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**ECONOMIC
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SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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ET SOCIAL**

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13 October 1948

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CO-ORDINATION OF CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has received the following communication from the permanent representative of Brazil to the United Nations, on the subject of co-ordination of cartographic services of specialized agencies and international organizations.

COPY/em.4-10-48

DELEGACAO

DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRASIL

New York, June 10, 1948

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Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a memorandum concerning the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council on the Co-ordination of Cartographic Services of Specialized Agencies and International Organizations. This memorandum summarizes a round table meeting of officials of those International Organizations which deal with cartography and which have meetings scheduled during the remainder of 1948.

2. As you know, the purpose of the above mentioned discussion was to secure an exchange of opinions on the part which the respective organizations might play in the implementation of the Resolution on Cartography, and I believe that this memorandum will be of interest for you and to the members of the Council.

3. On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I wish again to assure you of our sincere desire to co-operate to the utmost for the successful completion of the task undertaken by you with the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the Brazilian draft resolution on cartographic co-ordination.

I avail myself of this opportunity to present to you, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)

João Carlos Muniz
Permanent Representative of
Brazil

His Excellency Trygve Lie,
Secretary General of the United Nations.

/MEMCF

MEMORANDUM

Summarizing the Round Table Discussions of officials of
Those International Organizations Having Meetings
Scheduled During the Remainder of 1948
Concerning the Resolution of the

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
on the

"Co-ordination of Cartographic Services
of Specialized Agencies and
International Organizations"

Pan American Institute of Geography and History
International Council of Scientific Unions
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
International Geographic Union
International Society of Photogrammetry

Washington, D. C.
June 2-4, 1948

/MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM, SUMMARIZING THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS OF OFFICIALS OF
THOSE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING MEETINGS SCHEDULED DURING
THE REMAINDER OF 1948, CONCERNING THE RESOLUTION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE
"CO-ORDINATION OF CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICES OF
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS"

I. Introduction:

Pursuant to the desires of the United Nations as expressed in communications to interested international organizations that they submit relevant information and offer comment upon the Resolution on "Co-ordination of Cartographic Services of Specialized Agencies and International Organizations", as adopted by the Economic and Social Council, 19 February 1948 upon proposal by the delegation of Brazil, and particularly in view of the proposed meeting of experts and representative of the Specialized Agencies and International Organizations as discussed by the Council and planned by the Secretary-General, the purposes of which meeting would be to present recommendations to the latter concerning the implementation of the Resolution, the undersigned officers currently in the United States of the international scientific organizations which are holding congresses and conferences during the remaining months of 1948 gathered informally in Washington, D. C., June 2-4, 1948, under the joint sponsorship of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the International Council of Scientific Unions in order to exchange opinions concerning the parts which their respective organizations might play, both in preparation for the meeting of experts and in implementation of the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council, to wit:

Pan American Institute of Geography
and History

Mr. R. H. Randall, Chairman,
Commission on Cartography
Dr. A. C. Simonpietri,
Secretary

International Council of Scientific
Unions

Dr. J. A. Fleming, President

International Union of Geodesy and
Geophysics

Dr. W. D. Lambert, President,
International Association
of Geodesy

International Geographic Union

Dr. J. Gottmann, Member,
Commission on Ports;
Delegate of the President
of the Union

International Society of
Photogrammetry

Commander O. S. Reading, Member
of the Board of Direction

/The

The sponsoring organizations mentioned above apprised the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of Social Affairs of the meeting, expressing the hope that this endeavor on their part to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to bring about the most effective implementation of the Council's mandate would commend itself to his favourable consideration and that it would be possible for the Department of Social Affairs of the Secretariat to correspond to their invitation that a representative attend the deliberations so that the end results would be in keeping with the aims and intentions of the Council. The Department of Social Affairs accepted the invitation and sent Dr. Te-Lou Tchang as its observer.

II. Discussion:

The conclusions of the round-table discussions are incorporated in the numbered paragraphs given below:

A. Basic Considerations:

(1) The group was unanimous in its opinion that their discussions should be undertaken in the light of the final text of the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council, together with the Summary Record of the Council's debate (UN document E/SR.149, 23 February 1948) and the other supporting documents, the latter being the various proposals submitted by Member States and International Organizations (UN documents E/257 and E/258, 11 February 1947; E/483, 21 July 1947; E/620, 23 January 1948; E/609, 14 January 1948, E/609 addendum 1, 11 February 1948; E/649, 11 February 1948; E/695, 24 February 1948 and E/695/Corr.1, 17 March 1948). Particular attention was given both to the Resolution on "Cartographic Science" as adopted by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization at the Second Session of its General Conference held in Mexico in 1947, in view of the General Conference's recommendations to the Secretary-General and its clear-cut statement concerning the purposes of planning in cartographic science (UN document E/649, 11 February 1948; UNESCO document 20/129, 4 December 1947), as well as to that Organization's reported position that it was ready to take its part in the total work to be done while leaving the task of co-ordinating the various cartographic services to the United Nations itself (UN document E/SR.149, 23 February 1948).

/This latter

This latter consideration was felt to be of peculiar significance in view of the existing agreements as between the International Council of Scientific Unions and UNESCO.

(2) They were in agreement that the study of the documents mentioned above revealed that the term "cartography" was being employed in its fullest sense; that of all types of surveys and of maps and their attendant by-products, the graphic portrayal of economic social and cultural factors.

(3) The group took due cognizance of the three basic ideas contained in the Resolution as stated by the Brazilian representative to the Economic and Social Council in his formal presentation of the proposal of Brazil, namely (UN document E/SR.149).

