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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 1960 WORLD POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAMME

(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. This document presents a review of activities during the past two years in connexion with the 1960 World Population Census Programme. A progress report of earlier activities, through the end of 1958, can be found in document E/CN.3/237 and Add.1, presented to the Commission at its tenth session.
2. During the two years under review, the world-wide and regional population census principles and recommendations were crystallized. Direct assistance to countries was expanded and, in addition to the continuing training centres and the fellowship programme, special training was provided for potential directors and other important census officials in two regions. Various aspects of population census matters were considered at meetings of world-wide, regional and other technical bodies listed in annex I.
3. For the remainder of the census period, emphasis will be increasingly on the activities of the national Governments and such direct aid as they may request from the world-wide and regional organizations. The extent of national participation in the programme can be deduced from annex II, which contains a list of national population censuses (including some sample censuses) already taken or anticipated during the period 1955-64. The list shows that sixty-eight censuses have been held between 1955 and 1959 and that approximately 134 more censuses will be taken before the end of 1964.

## I. PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. In accordance with the recommendation of the Commission at its tenth session (E/3126, para. 101), the Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses, revised in the light of comments made by the Commission, and the Progress Report on the census programme were issued in 1958 as Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 27.

5. Regional census recommendations which modify or amplify the United Nations world-wide recommendations to meet particular regional needs can be found in:

Inter American Statistical Institute. Program of the 1960 Census of America (COTA-1960). Report on the VI Session of COINS. Document 3841 ab (COINS) - Washington, D.C., April 1959.

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Report of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (Second Session) to the Commission (Fifteenth Session). Document E/CN.11/493, 15 January 1959.

Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe. Conference of European Statisticians. Report of the Seventh Plenary Session. Document Conf.Eur.Stats/112, 24 June 1959 and European Programme for National Population Censuses. Document Conf.Eur.Stats/WG 6/81, 17 April 1959.

## II. HANDBOOKS

### A. Handbook of Population Census Methods

6. At its tenth session, the Commission recommended the issuance as soon as possible of the revised edition of the Handbook of Population Census Methods, which was then in preparation (E/3126, para. 101).

7. The Handbook was published in three volumes in English, French<sup>1/</sup> and Spanish, during 1958 and 1959 (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 5, Rev.1). These volumes constitute a revision and expansion of the previous handbooks and manuals.<sup>2/</sup> Volume I, General Aspects of a Population Census, covers the

1/ The French edition of the third volume will be available early in 1960.

2/ Population Census Handbook (provisional edition), October 1949; Population Census Methods (ST/SOA/SER.A/4), November 1949; Fertility Data in Population Censuses (ST/SOA/SER.A/6), November 1949; Data on Urban and Rural Population in Recent Censuses (ST/SOA/SER.A/8), July 1950; Application of International Standards to Census Data on the Economically Active Population (ST/SOA/SER.A/9), January 1952; and Handbook of Population Census Methods (ST/STAT/SER.F/5), June 1954.

utility and modern conception of a population census; census planning and scope; census legislation, budget and organization; census work prior to the enumeration; the enumeration; post-enumeration work; and sampling methods and population censuses. Volume II, Economic Characteristics of the Population, deals with the relationship between census data on economic activity and questions of economic development, the economically active according to their characteristics, selected enumeration and processing procedures for the economically active population, and interrelationships of various types of data on economic characteristics.

Volume III, Demographic and Social Characteristics of the Population, is concerned with sex and age, marital status, place of birth, citizenship, language, educational characteristics, fertility, ethnic characteristics, religion, physical and mental disabilities, total population, urban and rural population and size of locality, and household and family data.

B. Handbook on Data Processing Methods

8. Part I of a Handbook on Data Processing Methods was published in 1959 jointly by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization.<sup>3/</sup> It consists of five chapters originally issued in a series of studies in data processing methods, namely: Scope and principal methods of data processing; Planning, organizing and administering data processing services; The elements of planning and operating a punch-card installation; Manual methods and tools for data processing; and Punch-card sorting. It is planned to issue a second volume which will contain seven chapters, two of which are already completed while one is at present in draft form.<sup>4/</sup>

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<sup>3/</sup> The Spanish edition of this document is being translated and published by the Inter American Statistical Institute.

