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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Implementation of major recommendations of the
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Secretary-General

1. This report is submitted in accordance with the request contained in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2924 B (XXVII) of 24 November 1972, as modified by the Assembly at its 2412th plenary meeting during the thirtieth session.

2. The previous report 1/ submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at the thirty-first session gave information on reports produced by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) during 1975 which had been considered by the legislative bodies concerned. The present report contains information on the implementation of major recommendations of JIU as set forth in reports issued during 1976, as well as those previously issued reports on which it is now possible to give further information. However, as was noted in the report to the General Assembly last year, three of the reports issued prior to 1976, namely, those on the capacity of the regional commissions for a unified approach to development, 2/ on the decentralization of United Nations economic, social and related activities 3/ and on regional structures of the United Nations system, 4/ are being considered by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. The Ad Hoc Committee has not yet pronounced itself

* A/32/150.

1/ A/C.5/31/18.

2/ E/5430.

3/ E/5607.

4/ E/5727.

on the questions it has been considering, and the Secretary-General considers that, as explained last year, it would be prudent, before proceeding further with regard to the three reports involved, to await the broad policy decisions which the General Assembly and other legislative bodies will be called upon to take once the recommendations and proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee are presented. Nevertheless, additional information on the partial implementation of the recommendations set forth in those reports is given in the present report, in the same way as in last year's submission.

3. Moreover, although the report entitled "Asia and the Pacific: a report on the technical co-operation provided by the United Nations system to the regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements" was considered by the Economic and Social Council only at its sixty-third session in August 1977, the present report contains information on the implementation of some aspects of the JIU recommendations on which the Secretary-General feels he has been able to initiate action independently of specific authorization from the appropriate legislative body.

4. Accordingly, information is given in the present document in respect of the following Joint Inspection Unit reports:

- A. Report on the utilization of office accommodation at Headquarters (A/9854)
- B. Report on the capacity of the regional economic commissions for a unified approach to development (E/5430)
- C. Report on the decentralization of the United Nations economic, social and related activities and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions (E/5607)
- D. Report on regional structures of the United Nations (E/5727)
- E. Fellowships in the United Nations system (A/31/101)
- F. Report on some aspects of the strike at the United Nations Office at Geneva (A/31/137)
- G. Asia and the Pacific: a report on the technical co-operation provided by the United Nations system on the regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements (E/5959)

A. Report on the utilization of office accommodation at Headquarters (A/9854)

5. This report contained a comprehensive review of the policies and practices applied by the Secretary-General in the management and utilization of office space at Headquarters. The report set forth recommendations on all aspects of the problem which in the opinion of JIU required attention.

6. In a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session entitled "Accommodation at United Nations Headquarters", 5/ the Secretary-General reviewed in detail the recommendations of JIU and outlined action he had already taken to implement the recommendations and further action which he proposed to take. In those instances where he did not agree with the recommendations of JIU the Secretary-General explained his reasons therefor and indicated the course of action he would pursue. Inasmuch as many of the proposals of the Secretary-General had financial implications, he was constrained to await action by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly with regard to his proposals.

7. In its related report, 6/ the Advisory Committee expressed general agreement with the actions proposed by the Secretary-General. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee subsequently were endorsed by the Fifth Committee and accepted by the General Assembly.

8. On the basis of the authorizations provided by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has implemented the recommendations of JIU as follows:

(i) Standards for utilization of office space

- (a) Recommendation. Space assignments should be based on the principle that not more than one half of the junior Professional staff (P-1 to P-3) should be assigned to individual offices.

In the course of the current reassignment of space throughout the Secretariat building and the transfer of staff to the UNDC and Alcoa buildings, the Secretary-General is carefully observing this principle.

- (b) Recommendation. The over-all allocation of space to General Service staff should be increased.

The transfer of more than 200 staff from the Secretariat to the UNDC building has provided a margin of space which is being used to the fullest extent possible to relieve overcrowding of General Service staff in the Secretariat building.

(ii) Occupancy of space in the Headquarters building by non-Secretariat units

- (a) Recommendation. The liaison officers of the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Monetary Fund should be asked to move from the Headquarters building.

The Secretary-General has informed the specialized agencies, IAEA and IMF that he can no longer assure them of permanent space in the Secretariat building. He has indicated that at such time as the offices currently occupied by these organizations are required for Secretariat use, it will be necessary to ask the agency liaison offices to move to outside premises. In the meantime, for those agencies with whom the United Nations does not have reciprocal space arrangements,

5/ A/C.5/31/17.

6/ A/31/8/Add.4.

the rental rate for the space which they occupy in the Secretariat building has been increased to the level paid by the United Nations for space which it rents on the outside.

- (b) Recommendation. Although there are real advantages in having the offices of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund located in the same building as the health, finance and computer services, the Fund could operate without serious handicap if its offices were located outside the Secretariat building but in very close proximity to it.

The Secretary-General considered that the space in the UNDC building which JIU had in mind for occupancy by the Fund would be better utilized for the consolidation of units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was furthermore considered that the removal of the Fund from the Secretariat building would increase the expenditures of the Fund. Accordingly, the Secretary-General recommended in his report last year that the Joint Staff Pension Fund should remain in the Headquarters building, pending further review. This continues to be the situation, and there are no immediate plans for the removal of the Fund.

