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DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS

(Memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General)

1. At its sixth session (E/CN.3/158, paragraph 54), the Statistical Commission took note of a preliminary report on censuses of distribution prepared by the International Chamber of Commerce, and requested the Secretary-General
 - (a) To arrange for the recording of experience in the field of distribution statistics, and for the continued study of methods for the improvement of current practices, and for the development of standards relating to statistics on distribution, in consultation with Member Governments, the International Chamber of Commerce and other interested agencies and organizations; and
 - (b) To report on the subject at a later session of the Statistical Commission.
2. For lack of resources the Secretary-General has been unable to do any work in this field. At the request of the International Chamber of Commerce, however, the Secretary-General made suggestions concerning the further work in this field which the Chamber wished to undertake. These suggestions were
 - (a) that the Chamber, having made the preliminary report on censuses of distribution referred to above, might wish to prepare a further and more detailed report on the same subject, and
 - (b) that the Chamber might wish to undertake work in the field of current statistics of retail trade.
3. In response to these suggestions, the International Chamber of Commerce is arranging for a further report to be drawn up on censuses of distribution. Also, the Chamber has drawn up a report on the compilation of regular retail trade statistics, and is making a limited number of copies available to the Statistical Commission for reference.

4. It has been suggested in E/CN.3/145, paragraph 43, that the Commission may wish to request the Secretary-General to raise the priority accorded to his work on censuses of distribution. It is not necessary to repeat that suggestion in this paper. It is suggested, therefore, that the Statistical Commission

- (a) express its appreciation of the work done in the field of distribution statistics by the International Chamber of Commerce,
- (b) request the Secretary-General to draw the attention of governments to the report by the Chamber on retail trade statistics.