<sup>4/</sup> Questionnaire design (processing aspects); Punch-cards - their types and design; and Punching and insuring its quality. The four still to be prepared are: Codes and coding techniques; Auxiliary punch-card machines; Punch-card tabulating machines; and Supervision of a machine department.

### III. TRAINING CENTRES AND SEMINARS

9. During 1958 and 1959, two ad hoc training centres and one seminar have been devoted to matters connected with the 1960 World Population Census Programme. A second seminar is planned for the first part of 1960.

#### A. Training centres

10. To impart more intensive and practical census training than is usually possible at the long-term statistical training centres, where census methodology is only one part of the curriculum,<sup>5/</sup> the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization co-operated in establishing in 1958 two ad hoc regional centres devoted to this special field.

##### (a) Japan (Tokyo)

11. The UN/FAO Regional Census Training Centre for Asia and the Far East, organized by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of Japan, opened on 2 September 1958 in Tokyo and closed on 13 December 1958. It was conducted in English and French for a total of fifty-one participants from seventeen countries and two territories in the area.

12. The training programme included an optional refresher course in statistics, courses in general planning, organization and administration of census of population, housing and agriculture, data processing, specialized courses in population, housing and agricultural census concepts and in the application of statistical samples to these operations. The activities of the Centre consisted of classroom lectures, laboratory work and group discussions, as well as comprehensive field work. Outstanding in the latter activity was the work connected with an experimental census of housing, population and agriculture which included a preliminary listing, the conventional enumeration and post-enumeration checks.

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<sup>5/</sup> A description of some of these training centres can be found in document E/CN.9/153, presented to the tenth session of the Population Commission.

13. The Tokyo Centre was planned as the first stage in the 1958-1960 UN/FAO programme of technical assistance in Asia and the Far East in respect of the 1960 World Census Programme. This programme was made possible by a substantial grant from the Ford Foundation, part of which was used for the Tokyo Centre, although the major part of the cost of the Centre was met from Expanded Programme funds of the United Nations and FAO.

(b) Peru (Lima)

14. A UN/FAO/IASI Regional Census Training Centre for Latin America, under the auspices of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Inter American Statistical Institute was held in Lima from 11 August to 21 November 1958 with the Government of Peru acting as host.<sup>6/</sup> Seventy-six participants attended from eighteen Latin American countries. The courses covered were essentially the same as those of the UN/FAO Regional Census Training Centre for Asia and the Far East, but they were naturally adapted to the special needs of Latin America. As in the Tokyo Centre, an experimental census was conducted to impart practical instruction and experience in all aspects of census operations.

15. The report of this centre has been published as Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 33.

C. Seminars on evaluation and utilization of population census data

(a) Chile (Santiago)

16. A Seminar on Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data in Latin America took place from 30 November to 18 December 1959 at Santiago. It was attended by twenty-six representatives of Governments and territories in the area.

17. The seminar was organized by the Population Branch of the Bureau of Social Affairs and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations with the co-operation of the Statistical Office, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Inter America Statistical Institute and the Government of Chile and the financial assistance of the Population Council, Inc. It was carried out on behalf of the United Nations by the Regional Centre for Demographic Research and Training in Latin America.

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<sup>6/</sup> In addition, valuable assistance was given by the International Cooperation Administration of the Government of the United States.



18. Whereas the regional census training centres were concerned primarily with census methods, this seminar was oriented to the practical use of census results. The programme included the discussion of population data needed as an aid to economic and social policy making and planning; evaluation of the quality of population census data, co-ordination with statistics from other sources, and supplementation of censuses with sample surveys; national plans for tabulations and analysis of results of forthcoming population censuses; and problems involved in carrying out programmes of evaluation, analysis and utilization of population census results.