- (c) Recommendation. The United Nations should continue to provide space and other amenities to the news agencies and the United Nations Correspondents Association, but it should make sure that the policy in this respect applied both at Headquarters and Geneva should be "clear and consistent".

The Secretary-General, after reviewing the policies followed in New York and Geneva, considered that they meet this test, and, accordingly, no change in the status of these organizations is contemplated.

- (d) Recommendation. The space now being occupied in the Conference building by three permanent missions should be released to assist in meeting the organization's urgent space requirements.

Last year the Secretary-General initiated consultations with the missions concerned regarding the possibility of their making alternative arrangements. In the meantime, it has now been ascertained that owing to the planned expansion of the conference rooms, beginning in 1978, the area occupied by most of the offices involved will be needed to house additional mechanical and air-conditioning equipment required to service the increased conference facilities. It will therefore be necessary for the missions to vacate their existing offices early in 1978 and to make other arrangements to meet their requirements.

- (e) Recommendation. Such organizations as the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the Association of Former International Civil Servants and the Women's Guild should be provided offices outside Headquarters in a near-by building rather than in the Secretariat building.

It is planned to implement this recommendation by providing appropriate space in the UNDC building in September 1977.

(iii) Rental charges to be applied in the United Nations premises

Recommendation. There should be a more clear and consistent rental policy applied among non-Secretariat units in the Secretariat building at Headquarters and as between Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva. The rentals paid by all occupants in each location should be reviewed.

The Secretary-General has conducted a comprehensive study of rental charges which has resulted in the establishment of three rates:

(a) The full market rate which includes the actual rental cost to the United Nations of outside space, plus the cost of supplementary services provided by the United Nations, such as security, information etc.;

(b) The actual cost which represents the amount of rent charged to the United Nations in its most extensive outside premises (the UNDC building);

(c) A concessionary rent which is intended to reimburse the United Nations for only those elements in the cost of actual maintenance, operation and servicing of the Headquarters building, which represent "out of pocket" expenses.

Furthermore, following the practice in outside rentals, it has been decided to make rental charges on the basis of gross space occupied rather than net space occupied. All of the rates are subject to regular adjustment based on cost to the United Nations. In implementing these policies, the Secretary-General has negotiated substantial increases in the rent paid by the travel agency and banks in New York and Geneva. As indicated above, specialized agencies, excepting those with reciprocal accommodation arrangements, are to be charged the actual cost rate. The Credit Union and the Co-operative are being charged the concessionary rate but no charge is being made to the news organizations, the barber shop, wire services, Hospitality Committee, non-governmental organizations, the International School, WFUNA, AFICS and the Women's Guild.

(iv) Current projected office space requirements

(a) Recommendation. The Secretary-General should undertake the preparation of comprehensive proposals looking to the problem of accommodation in the over-all context of the long-term development of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General considers that in his reports to the General Assembly at the thirty-first session on office accommodation (A/C.5/31/17) and on utilization of office accommodation and conference facilities at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna (A/C.5/31/34), he has addressed himself to this problem within the parameters available to him under the policies laid down by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General continues to consider that the long-range accommodations policy for Headquarters should be based on:

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- (i) The rental of minimal additional space as necessary, taking into account the limitations imposed by General Assembly resolution 3529 (XXX), paragraph 3; and
 - (ii) The reduction of the rate of growth of staff through transfers, as appropriate, of selected units to other locations.
- (b) Recommendation. The authority and resources of the Office of General Services in the matter of space management should be strengthened.

In order to strengthen the staffing resources, the provision of an additional Professional post, to be occupied by a technically qualified staff member, has been proposed in the programme budget estimates for the biennium 1978-1979 and has been approved by the Advisory Committee. At the same time, decisions of the Office of General Services with respect to the implementation of the policies set forth by the Secretary-General have received full support at the highest levels and are being consistently applied.

B. Report on the capacity of the regional economic commissions for a unified approach to development (E/5430)

9. The recommendations of JIU in this report, in so far as they affected the regional commissions, were as follows:~

"1. The regional economic commissions should give priority attention to the adoption of a unified approach to development; special attention should be paid in the new approach, to the legal and institutional framework of development.

"2. When particular projects or programmes are considered at commission session, consideration should be given to whether or not the action proposed represents an appropriate unified approach to the problem.

"3. The regional commissions should review their organizational structures and so modify them that they are capable of putting into effect a unified or integrated approach to development.

"4. The executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions should review their staffing patterns in consultation with Headquarters and attempt to effect the changes necessary to improve significantly the proportion of staff capable of dealing with the integrated aspects of development.

"5. The regional centres in charge of social and economic planning should also pay special attention to the unified approach and, in their teaching courses, place emphasis on the training of experts with qualifications to work in interdisciplinary projects or studies."

10. The following additional information on the partial implementation of these recommendations (pending final action by legislative bodies) is now submitted.

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

11. Although the ECE terms of reference - as distinct from those of the other regional commissions - do not explicitly refer to social problems, much of the work of the Commission has inevitably dealt with various social aspects of economic problems.

