations, ECLA and BTAO have been collaborating in providing a pool of economists from which advisory groups for programming economic development have been organized to serve in response to specific requests from Governments. The requests submitted by Governments concern mainly: (a) the establishment of planning agencies; (b) methods of planning and estimating investment requirements; (c) the establishment of public investment priorities; and (d) the execution of development programmes.

103. In recommending, at its 1959 session, an expansion of this project, the Commission stressed the importance of extending to economic development programming the type of assistance which the ECLA secretariat, in co-operation with other United Nations units and the specialized agencies, had for years been giving to Governments in other fields, for example, the Central American Integration Programme. The Commission accordingly supported the organization of economic development advisory groups undertaken jointly by the ECLA secretariat and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations. Since 1959 two advisory groups have been in operation. Requests from other countries have been received.

104. It is proposed that the ECLA/BTAO Economic Development Training Programme that has proved successful since its inception, be expanded during 1961. The Programme is designed to provide intensive and advanced training in the theory and practice of economic development techniques. In addition to the training that is provided at the Commission's headquarters in Santiago, more intensive courses are held in individual countries of the region where a demand for such courses has been expressed. Both types of training courses will be expanded during 1961.

105. As in the case of ECAFE, ECLA's terms of reference have been revised to include the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors.

106. It is hoped that the increased resources requested for the Commission's secretariat in 1961 will largely meet the need imposed by the increased tasks.

Economic Commission for Europe

107. In recent years the work of the Commission has been increasing both in scope and in depth as Governments have found it necessary to augment their knowledge of economic developments in an international context and, to the greatest extent possible, to harmonize their policies and programmes. This additional work undertaken while ECE's budget continues to be stabilized has made it indispensable for the Commission to streamline its programme by concentrating on projects of major importance and by making fuller use of the services of governmental rapporteurs and of the contributions of outside institutions, both governmental and non-governmental.

108. The great majority of the Commission's work is of a continuing nature in such fields as economic research, energy, agriculture, housing, industry and materials, steel, trade, timber and inland transport. Special emphasis has recently been placed by the Commission on increased work in the fields of trade, energy, automation... A new, marked trend in its work is the development of activities that are likely to be of benefit to economically under-developed countries in Europe and in other regions.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Broad outline of the human rights programme

109. In broad outline, the human rights programme which the United Nations has been developing in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter^{1/} consists of drafting international instruments, making studies and reports on special problems, and promoting the exchange of experience and information relating to human rights. The first significant achievement was the adoption by the General Assembly in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was followed by the preparation of two general instruments, the draft international covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights, which have been under consideration by the Third Committee of the General Assembly since 1955 and are not yet completed. Since its completion the Declaration has been used as a yardstick for measuring required standards of respect for human rights by various organs of the United Nations, by the specialized agencies, and by regional inter-governmental organizations, international conferences and governments; its provisions and principles have become part both of international law and of the internal law of States, and have served as a basis of innumerable recommendations of international organs and of wide-spread Government activities. The preparation of the covenants, which would impose precise legal obligations on the States ratifying them, has proved to be a difficult and time-consuming task because it involves not only technical difficulties but also very delicate political problems.

110. Apart from these general instruments, the United Nations has adopted a series of international instruments on particular rights or of limited scope, among them conventions on the following subjects: prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide (1948), the status of refugees (1951), the international right of correction (1952) (not yet in force), the political rights of women (1952), the status of stateless persons (1954) (not yet in force), abolition of slavery, the slave trade, and institutions and practices similar to slavery (1956), and the nationality of married women (1957); and a Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1959). Other such instruments under preparation include the draft declaration

^{1/} Preamble (para. 2), and Articles 13 (1)(b), 55, 56, 62 (2), 68 and 76 (c).

and the draft convention on freedom of information, to be further considered by the General Assembly in 1960, the draft declaration on the right of asylum, and the draft convention and draft recommendation on minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages.