(b) Asia and the Far East

19. It is anticipated that a similar seminar for countries of Asia and the Far East will be held in the first half of 1960.

V. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

A. Experience with the new series of censuses

20. In accordance with the hope expressed by the Commission "that the Secretary-General would be able to continue assembling, analysing and disseminating technical information based on the experience of the new series of censuses and in particular on the extent to which international recommendations had been useful or required modifications", statistical and/or census offices have been requested to provide the Secretariat with the requisite information and documentation for study and analysis.

B. Direct assistance to countries

21. Direct assistance to countries in connexion with their census activities has been provided in one of three ways:

(a) During 1958 and 1959, ten population census experts were assigned under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme to advise and assist the following countries: Ghana, Indonesia (three experts), Iraq, Israel, Laos, Panama, Venezuela and the West Indies Federation;

(b) A UN/FAO team of Regional census advisers has been established at ECAFE headquarters to serve the countries of Asia and the Far East. This team,

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which has been largely made possible by the extra-budgetary funds provided by the Ford Foundation, offers advice on a recurrent basis at different stages of each requesting country's census programme. To date, advice in connexion with different phases of population censuses has been given by the advisers in Afghanistan, Brunei, Cambodia, Ceylon, Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, North Borneo, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sarawak, Thailand and Viet-Nam. Visits were also made to India and Japan for the purpose of exchanging information. Plans are now being made for the activities of the team during 1960 and 1961.

(c) Since the beginning of 1958, United Nations population census fellowships have been awarded to key census officials from Burma (two fellowships), Ceylon, Republic of China, Finland, India, Israel and Thailand. In addition thirty UN/FAO fellowships were awarded for study at the Tokyo and Lima Census Training Centres.

C. The uses of continuous population registers in connexion with population censuses

22. As part of the study of continuous population registers reported in document E/CN.3/277, it is planned to investigate the uses of such registers in relation to population censuses and, conversely, the use of population censuses in bringing registers up to date.

# ANNEX I

## Meetings concerned with population census matters, 1958-1959

<u>Date and place</u>	<u>Meeting (topics, conclusions)</u>
1958	
20-24 May Managua, Nicaragua	Fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Co-ordination of the Committee on Economic Co-operation of the Central American Isthmus Among main topics: 1960 census programme Conclusion: Report (E/CN.12/CCE/126-E/CN.12/CCE/SC.2/64)
2-6 June Geneva, Switzerland	Sixth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians Among main topics: censuses of population Conclusions: Report (Conf.Eur.Stats/94)
14-26 July San Jose, Costa Rica	V session of the Census Subcommittee of COINS Main topic: revision of inter-American recommendations for the censuses of population, housing and agriculture to be submitted to COINS for final consideration and approval Conclusions: Report (IASI doc. 2913 ab Supplement, IASI doc. 2913 a Supplement)
3-8 September Brussels, Belgium	31st session of the International Statistical Institute Among main topics: international aspects of the 1960 World Population Census Programme Conclusions: (report not yet available)
13-21 November Geneva, Switzerland	Fourth session of the Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing (Conference of European Statisticians) Main topic: population and housing censuses Conclusions: Report (Conf.Eur.Stats/WG.6/76)
17-28 November Buenos Aires, Argentina	VI session of COINS Main topic: final recommendations for the censuses of population, housing and agriculture to be taken under the Program of the 1960 Census of America Conclusions: Report (IASI doc. 3841 ab (COINS))
8-18 December Bangkok, Thailand	Second session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians Among main topics: discussion of censuses of population, housing and agriculture Conclusions: Report (E/CN.11/493)