(a) That the Council recommend to the Member Governments the stimulation of the accurate surveying and mapping of their national territories; and collaboration with those Governments (items 1. and 2. (c) of UN document E/695);

(b) That the Secretary-General take appropriate action to further such efforts by specific means including the advancement of the science itself; the preparation of an up-to-date study on modern cartographic methods; and the development of uniform international standards (item 2. (a)) and

(c) That the cartographic services of the United Nations and the specialized agencies be co-ordinated, taking into account the work of the various inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations (item 2. (b)).

(4) The group perceived that the role of their respective organizations would be to support the United Nations by giving their full co-operation to this joint effort of stimulation and co-ordination.

(5) The group noted with satisfaction that one of its component organizations, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, had presented the original idea concerned with the convocation of the group of experts to consider both the co-ordination of the cartographic services of the specialized agencies and the stimulation of the surveying and mapping operations of the Member Nations (UN document E/257).

/B. Action:

B. Action:

(1) The consensus of the group was that perhaps the most practical way to undertake an appropriate study of the Resolution would be the calling together of a meeting of experts and representatives of the specialized agencies and interested international organizations as tentatively considered by the Secretary-General.

(2) In further endorsement of this plan the officials of the several organizations expressed their intentions to take the proper steps to assure that both the Resolution and the Secretary-General's intention concerned with the consultative meeting of expert representatives be placed upon the agenda of their respective organizations.

(3) It was their considered opinion that each of these organizations likewise should consider proposals for the international co-ordination of cartography in the light of the Resolution and its supporting documents, and should arrange for the appointment of delegates to attend the contemplated meeting of representatives of interested agencies and organizations from all parts of the world in order to draw up formal recommendations for submission to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(4) They deemed it particularly desirable to request the Secretary-General to convoke the proposed meeting of experts only after their respective organizations should have had the opportunity formally to express their viewpoints and to select their delegates, which actions can be undertaken most propitiously at their forthcoming meetings to be held in Oslo, The Hague, Brussels, Lisbon, and Buenos Aires.

The many advantages and significant economies which will be attendant upon the co-ordination efforts of the United Nations were stressed, and there was conviction that discussion at the forthcoming meetings would tend to bring out specific examples of such benefits, which could thereupon be presented by the selected delegates for consideration at the meeting of experts.

(5) In referring to certain aspects of items 2(a) and 2(b) of the Resolution, attention was drawn to the concrete contributions which existing international organizations may make to the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies by making available thereto comprehensive reports on:

/(a) their

in advantage to future advance in the cartographic science and its application to human welfare.

In accordance with the terms of the UNESCO Resolution, the Council expresses the hope that arrangements may be made by the Secretary-General to have a Committee of Experts, composed of those pre-eminent in the field of cartography and its related sciences and of representatives of the specialized agencies and of the several interested inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, assemble early in 1949 for a broad discussion of the possibilities envisaged by the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council, and for preparation of recommendations to form a basis for the full implementation and realization of the aims and purposes of the Resolution. It is probable that the composition of such a group could be considered and recommended by the interested organizations through deliberations of their respective governing bodies, and possibly of special committees thereof, insofar as they are concerned.

Some indication of the interests of the International Council of Scientific Unions as involved was set forth by Professor E. de Martonne, President of the International Geographic Union in his communication to the Secretary-General in 1947 (UN document E/620 Annex II), concerned with the advantages of an international cartographic organization:

- "1. To expedite the survey of the world and propagate the results of this survey.
2. To unify cartographical methods and processes.
3. To support and promote cartographical works of the type of the National Atlas.

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The propagation of the progress of cartography in each country would not only be a boon to all the theoretical and research bodies depending upon geographical knowledge, but would also serve as a stimulant for the progress of this knowledge.

This progress could be achieved by the publication of an international cartographical

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bibliography, mentioning not only the maps published by national cartographical services, but large and small scale maps representing the extent of physical and economic phenomena"

Scientific and practical advances in the studies of the earth sciences and phenomena thereof involve cartographic matters of first importance in Geodesy, Meteorology, Seismology, Geology, Geomagnetism, Oceanography, Vulcanology, Hydrology. Other Unions undoubtedly have similar interests, such as Scientific Biology, Scientific Radio, Astronomy and Mathematics.

(9) The group noted, in connection with items 1. and 2. of the above list, the general concordance of the terms of the Resolution therewith; and in connection with item 3., the National Atlases of Finland, France, Italy and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were cited.

In relation to the bibliography project, the group was of the opinion that it was of indisputable value both in itself and as an example of a fruitful field for co-ordinated action, since if not properly co-ordinated it could easily result in the partial duplication of work planned by different international organizations.

(10) As complementary to co-ordination activities in the field of cartography and related sciences, and of cartographic services internationally, the group invited attention to the polar regions as an area of the world in which the co-ordination of cartographic operations could yield immediate and fruitful results.

(11) In recognition of the initiative of Brazil in bringing this matter before the Economic and Social Council, and in expression of their appreciation thereof, the group resolved that the memorandum summing up their work should be transmitted to the Brazilian representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the International Council of Scientific Unions, as sponsors of the present meeting.

/Robert H. Randall

Robert H. Randall
André C. Simonpietri
Pan American Institute of
Geography and History

Jean Gottmann
International Geographic Union

Jno. A. Fleming
International Council of
Scientific Unions

Walter D. Lambert
International Union of
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Oliver S. Reading
International Society of Photogrammetry

Done At Washington, D. C.
June 4, 1948