12. The Commission, in formulating its programme of work, has laid increasing emphasis on concentration and integration of the programmes of work of its principal subsidiary bodies. It held a special discussion on this subject at its thirty-second session in April 1977 and adopted its decision D (XXXII), in which it stressed the necessity of a continuous process of concentration, integration and co-ordination of the Commission's programmes of work and decided to consider trade activities from the point of view of concentration, integration and co-ordination as a major priority topic at its next session. As an example of a specific intersectoral question, reference may be made to Commission decision E (XXXII) on problems of land use and land-use planning in the ECE region, which was also adopted at the thirty-second session.

13. ECE has been using de facto to a considerable extent the unified socio-economic approach to specific economic problems in its region in various areas of the Commission's programme of work.

14. General economic analysis. The General Economic Analysis Division of the ECE secretariat has continued to pay systematic attention in its research work to the institutional, social and demographic aspects of economic development. Thus, for example, the Economic Survey of Europe in 1975 examined in some detail problems of employment and unemployment (duration of unemployment, family conditions, policies etc.), as well as the relations between unemployment and intercountry migrations.

15. Long-term planning and programming. The Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments - one of the principal subsidiary bodies of the Commission, have kept a continuous interest in research relating to the methodology of long-term socio economic planning along the line of the unified approach. First discussions took place in 1972, in a seminar on long-term social planning and policy-making organized jointly by the secretariat of the Commission and the Division of Social Affairs of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The same arrangements will be repeated this year in the seminar on employment, income distribution and consumption, which is scheduled for September 1977.

16. Human settlements. The Committee on Housing, Building and Planning is responsible for this field of work. In recent years, the Committee's work programme shows a more comprehensive, integrated and longer-term approach to human settlements problems, emphasizing in particular the quality of life factors.

17. Environmental problems. Intrinsically, environmental problems are of a

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complex nature and, for effective management, require the development of comprehensive and integrated policies, taking into account not only ecological but social and economic factors. Most of the projects in the current programme of work of the Senior Advisers rely on close co-operation with other ECE principal subsidiary bodies.

18. Statistics. The Conference of European Statisticians is working, in co-operation with the United Nations Statistical Commission, on the development of a framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics linked to the systems of national accounts and balances. The two bodies of data, one covering social and the other economic statistics, linked together, will provide a framework for establishing a factual basis for a unified and integrated approach to development.

19. Transport. In its activities, the Inland Transport Committee has, wherever appropriate, taken social aspects into consideration, and its interest in this respect has been directed to social aims, in particular in connexion with its work on problems of traffic safety, public health etc.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

20. Pursuant to its change of name from "economic" to "economic and social", the Commission's programme of work was restructured to identify priority areas of work, with the focus of attention on integrated approach to development.

21. A view of the work programme, as adopted by the Commission at its thirty-third session, held in April 1977, would clearly reflect the degree of the change that has been brought about towards effecting an integrated approach and multidisciplinary orientation to the work programme. The most basic document of the Commission - its economic survey as it was - now appears as the "Economic and Social" survey of the region; an integrated programme on rural development, concentrating in an integrated manner on economic, social and other relevant aspects of development has found its place in the six priority areas of work; a considerable number of activities in different sectors are implemented on an interdisciplinary basis; and, the process of further integration continues wherever possible.

22. From an organizational point of view, the Commission has also implemented a number of measures to ensure the movement towards an integrated approach.

23. To this end, and with particular focus on rural development as a major area of work, the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee has been established which meets regularly with the Executive Secretary. It is composed of the heads of all the specialized agencies residing in Bangkok, and its task is fundamentally to ensure that the programme is developed and implemented in an integrated and co-ordinated manner. The Committee has a task force, composed of experts of the agencies, which assist the Committee in all technical matters. Parallel with this, the Commission has also established a number of task forces, including one on integrated rural development, which meet, when necessary, to ensure harmonious input of all the economic, social and other disciplines in given areas of work.

24. Major horizontal structural changes have also been introduced to the organization of the secretariat. In this connexion, most notable action is the dismantling of the Social Development Division during 1976 and integration of its functions and resources with those of the then Economic Development Planning and Population Divisions. The restructured Development Planning Division now undertakes all economic and social development planning and related activities, and the Population and Social Affairs Division devotes attention to problems of population, social welfare, youth and women and affiliated areas - and both these new divisions work in close consultation to ensure an integrated approach to their work.

25. With regard to redeployment of staff within the secretariat to promote the integrated approach, it must be mentioned that attempts have been limited owing to the fact that resources available to ESCAP are in fact limited. Even so, apart from the redeployment of staff resources of the former Social Development Division, several staff from various sectoral areas have been redeployed to facilitate the multidisciplinary approach to the implementation of the work programme.

26. Concerning the need to adjust training courses so that they take into account the requisites of the expertise to tackle problems of integrated nature, the Commission has also implemented a number of important measures.

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

27. The ongoing project of the Social Development Division on styles of development derives directly from past research on the "unified approach", in which ECLA co-operated with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). It aims to utilize the general guidelines that have been proposed for a unified approach to development analysis and planning, including the conceptual framework that ECLA has built up for the description of different styles of development in the Latin American context. The present intention is to advance further into the relations between styles and viable policy alternatives, the determinants of styles in specific national societies, the interaction between the State and social classes in the evolution of styles and development strategies, and the objective possibility of alternative styles of development projected towards future decades under different hypotheses concerning the evolution of the international economic and political order.