111. The International Labour Organisation, with the co-operation or on the initiative of the United Nations, has adopted conventions on the following human rights problems: freedom of association and the right to organize (1948), the right to organize and bargain collectively (1949), equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value (1951), abolition of forced labour (1957), and discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (1958). The ILO also adopted a Recommendation on discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (1958). UNESCO has adopted two conventions relating to the free flow of information, the first an agreement for facilitating the international circulation of visual and auditory material of an educational, scientific and cultural nature (1948), and the second an agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural material (1950). Following upon the study of discrimination in education, completed by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, UNESCO has undertaken to prepare, in 1960, recommendations to Member States and an international convention on various aspects of discrimination in education.

112. The current human rights programme of the United Nations includes the making of extensive studies and reports on human rights problems by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women. The Division of Human Rights prepares or helps to prepare these studies and reports, and provides the secretariat and documentation for subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council dealing with human rights. It provides documentation for and assists the secretariats of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in matters relating to human rights. It also prepares publications on human rights, including the Yearbook on Human Rights, organizes seminars under the Programme of Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights, prepares reports summarizing triennial reports by Governments on human rights, handles communications relating to human rights and deals with a number of related matters. Recent developments affecting the work of the Division are outlined below.

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Studies and reports

113. Among the studies and reports on special problems of human rights prepared by the United Nations are the study on forced labour, completed in 1953 and by an ad hoc committee appointed under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the ILO, the survey of freedom of information, completed in 1953 by a Special Rapporteur appointed by the Council, the study of slavery, completed in 1955 by a Special Rapporteur appointed by the Economic and Social Council, the studies on discrimination in education and discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices, completed in 1957 and 1960 respectively by Special Rapporteurs appointed by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and the studies of the political rights of women, the nationality of married women, various aspects of the status of women in private law, and the access of women to education made by the Commission on the Status of Women. The study on forced labour was followed by a report on this subject prepared jointly by the Secretary-General and the Director-General of ILO.

114. The Economic and Social Council has asked the Secretary-General to make annual reports on developments affecting freedom of information and to prepare, for submission to the Council in 1961, a substantive report on developments that have occurred in this field since 1954, with particular reference to (a) the news sources to which peoples have access; (b) the extent to which they receive news of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and their work for peace; and (c) developments in the facilities for the free flow of accurate and undistorted information into and out of under-developed countries. The Council has approved the Secretary-General's decision to entrust these tasks to a consultant, whose report would be transmitted to the Council.

115. A special committee of the Commission on Human Rights is currently engaged in a study of the right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile, which is to be completed in 1961. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in addition to reviewing periodically the results of studies which it initiated on discrimination in education, discrimination in employment and occupation, and discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices, has appointed Special Rapporteurs to carry out studies of discrimination in the matter of political rights, to be completed in 1962, and discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, to be completed in 1963.

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Each of the above-mentioned studies involves the collection, verification and analysis of information relating to all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, an extensive task performed by committee or Special Rapporteur with the help of the staff of the Division of Human Rights.

116. The Sub-Commission, with the approval of the Commission on Human Rights, initiated in 1960 a study of recent manifestations of anti-Semitism and other forms of racial prejudice and religious intolerance of a similar nature. The Secretariat is arranging to obtain from the Governments of States in whose territory such manifestations have occurred, from UNESCO, and from non-governmental organizations in consultative status, information and comments relevant to such manifestations, public reaction to them, the measures taken to combat them, and their causes or motivations. The information and comments are to be transmitted to the members of the Sub-Commission, which is to evaluate them at its 1961 session and to recommend such action as seems to be desirable to the Commission on Human Rights.

117. The Commission on the Status of Women, in addition to reviewing periodically the results of studies which it initiated on the political rights of women, the nationality of married women, and the access of women to education, is currently engaged in studies on the access of women to, and exercise by them of, public services and functions, on various aspects of economic rights, and on the status of women in family law. Having recently completed its study concerning the age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages, it will next undertake a study of inheritance laws as they affect the status of women. Its work programme in respect of the economic rights of women includes a number of continuing projects, such as study of the question of equal pay for equal work and of the occupational outlook for women in the professional and technical fields. The Commission is also engaged in ad hoc studies of such subjects as the tax legislation applicable to women, the age of retirement and right to pension, and vocational guidance and training of girls and women. Documentation on all these matters is provided by the staff of the Division of Human Rights.

