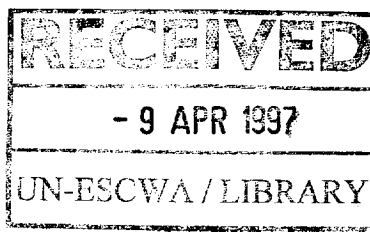




UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/ECWA/35  
8 April 1976

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Third Session

Doha, Qatar, 10-15 May 1976

Item 5 (c) of the Provisional Agenda

OTHER ACTIVITIES  
(A Brief Report)

During the period under review, a number of activities, which were not envisaged in the work programme of the Commission, were carried out by the secretariat. This involved a reallocation of the limited resources at the disposal of the secretariat supplemented, where possible, from extra-budgetary resources. Although progress in this connexion has been reported under the activities of the respective substantive Divisions/Units of the secretariat in document E/ECWA/30, the following is a brief reference to some of these activities:

1. At the request of the Jordanian Government, assistance was provided in connexion with the "Euro-Arab Dialogue". This included the preparation of a comprehensive report and the elaboration of proposals on the scope of assistance to be extended to the Arab party to the Dialogue. The report and proposals are submitted to the Commission as a background document (E/ECWA/35/Add.1).
2. At the request of the Jordan Valley Commission, a comprehensive multi-stage study of East Jordan Irrigation Project was carried out. The first stage is a financial analysis of the East Jordan Valley agricultural development plan 1976-1982. Particular attention is given to farm business enterprise analysis involving crop profitability and project effects on farm income. The second stage is an economic analysis of the project's returnability. This involves estimation of project costs and benefits and assessment of project's profitability in the light of its present worth and internal rate of return. The third stage of the study is devoted to technical and economic issues relating to the largest component of the project, namely, the Maqarin Dam. A major objective of the Jordan Valley project is to integrate all available water flows for a rational and unified system operation. Accordingly, the analysis of the Maqarin Dam is carried a step further to cover the entire

irrigation system. This serves to provide a useful measure of the benefits accruing to the economy in terms of reduced costs through integrated system operation. A complete report on the study is being finalized for presentation to the Commission.

3. ECWA arranged for a meeting in Damascus for the purpose of defining and co-ordinating the assistance to the Euphrates Project to be offered by the various UN agencies concerned. The meeting took place in December 1975 and was attended by government officials from the Ministry of the Euphrates as well as representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and ECWA. The meeting discussed the extent and type of assistance that each UN agency could provide to the Euphrates project. In so far as ECWA is concerned, assistance has been and will continue to be provided in the form of advisory services which will be made available at the request of the Syrian Government. The ECWA inputs have assisted the authorities concerned in the various social, economic and agricultural policy decisions.
4. An ECWA Mission visited Aden to discuss with the Government of Democratic Yemen their request for short-term advisory services for project identification in the various sectors of the economy. As a result of the various discussions held, the PDRY Government requested expertise in a number of problem areas having priority in their development efforts. Necessary action has already been taken by ECWA to grant the Government request, and it is expected that the required expert services will be made available in the coming few months.  
  
The same Mission proceeded to the Yemen Arab Republic in order to discuss with the authorities concerned their request for ECWA assistance in the implementation of their Development Planning Project designed to assist the Government in the preparation of their 1976/77-1980/81 plan.
5. At the request of the Government of Democratic Yemen and that of the Yemen Arab Republic, consultancy services were provided

by ECWA for the preparation of draft laws on oil and other mineral explorations in the two countries.

6. In reply to a request for advisory services from the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), ECWA provided assistance in the preparation of a paper on the "Improvement of Transport among all Arab countries". A report covering the issues involved was submitted to the CAEU.