28. The project, which is closely related to the Division's ongoing research project on "social change in Latin America", has produced a number of discussion papers, three of which have been published in the CEPAL Review, and has guided the approach taken in the chapters on human development and social change in ECLA's three regional appraisals of the International Development Strategy.

29. CEPAL Review offers a contact forum for social scientists and people dealing with the unified approach to development and is giving rise to an interchange of discussions and opinions on the problems of the unified approach.

30. As regards the staffing of the Social Development Division, the Executive Secretary is aware of the small number of personnel assigned to this task, but within the actual limitations of resources, priority is being given to activities related to the unified or integrated approach to development in other projects, such as those on the human environment etc.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

31. The ECA Conference of African Planners, at its sixth session, held at Addis Ababa in October 1976, adopted as its theme the "Unified approach to development analysis and planning under African conditions". The Conference stressed the importance of providing concrete guidelines on the application of the unified approach, requested that ECA, UNRISD and other United Nations bodies, including IDEP, should work out appropriate guidelines on the applications of the unified approach in African countries and recommended that the organization of seminars and workshops in the African region, at both the regional and the subregional levels should follow the publication and dissemination of such guidelines".

32. Under integrated rural development, the ECA framework of principles for the implementation of the new international economic order provides that: "the immediate interaction between industry, agriculture and rural transformation is likely to be expressed principally through the expansion of rural infrastructure".

33. What is envisaged is a deliberate programme aimed at promoting a network of rural development focal points, partly to act as relay centres for transmitting development and economic growth impulses, and partly to generate the type of urban and semi-urban employment associated with rural industrialization.

34. The secretariat has established a multidisciplinary programme in rural development for 1977-1981, entitled "Special programme of integrated rural development" and an interdivisional working group to co-ordinate the various input of ECA divisional programmes into the special programme of integrated rural development.

35. Some concern has been expressed by JIU in paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of its report that, in the formulation and implementation of the ECA programme of work inadequate attention is paid to the social aspects, and that this is evidenced by the disproportionate allocation of financial and staff resources in favour of economic activities.

36. As was quite rightly pointed out at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, "there was no a priori reason for concluding that any particular structure could or would be more effective in implementing an integrated approach ... it was not primarily a question of applying more resources to the social area or the responsible units". The important factor in implementing an integrated approach lies in the orientation and content of the programmes and in co-ordination and co-operation among the organizational units. Further attention needs to be given to this.

37. Regarding the unified approach in the field of industry, the secretariat has taken into account social problems related to industrial development in the region. An Interdivisional Working Group on Rural Development looked into housing problems related to rural areas, small-scale industries and improved tools and implements for upgrading rural handicrafts.

38. Nevertheless, one of the possible deficiencies in this field is the lack of appropriate methodology for the application of a unified approach to development.

39. Efforts are now being made to establish the operation known as the African household survey capability programme. It will assist countries to create or improve permanent field survey organizations for the continuing production of integrated social and economic statistics through the conduct of multisubject programmes of surveys.

C. Report on the decentralization of the United Nations economic, social and related activities and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions (E/5607)

40. Further information on the partial implementation of the JIU recommendations is submitted herewith. It will be recalled that those recommendations dealt with (i) co-ordination of work programmes; (ii) advisory services; (iii) relationships between the commissions and other United Nations bodies; (iv) administration and management; and (v) organizational matters.

Economic Commission for Europe

41. Co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), remained an important feature of the activities of the Commission and its secretariat in 1976-1977.

42. In implementation of Council resolution 1549 (XLIX), prior consultations on work programmes continued during the period under review between the ECE secretariat and the secretariats of the organizations concerned. In the framework of these consultations, the respective programmes of work are exchanged and commented upon with a view to strengthening co-operation on problems of common concern and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

43. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XXII), efforts towards region-wide co-ordination of statistical work involving several agencies and organizations were continued, in particular with the aim of avoiding duplication in issuing statistical questionnaires and publishing data.

44. UNCTAD. Close co-operation on questions of common interest was maintained between the secretariats of the ECE and UNCTAD, particularly in respect of their

activities concerning trade between countries with different economic and social systems, industrial co-operation and the transfer of technology. In respect of the transfer of technology, regular contacts were maintained between the two secretariats with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts between the two organizations. Working contacts have been maintained with the UNCTAD secretariat on questions relating to commodities and manufactures, as well as on activities relating to the chemical and engineering industries.

45. UNIDO. During the period under review, the ECE secretariat has also maintained close contacts with the secretariat of UNIDO in respect of work in areas of common interest. Under the new system of consultations adopted by UNIDO, contacts were maintained concerning ECE participation in consultations on such problems as fertilizers. Particularly intensive co-operation took place in respect of steel, chemicals and automation.

46. UNEP. The existing co-operation between the ECE and UNEP secretariats, through a close working relationship with the UNEP Liaison Office in Geneva, has been intensified, and the scope and content of the projects of common concern has been broadened. In the course of a joint programming meeting held in Geneva in July 1976, the two secretariats identified areas of mutual interest.

