

INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Calendar of Conferences for 1949

Note by the Secretary-General

I

The Secretary-General brings to the attention of the Interim Committee on Programme of Meetings the fact that, in view of the scheduling of the Second Part of the Third Regular Session of the General Assembly, it will not be practicable to implement fully that part of the programme of conferences in 1949 approved by the Economic and Social Council on 29 August 1948* covering the period April-May 1949.

Having regard to the technical facilities available to service the session of the General Assembly and the sessions of other organs and the commitments of the substantive parts of the Secretariat concerned, the following arrangements are suggested for the fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the third session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information, and the fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

1. The fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, scheduled for 11 April 1949, should be postponed until 9 May - 21 June 1949.

It is considered that this Commission cannot meet concurrently with the Committee of the General Assembly considering the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information.

2. The third session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information, scheduled for 23 May 1949, should meet on 30 May - 15 June 1949.

3. The fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled for 2 May 1949, should be postponed until 9 May - 27 May 1949.

4. With respect to the reports of the Commissions on Human Rights and Narcotic Drugs, it would appear necessary to waive the provision of Resolution 55 (IV) to the effect that the reports of Commissions should normally not be considered by the Council unless they have been sent to the members of the Council at least six weeks before the session at which they are to be examined, in order to complete examination of these reports at the ninth session before the fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

* See A/625, Appendix II.

II

The Calendar of Conferences for 1949 approved in Resolution 174 (VII) included tentative dates for sessions of Regional Economic Commissions.

The Secretary-General after consultations with Executive Secretaries presents the following adjustments with regard to the dates of sessions of Regional Economic Commissions:

1. Economic Commission for Europe

The new date, (9 - 18 May), is suggested because the 1948 survey of the Economic Situation and Prospects of Europe, which is an essential document for study by members of the Commission cannot be distributed before 15 April 1949. This date is also most convenient in connection with other conferences scheduled to take place in the United Nations European Office in Geneva.

2. Economic Commission for Asia and Far East

ECAFE at its fourth session (29 November - 11 December 1948), decided to hold a meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission within a two months' period at a place to be determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission. The Committee of the Whole is to "examine further the Report of the Working Party on Industrial Development and such other matters as the Commission may refer to it, and set up appropriate machinery or take such action within the authority of the Commission as may be necessary for the implementation of such concrete proposals as may emerge from their examination."

In connection with the above decision the Commission decided to hold its fifth session in the Autumn of 1949 in Singapore. This date is subject to revision by the Committee of the Whole, if the Committee considers this desirable.

3. Economic Commission for Latin America

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the first session of ECIA, the second session will be held in Havana (Cuba). The Executive Secretary, taking into account dates fixed for other regional conferences to be held in Latin America and in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Government of Cuba has established that the most convenient date for the second session of the Commission would be 29 May - 11 June 1949. Since almost a full year will have elapsed between the first and second sessions of ECIA it is anticipated that the Commission will desire to hold a third session toward the end of 1949.

/4. Summary

4. Summary

February or March	ECAFE Committee of the Whole (place to be determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.)
9 - 18 May	ECE fourth session (Geneva)
29 May - 11 June	ECIA second session (Havana)
Autumn	ECAFE fifth session (Singapore)

Note: The Committee will wish to keep in view the fact that the ad hoc Committee on the Proposed Economic Commission for the Middle East has recommended to the Economic and Social Council that an Economic Commission for the Middle East be established forthwith. This recommendation will be before the Council at its eighth session, together with the resolution of the General Assembly, which requests the Council to expedite its consideration of this proposal.

At the closing meeting of its third session, the Population Commission requested a fourth session, to last three weeks, with the provision that the first week would be devoted to Committee preparatory work.

When the Economic and Social Council, on 29 August 1948, approved the Calendar of Conferences in 1949, only one committee, namely, the Committee on the Demographic Dictionary was included in the Programme.*

The Chairman of the Population Commission, in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 29 October 1948, requested that two additional committees should convene during the week preceding the fourth session of the Commission, namely, the Committee on Population Statistics consisting of the representatives of Brazil, Netherlands, United States of America and Yugoslavia, and the Committee on Migration consisting of the representatives of Canada, China and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The Secretary-General points out that only limited servicing would be requested by these two additional committees of the Population Commission and he suggested that they should be scheduled to meet at Geneva in the week beginning on 4 April 1949.

* See A/625, Appendix II, footnote 4.