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<u>Date and place</u>	<u>Meeting (topics, conclusions)</u>
1959	
9-20 February Geneva, Switzerland	UN Population Commission, tenth session Among main topics: 1960 World Population Census Programme Conclusions: Report (UN document E/3207/Rev.1)
30 March-4 April San Jose, Costa Rica	Central American Seminar on Census Administration Main topics: national census plans, technical assistance Conclusions: Report (ESAPAC document)
8-13 May Prague, Czechoslovakia	Group of Rapporteurs, Working Group on Censuses of Population and Housing, Conference of European Statisticians Main topics: locality statistics and urban-rural classification Conclusions: Report (Conf.Eur.Stats/WG.6/83)
8-12 June Geneva, Switzerland	Seventh plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians Among main topics: censuses of population Conclusions: Report (Conf.Eur.Stats/112)
14-25 September Bangkok, Thailand	Working Group of Experts on Sampling Methods, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East Among main topics: application of sampling methods to population censuses Conclusions: report not yet available; draft report in document E/CN.11/ASTAT/Conf.3/L.1

ANNEX II

1960 WORLD POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAMME

New Series of National Censuses, 1955-1964

(Information as of December 1959 and subject to change)

The following list shows the national population censuses taken in each year 1955 to 1959 and those which, according to the information available to the Statistical Office of the United Nations, are planned for or likely to be taken in each year 1960 to 1964. Unless otherwise indicated by a footnote, these are complete enumerations of the total population. Where known, the month of the census is also shown. Countries where more than one census is to be taken in the decade are marked with an asterisk.

1955

Aden Colony	(Feb.)	*Japan	(Oct.)
Albania	(Oct.)	*Korea, Republic of	(Oct.)
*Belgian Congo	(Jan.) 1/	*Ruanda-Urundi	(Jan.) 1/
*Denmark	(Oct.)	*Ryukyu Islands	(Dec.)
*Faeroe Islands	(Nov.)	*Turkey	(Oct.)
French West Africa:			
French Guinea	(March) 2/		

1956

*American Samoa	(Sept.)	*Niger	(Dec.) 3/
Basutoland	(April)	*Senegal	(Dec.) 3/
Bechuanaland	(April)	*Upper Volta	(Dec.) 3/
Bulgaria	(Dec.)	*Iran	(Nov.)
*Canada	(June)	Ireland	(April)
*China (Taiwan)	(Sept.)	*Madagascar	(Nov.) 3/
Comoro Islands	(Nov.)	Maldives Islands	(Oct.)
*Cook Islands	(Sept.)	Monaco	(Jan.)
Fiji Islands	(Nov.)	New Caledonia	(Dec.)
French Equatorial Africa:		*New Zealand	(April)
*Chad	(Dec.) 3/	*Niue	(Sept.)
*Gabon	(Dec.) 3/	*Rhodesia and Nyasaland,	
*Middle Congo	(Dec.) 3/	Federation of	(May) 4/
*Ubangi Shari	(Dec.) 2/	Romania	(Feb.)
French Polynesia	(Dec.)	St. Helena	(Oct.)
French Somaliland	(Dec.) 3/	Sudan	(Jan.) 2/
French West Africa:		Swaziland	(Aug.)
*Dahomey	(Dec.) 3/	*Tokelau Islands	(Sept.)
*French Sudan	(Dec.) 3/	Tonga	(Sept.)
*Ivory Coast	(Dec.) 3/	Tunisia	(Feb.)
*Mauritania	(Dec.) 3/	*Western Samoa	(Sept.)

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1957

Camercons (French  
 Administration) (Jan.) 3/  
 Federation of Malaya (June)  
 Iraq (Oct.)  
 Kuwait (Feb.)

Malta and Gozo (Nov.)  
 New Hebrides (June)  
 St. Pierre and Miquelon (Oct.)  
 Singapore (June)  
 Tanganyika (Feb.-Aug.)

1958

\*Belgian Congo (Jan.) 5/  
 Bonin Islands (July)  
 French Community:  
 \*Ivory Coast (Dec.) 2/

\*Ruanda-Urundi (Jan.) 5/  
 Zanzibar and Pemba (March)

1959

Bahrain (May)  
 French Community:  
 \*Niger (Dec.) 2/

Uganda (March and Aug.)  
 Union of Soviet  
 Socialist Republics (Jan.)

