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UNITED NATIONS

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO
UNPUBLISHED REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF
STATISTICAL EXPERTS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

(Note prepared by the Secretariat for consideration
under Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda for the
Statistical Commission.)

When the statistical activities of the League of Nations were
assumed by the United Nations three studies on statistical methodology
were in process. They were:

- (a) Measurement of National Income and the Construction of
Social Accounts, Report of the Sub-Committee on National Income
Statistics (League of Nations document C.E.S./156/s/c/W.I.St./4).
Appended to this report is a memorandum on Definition and
Measurement of the National Income and Related Totals by
Richard Stone, Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
- (b) Banking Statistics, Recommendations on Scope and Principles
of Classification, Draft Report by the Sub-Committee on Banking
Statistics (League of Nations document C.E.S./155/s/c/B.St./3).
- (c) Note on Balance of Payments Statistics, an interim
report including a Draft Model Classification of
International Accounts drawn up on the basis of the
preliminary findings of the Sub-Committee on Balance of
Payments Statistics (League of Nations document C.E.S./152/s/c/B.P./6).

2. Report on Statistics on National Income

This report was prepared by a special Sub-Committee on National
Income Statistics. The work of the Sub-Committee came to an end when

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this report was prepared. Their report was ready for publication in June 1946 and it was originally intended that it should appear as one of the "Studies and Reports on Statistical Methods" of the League of Nations.

3. The Statistical Commission is asked to consider what action should be taken in respect to this report:

- (i) the Statistical Commission may decide not to commit itself with respect to this report but merely to recommend that the report should be published under the imprint of the League of Nations in the series "Studies of Reports on Statistical Methods", or
- (ii) the Commission may assume responsibility for the report and at a later stage submit it to the Economic and Social Council with a request that the Economic and Social Council express its approval of the principles embodied in the report and recommend their application in national statistics.

4. If the Commission decides on the second of these alternatives, it may either:

- (i) note with approval the report in its present form and recommend it for publication as a United Nations document, or
- (ii) it may request the Secretariat to circulate the report to governments for their observations and comments prior to publication.

5. The attention of members of the Commission is drawn to the fact that the report consists of a general report endorsed by all members of the Sub-Committee and an Appendix prepared by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee for which he is solely responsible. Members of the Sub-Committee expressed the wish that this Appendix should be published although this did not imply they endorsed the Appendix in detail.

6. Report on Banking Statistics

This report was prepared by a special Sub-Committee of the Committee
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of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations. It was ready in March 1946 but no action was taken by the Secretariat of the League of Nations as it was then in prospect that the United Nations would assume responsibility for the statistical activities of the League of Nations.

7. While in this case also the Statistical Commission has the choice not to commit itself in respect to this report and merely to recommend that the report be published under the imprint of the League of Nations, it is especially desirable that before the report is issued the views and comments of member governments should be obtained. (The Secretariat of the League of Nations had intended to circulate the draft to member governments before it was published.)

8. The Statistical Commission may therefore wish to recommend that consultation should be undertaken forthwith with governments and also with the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank and other Agencies. If this was done the draft report would then have to be re-considered in the light of the comments received. This review might be done either by the Commission itself or by a special ad hoc sub-committee appointed by the Statistical Commission.

9. Report on Balance of Payments Statistics

This report consists of "A Note on Balance of Payment Statistics" including a Draft Model Classification of International Transactions Accounts. After it was prepared it was sent for comment by the Secretariat of the League of Nations in December 1945 to the governments of forty countries. Replies were received from eleven countries but the other countries have not been reminded to send in their comments pending consideration of the action to be taken on this report by the Statistical Commission.

10. The Statistical Commission may therefore decide to ask the Secretariat of the United Nations to request comments on this report from these other

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countries and from the International Monetary Fund. As in the case of the report on Banking Statistics the Commission will have to decide what action should be taken when these comments are received. The report may then be reviewed either by the Statistical Commission itself at a future meeting or by a special ad hoc sub-committee appointed by the Commission for this purpose.