47. UNDP. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) concerning the establishment of a United Nations Development Co-ordination Cycle, the ECE secretariat continued to co-operate with the UNDP European Office in Geneva to provide advice on the content, formulation and implementation of intercountry projects in the ECE region as approved by UNDP for the period up to 1981 and related to the Commission's programmes of work. ECE continued to be consulted regarding relevant UNDP country programmes for the period 1977-1981. The secretariat has also contributed to the appraisal of relevant parts of the UNDP regional programme. There has been increased co-operation between the UNDP European Office and the ECE secretariat in the European co-operative programme. Projects are being developed in close consultation with the secretariat, which also participated in a two-day briefing on the programme for all European UNDP resident representatives.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

48. Every effort has been made by the Commission to ensure co-ordination, to the extent possible, to comply with the intent of the recommendations. From a practical point of view, ESCAP has applied the process of co-ordination at different levels, namely, within the Commission itself, with the United Nations Headquarters, with the specialized agencies and with other sister commissions. At the Commission itself, achievements concerning the co-ordination of the work programme have been significant. At the decision-making level of the Commission's secretariat (Office of the Executive Secretary) a programme co-ordination and monitoring office, as a focal co-ordinating point, was established in 1974 and was further strengthened in 1976-1977. This focal point not only co-ordinates the activities of the Commission but co-ordinates them with those of other agencies and organizations, before the Commission's integrated programme of work is finalized.

49. Every attempt has been made to harmonize the activities of the Commission with those of United Nations Headquarters, and no opportunity has been missed for close consultations to co-ordinate work programmes, and holding joint projects. However, there are continuing limitations to such joint attempts at co-ordination primarily owing to time-consuming correspondence and limited time available to each co-ordinating party to meet scheduled deadlines, on the one hand, and time available for formulation and consultations concerning the work programmes, on the other. Co-ordination of programming of intercountry activities with UNDP has, perhaps, been better in the sense that the UNDP cyclical approach to programming is based on a longer span of time (four to five years), therefore, permitting a better opportunity to implement the process of co-ordination. Co-ordination of programmes with UNCTAD and UNIDO has been of particular significance.

50. With UNCTAD, the implementation of the JIU recommendations has taken the form of close working relationships at all levels of activity. The Commission has participated in the executing agency function with UNCTAD on a considerable number of regional and subregional activities. In this process, the overhead resources have also been shared on an almost half-and-half basis. Regular consultation meetings for joint interests have taken and are taking place - all of which indicate movement towards desirable implementation of the JIU recommendations. Co-ordination of work programmes between UNIDO and the Commission since the establishment in 1975 of the joint ESCAP/UNIDO Division of Industry, Housing and Technology has also been effected in pursuance of the JIU recommendations.

51. With regard to the JIU recommendations on advisory services, while a certain breakthrough concerning the United Nations Development Advisory Team (UNDAT) in the Pacific has taken place, little has changed in relation to the role and activities of the regional advisers. Beginning in 1977, final agreement was reached that the affairs of UNDAT in the Pacific area would be made the responsibility of the Commission.

52. Concerning the training projects, most of the training activities of the Commission have now been made either the responsibility of the Commission's training and research institutions or the joint concern of ESCAP and the regional institutions. Within this internal decentralized arrangement of the Commission, a close relationship has been and is being maintained with substantive relevant divisions of United Nations Headquarters.

53. Concerning the operational programmes and projects funded by extrabudgetary resources, particularly UNDP, significant progress has been made in implementing the JIU recommendations, especially with regard to regional and subregional projects.

54. With reference to UNDP/Commission relationships, in so far as regional and subregional projects are concerned, there is a marked improvement at the regional level. To a considerable degree this has been facilitated by the fact that the offices of both organizations have been placed in the same building. The

regional representative of UNDP regularly meets with the Executive Secretary, and they both actively participate in the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee on Rural Development and other consultative meetings with the regional representatives of the specialized agencies.

55. At the Headquarters level, every opportunity has been utilized by the Executive Secretary's visits to the United Nations Headquarters to confer with the UNDP Administrator, the regional bureau head and other officers concerned. Though the improved relationships with UNDP are quite discernible, there is room for further improvements, particularly through decentralization by UNDP headquarters, to its regional office at the Commission's seat, of authority to expedite the solution of numerous minor financial and administrative matters related to regional and subregional projects.

Economic Commission for Latin America

56. Co-operation and co-ordination agreements have been signed by ECLA with UNCTAD (International Trade Centre), the Centre on Transnational Corporations, UNIDO and UNEP. Contacts and consultations aimed at a better co-ordination are maintained or developed with Headquarters in the field of statistics, development planning, integration of women in development, science and technology, water. The ECLA/FAO Agricultural Division has established consultation machinery with FAO headquarters in Rome and with the FAO regional office in Santiago.

57. In the implementation of operational programmes and projects funded by extrabudgetary resources, ECLA, in April 1977, signed an agreement with UNDP to perform the functions of executing agency of the Programme, particularly in respect of regional and subregional projects.