1960

Afghanistan  
 \*American Samoa  
 Angola  
 Argentina (Sept.)  
 \*Belgian Congo 6/  
 Belgium (Jan.)  
 Bermuda  
 Brazil (July)  
 British Guiana  
 Brunei (June or July)  
 Canal Zone  
 Cape Verde Islands  
 Chile (Nov.)  
 Costa Rica (April)  
 Czechoslovakia (Dec.)  
 \*Denmark (Oct.)  
 Dominican Republic  
 \*Faeroe Islands  
 Finland  
 French Community:  
 \*Central African  
 Republic 2/  
 \*Chad 2/  
 \*Dahomey 1/  
 \*Gabon 2/

\*Ivory Coast 1/  
 \*Malagasy Republic 1/  
 \*Mauritania 1/  
 \*Niger 1/  
 \*Republic of the Congo 2/  
 \*Senegal 1/  
 \*Sudanese Republic 1/  
 \*Upper Volta 1/  
 Ghana (March)  
 Guam  
 Guatemala (April)  
 Hungary (Jan.)  
 Iceland  
 Ifni  
 \*Japan (Oct.)  
 \*Korea, Republic of (Oct.)  
 Liberia 2/  
 Liechtenstein  
 Luxembourg  
 Macau  
 Mexico (June)  
 Morocco  
 Mozambique  
 Netherlands (Oct.)  
 Nigeria, Federation of

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1960 (continued)

North Borneo	(June or July)	Spanish Guinea	
Norway		Spanish Possessions in	
Panama	(Dec.)	North Africa	
Paraguay	(April)	Spanish Sahara	
Peru	(June)	Sweden	(Nov.)
Philippines	(Feb.)	Switzerland	(Dec.)
Poland	(Dec.)	Thailand	(May)
Portugal	(Dec.)	*Turkey	
Portuguese Guinea		Union of South Africa	(Oct.)
Portuguese India		United Arab Republic:	
Portuguese Timor		Egyptian Region	(Sept.)
Puerto Rico	(April)	Syrian Region	(Sept.)
*Ruanda-Urundi 6/		United States of America	(April)
*Ryukyu Islands	(Dec.)	Venezuela	(Nov.)
São Tomé and Príncipe		Viet-Nam, Republic of	(Sept.)
Sarawak	(June or July)	Virgin Islands (U.S.)	(April)
Seychelles		West Indies	(April)
Spain	(Oct.)		

1961

Austria	(May or June)	India	(March)
*Belgian Congo 3/		Indonesia	(Oct.)
Bolivia	(Sept.)	*Iran 2/	
British Somaliland		Israel	(May)
Burma	(March)	Italy	
Cambodia	(April)	Kenya	
*Canada	(June)	Laos	(Nov.)
Ceylon	(March)	Martinique	
*China (Taiwan)		Nepal	
Colombia	(Aug.)	Netherlands Antilles	(April)
*Cook Islands		*New Zealand	(April)
Cyprus		Nicaragua	(May)
Ecuador	(Nov.)	*Niue	
France		Pakistan	(Feb.)
French Guiana		*Rhodesia and Nyasaland,	
Germany, Federal		Federation of	
Republic of	(May)	*Ruanda-Urundi 3/	
Greece	(March)	South West Africa	
Greenland		*Tokelau Islands	
Guadeloupe		United Kingdom	(April)
Guatemala	(April)	*Western Samoa	
Hong Kong	(Feb./March)	Yugoslavia	(March)
Honduras	(March)		

1962

Cameroons (British Administration)	Mauritius Togoland
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1963

Cuba

Falkland Islands

1964

Algeria  
Australia  
Lebanon

Libya  
Réunion

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- 1/ Sample census of the indigenous population and complete census of the non-indigenous population.
  - 2/ Sample census.
  - 3/ Non-indigenous population.
  - 4/ Excluding Africans not in employment.
  - 5/ White population only.
  - 6/ Sample census of the indigenous population.