

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.6  
30 January 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Thursday  
30 January 1947, at 11:10 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. H. Marshall	(Canada)
	Mr. D. K. Lieu	(China)
	Mr. G. Darmois	(France)
	Mr. P. J. Idenburg	(Netherlands)
	Mr. R. G. D. Allen	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. I. S. Malyshev	(USSR)
	Mr. S. A. Rice	(United States)
	Mr. Erichsen*	(Norway)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies

Mr. R. M. Woodbury	(ILO)
Mr. S. V. Arnaldo	(UNESCO)
Mr. S. Hicks	(International Monetary Fund)

Secretariat:	Mr. H. Campion	(Representing the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs)
	Mr. W. J. Bruce	(Secretary to Commission)

Opening the meeting the CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the late President Roosevelt on the occasion of the anniversary of his birthday and recalled the important part that the President had played in the organization of the United Nations.

Proposed 1950 Census of the Americas /E/CN.3/W.2/ Item 11 of the Agenda.

Since the proposed Census of the Americas for 1950 could be of great interest to the Commission and might act as a pilot study for a future

\* Mr. Erichsen was present as observer for Mr. G. Jahn of Norway.

world-wide census, Mr. H. L. DUNN, Secretary-General of the Inter-American Statistical Institute and Mr. C. L. DEDRICK, Chairman of the Committee for the 1950 Census of the Americas, were invited to describe to the Commission the task of the Committee. Mr. DUNN gave background information regarding the Inter-American Statistical Institute emphasizing the necessity of interesting technicians in the development of minimum standards through co-operative effort in planning for the census. Mr. DEDRICK elaborated on the memorandum E/CN.3/W.2 and stressed the importance of the programme of the Committee. That Committee has now eighteen representatives from the countries of the Americas with three more countries indicating they would also participate in the Census. He stressed that each country would carry out its own census but that the Committee will endeavour to achieve comparability and work out a programme of minimum standards.

Mr. DEDRICK referred particularly to the studies which had already been completed on census methods in the American countries and emphasized that additional projects were now under way. Such projects included compilation and distribution of census materials previously used, study of cost of censuses in the various countries, survey of existing map facilities, study of the needs for census work and of legal provisions for censuses, study of needs and available facilities for mechanical equipment.

The future programme calls for additional study of definitions and methods with particular attention to the manner in which such definitions must be adapted to the individual needs of the various countries. Starting with the spring of 1948 the Committee hopes to have set up training institutes for those who would actually be involved in carrying through the work. By the end of October 1947 he hoped the Committee would have completed a rough draft of the minimum programme as well as certain technical documents.

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It was also pointed out that the population censuses would be co-ordinated with the work of the FAO in promoting censuses of agriculture and with whatever other censuses the individual countries may wish to make.

The discussion that followed stressed some difficulties such as the difficulty of obtaining uniform definitions, co-ordination in the time of census-taking in the various countries and the feasibility of supplying Members of the United Nations with copies of the list of minimum standards and other useful materials.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in view of the extensive discussion by the Commission, there was obvious interest in this project, and that the Commission would like to give some form of recognition to it. It was agreed that drafts of resolutions should be drawn up representing the different points of view and that these should be discussed at the afternoon meeting.

The meeting rose at 1:00 p.m.

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