58. The Commission is mainly interested in executing regional and subregional projects in fields in respect of which it has accumulated experience through the years and has an established technical capacity for providing the necessary support for the success of such projects; also it has an interest in executing regional and subregional multidisciplinary projects, such as integrated development projects.

59. Discussions are under way with UNDP to establish appropriate machinery for the joint review of proposals for country, regional and subregional projects in the field of economic and social planning in general. In the joint review of country projects in this field, the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation will also take part, since ECLA/ILPES, UNDP and the Office of Technical Co-operation all have convergent interest and installed capacity which can be complementary from the technical point of view.

60. The Executive Secretary of ECLA and the Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America hold periodic consultative meetings on matters concerning the relationship between the Regional Bureau and ECLA. Similar middle-level meetings are also held between officials and those of the Regional Bureau on matters concerning the programming and implementation of regional and subregional projects.

61. In the countries in which ECLA does not have a field office, the resident representatives in those countries act as representatives of ECLA to the Governments of those countries.

62. The UNDP Regional Director for Latin America is invited to all intergovernmental meetings convened by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Commission. The Regional Director also invites the Executive Secretary to all meetings sponsored by UNDP in the ECLA region, including meetings of resident representatives at both regional and subregional levels.

63. UNIDO has been funding, from its regular technical assistance programme, several posts of regional advisers assigned to ECLA. As from 1978, UNIDO will transfer to ECLA two posts from the UNIDO manning table.

64. In August 1976, an agreement was signed with UNIDO under which, it was agreed, among other things, to establish in ECLA a joint ECLA/UNIDO Industrial Development Division.

65. Since 1964, full authority has been delegated to ECLA by Headquarters for the management of all operational and administrative aspects (including financial and personnel matters) relating to regional, subregional and country technical assistance projects whose implementation is decentralized to ECLA by the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation and UNCTAD.

Economic Commission for Africa

66. Social development programmes, more than any other regional activities of ECA, require for their realistic formulation and successful implementation, a purposefully designed machinery at the regional and subregional levels which would ensure the closest possible collaboration and co ordination among the various disciplines that relate directly to aspects of social development.

67. Over the past five to six years, efforts have been made by Headquarters to associate ECA with the work of the Commission for Social Development. It is, however, felt that there is much more to be achieved. Consideration might be given in the future to the establishment of a systematic procedure.

68. In the field of population, the Population Division has already undertaken preliminary discussions with the staff of the Population Division and the Office of Technical Co-operation in New York on the decentralization of the responsibility for the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra and the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographique (IFORD) in Yaounde to ECA. A formal request for the decentralization of the two institutions is still to be made by the Executive Secretary, after which further detailed discussions will take place between ECA and Headquarters on the modalities to be followed.

69. ECA is already acting as executing agency in respect of the project to review statistical training needs in Africa. Recommendations formulated by consultancy

missions and a regional working group in August 1976 will be finalized by the tenth session of the Conference of African Statisticians in October 1977. It may be expected that the result will be a concerted approach to statistical training in the region involving all the centres which provide international services.

D. Report on regional structures of the United Nations (E/5727)

Economic Commission for Europe

70. The primary purpose of the Economic Commission for Europe is to provide the framework for co-operation in economic and related fields among countries with differing economic and social systems. In this connexion, intergovernmental co-operation through ECE has, in recent years, increased steadily, in pace with expanding economic activity and favourable political developments in the region.

71. Recommendation 1. The following examples illustrate some of the achievements of ECE in promoting economic co-operation. In the sphere of trade, besides drafting arbitration rules accepted by over 20 countries of the region, ECE has done much to foster agreed means of simplifying and harmonizing legal and administrative aspects of international trade by preparing standard conditions and contracts of sale; standardized forms of trade procedures; guidelines for drawing up contracts for the transfer of know-how, for turn-key plants and for industrial co-operation, and has drawn up an inventory of administrative restrictions to trade as a tool for progressively reducing or removing the trade obstacles identified therein. ECE has also actively planned and sponsored transport interconnexions. So far as ECE countries are concerned, studies and other activities have been undertaken with a view to identifying and overcoming problems of trade, trade promotion, investment, temporary migration and industrial co-operation which are specific to them.

72. Recommendation 3 (c). One of the principal ways in which ECE provides effective assistance to member Governments is through a region-wide examination of selected problems of mutual interest and the international dissemination of information resulting from the study of subjects of economic, scientific and technological interest in seminars and symposia. The annual Economic Survey of Europe, for example, provides a detailed analysis of current economic developments and structural trends in the region, while the Over-all Economic Perspective, for which the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments are responsible, identifies strategic issues for consideration by national planners and policy-makers. Much of this information is indispensable for effective country programming, and to this end measures have been taken, and are constantly under review, at the intersecretariat level, particularly with UNDP, to ensure a much better dissemination of ECE economic and technical documentation. These measures include provision also for the widest possible dissemination to member countries of other regions.

73. Recommendation 5. As regards mutual attendance at intergovernmental conferences and meetings, article 12 of the Commission's terms of reference specifically provides for this and the JIU recommendation in this connexion, as far as ECE is concerned, is implemented very fully. ECE secretariat staff invariably

participates in the regional conferences of the specialized agencies when subjects of interest to the Commission come up for discussion.