Publications

118. Since 1946, the United Nations has published the Yearbook on Human Rights, an annual record of developments in this field containing the texts or extracts of

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national laws, judicial decisions and international instruments. The size of the Yearbook has been limited by the Economic and Social Council to about 330 pages in the English edition; however, statements on specific rights or groups of rights are to be published from time to time in supplementary volumes.

119. Publications have been issued on statelessness, the main types and causes of discrimination, the definition and classification of minorities, and the suppression of slavery, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the legal status of women, and equal pay for equal work. A Commentary on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is in preparation. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, a publication containing the history of the 1957 Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and a commentary on its provisions, and another summarizing the available information on legislation affecting the nationality of married women, are being prepared. The studies on discrimination prepared by Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities are being published as completed.

Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights

120. Under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, the Secretary-General is authorized to organize seminars, to grant fellowships and scholarships, and to furnish expert services, all at the request of Governments. Up to the present, the emphasis has been on the organization of regional seminars designed to give high-ranking officials and other leading personalities from various countries an opportunity to exchange ideas, information and experience in the matter of human rights. Up to the present, two regional seminars on the participation of women in public life have been held, one in Bangkok in 1957 and the other in Bogotá in 1959. Two regional seminars on the protection of human rights in criminal law and procedure were held in 1958, one at Baguio City, the Philippines, and the other in Santiago, Chile. Two regional seminars on judicial and other remedies against the illegal use and abuse of administrative authority were held in 1959, one in Ceylon, the other in Buenos Aires. Under the present schedule, three regional seminars are to be organized each year.

121. To date, no Member State has requested the organization of a seminar dealing with the prevention of discrimination or the protection of minorities, but the Commission on Human Rights in 1960 asked the Economic and Social Council to call the attention of States to the opportunities afforded by the programme of Advisory

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Services for the organization of seminars to study various aspects of and techniques for the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities, including seminars on the causes and elimination of prejudice in all its forms. 122. The Commission has also asked the Council to direct the attention of Member States to the rights proclaimed in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child as desirable topics for seminars, either on a regional or an international level, and to invite the Secretary-General to render such assistance, within the scope of the programme of Advisory Services, and in agreement with the Governments concerned, as may be necessary for the organizing of such seminars.

Triennial Reports

123. A system of triennial reports by Governments on the subject of human rights was instituted by the Economic and Social Council in 1956. The first series of reports, covering the years 1954-56, were submitted by forty-one Governments. They were summarized according to topics and submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in 1958 and 1959. The second series, covering the years 1957-1959, are expected to be received from Governments in 1960, and will be presented to the Commission in summary form in 1961. The purpose of this system, which is still in a formative stage, is to obtain information on developments of special significance in the field of human rights and to afford Governments an opportunity of assisting one another by exchanging experiences through the medium of the Commission; the Commission, in turn, transmits to the Council comments, conclusions and recommendations of an objective and general character.

Communications

124. The Economic and Social Council has established the procedures by which the Division of Human Rights deals with numerous communications concerning human rights and the status of women, discrimination, trade union rights, and forced labour. The average number of such communications received annually is nearly 6,000 and each must be carefully considered and processed. Communications relating to infringements of trade union rights and those relating to forced labour are also handled under procedures established by the Council which provide that such communications in most cases should be forwarded to the ILO. Information concerning persons who claim to have been victims of so-called scientific

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experiments in Nazi concentration camps is forwarded to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Confidential statistics are prepared for the Commission on Human Rights indicating the numbers of communications relating to the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the numbers of alleged incidents relevant thereto.

Related matters

125. Article 8 of the Supplementary Convention on Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, adopted at Geneva in August 1956, provides for the communication to the Secretary-General by States Parties of copies of any laws, regulations and administrative measures enacted or put into effect to implement the provisions of the Convention. This information is communicated, as received, to the other parties and to the Economic and Social Council as part of the documentation for any discussion which the Council may undertake with a view to making further recommendations for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade or the other institutions and practices which are the subject of the Convention.

