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A Note prepared by the Secretariat in connection with Item "16, "Consideration of Activities of the Economic and Employment Commission in the Field of Housing" of the Provisional Agenda of the Economic and Employment Commission (Document E/CN.1/1)

The question of international action in the field of housing and town planning is also the subject of an agenda item on the Social Commission which meets at the same time as the Economic and Employment Commission. The Social Affairs Department of the United Nations Secretariat has prepared a report on this subject (document E/CN.5/9). This report is also available for use by the members of this Commission.

In view of the fact that the construction industries in general constitute an important factor in the volume and fluctuations of industrial activity and therefore constitute a vital element in any considerations of problems of full employment, and in view of the further fact that the subject of housing and town planning forms an integral part of any considerations of balanced economic development, the Economic and Employment Commission will undoubtedly wish to participate in any activities in this field in which the United Nations may engage. It is therefore suggested that the Commission may wish to consider the appointment of an ad hoc sub-committee for this session to deal with the question of housing and to invite the Social Commission to do the same so that the two sub-committees may be in a position to work jointly on the economic and social aspects of the housing problem with a view to arriving at recommendations which

might be put before both Commissions and thereby insure a consistent approach to this problem.

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