74. Recommendations 8 and 9. With regard to programme co-ordination, the Executive Secretary is aware of the JIU recommendations on this subject and is enjoined, by the concentration and integration aspects of the Commission's own programme of work, to which the most recent (thirty-second session) ascribed the greatest importance, to ensure that all necessary consultations and reviews with other regional bodies and offices which are called for be put into effect. There have been two major review meetings in the past year, one with UNEP and the other with UNDP held at the time of the annual regional meeting of UNDP resident representatives.

75. Recommendation 10. A joint approach to the execution of a major 10-country UNDP project - the Transeuropean North-South Motorway - has been the subject of continuous consultations between UNDP and ECE in the past year. In this case, although the modalities and terminology have still to be worked out, it is expected that the project will be executed jointly by ECE, UNDP and the Governments concerned.

76. Recommendation 13. The Commission has joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Divisions. Both function effectively along the lines proposed in subparagraph (a) of this recommendation. Their role has recently been enhanced by a significant decision of the thirty-second session of the Commission, asking the Executive Secretary to identify the problem areas in land-use and land-planning requiring international co-operation and to make proposals and recommendations for taking them into consideration in ECE activities.

77. Recommendation 21. The Commission had before it at its thirty-second session a completely revised work programme which had been adopted and approved by the principal subsidiary bodies following the decisions of the Commission last year and taking fully into account the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which member Governments have entrusted to ECE for implementation. To the extent possible, the secretariat has already organized its internal structure so as to be able to discharge the important new responsibilities which the Commission has placed upon it.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

78. The JIU report is a response to the Economic and Social Council resolution 1756 (LIV), in which the Council calls for the gradual simplification of the regional structures and their adjustment to the realities, needs and aspirations of each region. In accordance with that resolution, the Commission, at its thirtieth session in 1974, adopted resolution 140 (XXX), containing the Colombo Declaration; resolution 143 (XXX) on the rationalization of its conference structure; and resolution 144 (XXX) on decentralization of technical assistance activities and strengthening of the Commission. Pursuant to those resolutions, the Commission also adopted, at its thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions in 1975, 1976 and 1977, respectively, resolution 154 (XXXI) containing the New Delhi Declaration; resolution 170 (XXXII) on the programme of work and priorities, 1976-1977, and medium-term plan, 1978-1981; and resolution 171 (XXXIII)

on economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries. These resolutions are but a few of those intended to endorse and comply with the intents of the JIU recommendations. Through them, the Commission has taken the needs of the countries in the region into account (recommendation 1) and structure (recommendation 21); and, in connexion with recommendations 6 and 7, the Commission has made every effort to assume more responsibilities in the process of decentralization, prepared for and moved towards implementing an integrated programme of work, undertaken a mid-term review and appraisal at the regional level of the progress made in implementing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and defined, especially through the New Delhi Declaration, its contribution towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

79. Concerning the implementation of recommendation 1, in respect of the geographic coverage of the regions and subregions of various organizations and the location of their offices, action needs to be pursued by higher decision-making levels of these organizations. Though it may not be possible for the Commission to extend itself by creating suboffices in order to adjust to the subregional arrangements of the other United Nations organizations within the region, particularly those of the specialized agencies, it appears that these organizations might perhaps be in a better position to adjust their geographic arrangements by making their offices at the seat of the Commission their focal points for the same geographic coverage as the Commission.

80. With regard to recommendation 2 (d) and the relationship of the Commission with the United Nations Development Advisory Team (UNDAT) in the Pacific, it should be mentioned that recent developments in the UNDAT association with the Commission have strengthened the desire to establish an office for the Pacific subregion of the Commission. Resolution 173 (XXIII), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-third session in 1977 and calling for increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in the activities of the Commission, had actually been intended in its earlier drafts, to incorporate operative clauses leading to the establishment of such a suboffice. It is expected that a clear position concerning the establishment of a Pacific suboffice will emerge by the thirty-fourth session of the Commission in 1978. Meanwhile, action is in progress to mobilize financial resources to reactivate UNDAT fully and adjust its services to the needs of the benefiting countries under the Commission's responsibility. Parallel with these efforts, consultations with the Governments concerned have also been planned to look carefully into all aspects of establishing that suboffice.

Economic Commission for Latin America

81. Recommendation 2 (c). As regards the distribution of ECLA staff among the regional offices, the secretariat has taken various measures to reinforce some of these, especially those located in Mexico City, Brasilia, Buenos Aires and Bogotá, by interoffice transfers of staff to those offices and, since the creation of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) in 1975, the number of staff in the ECLA Office for the Caribbean has been doubled.

82. Recommendation 3 (b). As to the recommendation that resident representatives be provided with planning experts to assist Governments in formulating development plans and harmonizing country programmes, ILPES and ECLA have already been assisting in the preparation of UNDP country programmes, but only to a limited extent.

83. Recommendations 6 and 7. With respect to the recommendation on decentralization, it may be noted that, at present, the Mexico Office is fully responsible for the part of the ECLA work programme covering the Central American countries, while the Office for the Caribbean has the same responsibility in respect of the Caribbean countries participating in CDCC.