126. The Economic and Social Council will consider, in 1960, a proposal of the Commission on Human Rights that Governments should be invited to stimulate the formation of local human rights committees or national advisory committees, or to encourage them where they already exist. Under the proposal, Governments would also be invited to communicate to the Secretary-General all relevant information on the functions of such bodies, including the nature and extent of their contact with Governments. A report would be prepared for circulation to Governments and for submission to the Commission at its 1962 session.

127. The Economic and Social Council will consider, in 1962, a factual review of the various aspects of the question of capital punishment, to be prepared by the Secretary-General.

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

128. The existing treaties relating to the control of narcotic drugs lay down specific duties and responsibilities for the United Nations control organs, namely, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Permanent Central Opium Board and the Drug Supervisory Body, as well as for the World Health Organization. In addition, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has a complementary responsibility as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council acting under terms of reference prescribed in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter. The Charter activities are, however, closely related in practice to the treaty obligations, and the distinction between the two is in any case not material to the present paper.

129. The Commission is served by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which also discharges certain responsibilities for the operation of the control system that rest with the Secretary-General under international treaties. The Division also services the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and all other United Nations organs concerned with the exception of the Board and the Body, which are served by a joint Secretariat, separate from the Division.

130. For budgetary purposes, consideration may be limited to three main factors of increase or potential increase in the workload of these secretariats.

131. First, the treaty system produces a virtually automatic increase of activity from year to year: the number of narcotic substances brought under international control rose from eighteen in 1946 to seventy-two in 1959, and in view of the rapid rate of discovery of new drugs, further rises must be anticipated in the future. This situation leads in turn to more extensive reporting on the part of Governments, to a heavier output of rational legislation, and to the adoption of progressively more complex counter measures against illicit traffic.

132. Secondly,^{1/} the General Assembly recently decided, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, to establish a continuing programme of technical assistance in narcotics control within the regular budget, and for this purpose appropriated \$50,000 in respect of the initial year 1960. The Assembly and the Council were prompted by two considerations: first, that narcotic controls

^{1/} This factor applies to the Division of Narcotic Drugs but not to the joint Secretariat of the Board and the Body.

projects benefit the international community as a whole as much as, or more than, the recipient country, and secondly, that such projects, though eligible for financing under the Expanded Programme, could normally be added to country programmes only at the expense of other projects already in operation and representing an important investment in economic development. Hence, the limited funds devoted to technical assistance in this field have largely been drawn from contingency allocations under the Expanded Programme or from ad hoc appropriations in the regular budget.

133. It is planned that technical assistance under this continuing programme should take the form of inter-country projects (seminars, consultative groups, visiting "task forces", or such other arrangements as Governments may wish), expert services and fellowships, with the emphasis being placed on rational or regional programmes where the problems of drug addiction and illicit traffic are acute. The supporting studies would be provided by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, assisted, where necessary, by consultants.

134. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, proposed in the place of the existing nine treaties, constitutes the third of the factors mentioned in paragraph 3 above. The new draft treaty, while re-enacting the essential features of the existing system, is intended to simplify and strengthen its legal and administrative framework. At the same time, however, it adds considerably to the responsibilities of the control organs, for example, by including measures for the control of production of the raw materials of narcotic drugs, as well as other provisions not found in the existing treaties.

135. The draft text provides for the Board and the Body to be replaced by a single body. This new body would, however, under the present draft, continue to be served by separate secretariats.^{2/}

136. Should the plenipotentiary conference to be held in 1961 adopt the Single Convention in its present form, the normal year-by-year growth of control activities would, on balance, be accentuated. But the extent of the increase, being dependent in part on decisions to be taken by the new treaty organs, cannot at this point be measured with accuracy.

^{2/} The Fifth Committee, in December 1959, requested the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to consider, and report on, the possible establishment of a single secretariat (A/4336, paras. 25, 26).