

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RELATED TO
THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(Prepared by the Secretariat in connection with
Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda of the Economic
and Employment Commission, Document E/CN.1/1)

The Activities of the Secretary-General in the Field of Economic
Development are based on the following considerations:

1. The concern of the United Nations with problems of economic development of under-developed countries or areas stems from its basic purpose to achieve lasting peace by "its creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations". (U.N. Charter Article 55)
2. The initiative for the economic development of any country or area must come from the country or area to be developed and the developmental activities to be carried out are the responsibility primarily of the peoples and governments of the countries or areas concerned. In recognition of the existing inter-relationships between economic progress and continued peaceful relations among nations, all Members of the United Nations, however, have pledged themselves to take joint as well as separate action for the promotion of economic and social progress and development.
3. Although the improvement of the standards of living of the less developed countries or areas is likely to proceed by slow stages and through individual projects, the greatest and most lasting benefits

are likely to flow from projects which are integral parts of long-term and balanced programmes of development. Such programmes should embrace

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not only the economic aspects of development, but should include the social, scientific, health, educational and cultural aspects of community life.

The activities of the Secretary-General in the field of economic development are designed to enable the United Nations to assist most effectively in the development of the less developed countries or areas of the world and fall into the following broad categories:

1. The Secretary-General is arranging to invite the member governments of the United Nations to forward to him detailed statements showing what agency or agencies in their countries have as their major concern the general economic development of their countries, and giving a description of their authority, plans, programmes, activities, personnel and financial resources. The Secretary-General does not expect to ask for detailed data in any special field in which data are being collected by any Specialized Agency.

2. The Secretary-General will assemble and analyse the above data and make them available to the Economic and Social Council and its appropriate Commissions and Sub-Commissions and to such other agencies or Members of the United Nations as may be concerned.

3. The Secretary-General will keep under continuous review the progress of development in the less developed countries or areas so that

- (a) he may be in a position to consider, in co-operation with other United Nations or national agencies concerned, what factors may be impeding the progress of development and what action might be taken to overcome existing obstacles;

- (b) he may be in a position to take or promote appropriate action to ensure that development programmes are consistent with the general objectives and other activities of the United Nations in the economic and social field;

/4. The Secretary-General

4. The Secretary-General is arranging to consult regularly with other United Nations agencies concerned for the purpose of facilitating the most effective and expeditious use of the financial and technical resources of the several United Nations agencies concerned with the achievement of balanced economic and social progress and development;

5. Except for specialized requests clearly within the scope of the several specialized agencies, the Secretary-General stands ready, in co-operation with the other United Nations agencies concerned, to make appropriate arrangements for the provision of such technical assistance to member governments as will enable them to plan and carry out balanced development programmes as speedily and as competently as possible.