84. Recommendation 10. It may be noted that the ECLA/FAO Joint Agriculture Unit is playing a very important role in the elaboration and harmonization of regional policies in the field of food and agriculture, and both organizations are jointly programming their future activities. Since 1976, a joint ECLA/UNIDO Industrial Development Unit has existed for the joint programming of industrial development activities.

Economic Commission for Africa

85. Recommendation 10. Efforts are being made in the following principal directions:

(a) Strengthening joint divisions in agriculture and industry: considerable progress has been made in talks between ECA and FAO and ECA and UNIDO on strengthening these two divisions;

(b) Establishing new joint units/sections: consultations are in progress between ECA and IMCO in a joint unit/section for maritime shipping and between ECA and UNESCO on a similar unit/section for dealing with science and technology.

(c) ECA has become an executing agency of UNDP. As such, it is in process of converting, with support from UNDP, the former UNDATs into field operational units, concentrating on feasibility studies and project design work for multinational projects. The teams will consist of a core supplemented by ECA staff at Addis Ababa and short-term consultants. The work programmes agreed upon by participating grants for each team will be an integrated part of the work programme of ECA. It will thus be seen that ECA is gradually establishing working links with specialized agencies, on the one hand, and with Governments on the other. In addition, steps are being taken to promote co-operation with other regional commissions. This applies particularly, but by no means exclusively, to ECWA. The development of these links and working arrangements are reflected in the prior reviews of each other's work programmes and proposals for joint projects for which the ECA/FAO link is presently outstanding.

E. Fellowships in the United Nations system (A/31/101)

86. The JIU recommendations on the matter of fellowships have been the subject of almost continuous analysis, comments and consultation within the offices and departments concerned of the individual agencies in the United Nations system and in several interagency consultative forums.

87. Progress in implementing the recommendations

Planning and programming of fellowships (recommendations 1 to 7)

The implementation of the recommendations made under this heading concerns, primarily, action by Governments and resident representatives and, secondly, the substantive divisions of ESA and operational branches of the Office of Technical Co-operation, to the extent that they may be associated in country programming, preparation of project documents and programme review and evaluation. While at the same time trying to avoid overburdening project and programme documents with excessive detail, greater attention has been given to forward planning of fellowships and better integration of fellowship provisions within the context of the over-all project. Owing to the difficulty of finding suitable candidates and the need, many times, to shape the fellowship programme to fit those who are available, there are limitations on the degree of advance planning which can be done.

Language problems (recommendations 8 to 11)

One of the qualifications a United Nations fellow is expected to possess is an adequate knowledge of the language of the host country. Where language training is needed but not available in the home country, Governments have financed language training in the host country or utilized the IPF for this purpose, a practice which has been supported by UNDP.

Types and duration of fellowships (recommendations 12 to 19)

Both the OTC handbook and the UNDP policies and procedures manual are in the process of being prepared and revised to provide more precise guidelines concerning the scope and features of each type of fellowship in order to ensure a sound rationale for the various types of training.

Placement (recommendations 20 to 25)

The United Nations, as a matter of both policy and practice, has progressively increased efforts to use the training facilities available in developing countries, including the United Nations-sponsored institutes. The efforts of United Nations Headquarters have been reinforced by the activities of the five regional commissions to which regional and subregional training programmes continue to be decentralized, and which conduct numerous regional training programmes. At least three of the commissions, ECA, ECE and ESCAP, promote the use of training facilities on a fairly regular basis. Nevertheless, more has to be done to increase the number of fellowships awarded for training in the home country of the fellow, and concrete

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measures for doing this will be evolved as the "new dimensions" approach is put into practical effect.

Fellows' problems in the host country (recommendations 26 to 28)

The United Nations instructs fellows to contact the embassy or consulate of the host country prior to his departure. Also, he receives briefing from the UNDP office in his country prior to departure. Fellows on arrival in the host country are briefed by the appropriate agency. The United Nations, as a matter of policy, does not at this time provide fellows with travel expenses for dependants or to cover home leave. The provision of such travel would greatly increase the cost of fellowships and thereby reduce the number of people who receive fellowships in the future.

Evaluation and follow-up (recommendations 29 to 37)

The United Nations requests a fellowship holder to submit a comprehensive final report at the end of his study programme. This report is evaluated by the appropriate substantive office. A year after the fellow's return, he is sent a questionnaire in order to ascertain the extent to which he is applying his training. A standardization of questionnaires for all organizations of the United Nations system is one of the tasks to be undertaken by the secretary in charge of co-ordination matters (Chief of the Fellowships Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva).

Organizational structure of offices responsible for fellowships (recommendations 38 and 39)

The JIU recommendations under this heading are in accord with the existing organizational structure of United Nations offices responsible for fellowships. The OTC Fellowships Sections at Headquarters and Geneva co-operate fully with substantive offices and operational branches to process nominations, negotiate placement arrangements with host countries, provide administrative support, including travel arrangements, and pay tuition, stipend and other allowances, in co-operation with Administrative Section/OTC and the Accounts Division of the Office of Financial Services.

Administering agencies (recommendation 40)

The JIU recommendation under this heading is in accord with the practices of the United Nations with respect to the negotiation of placement arrangements through single major administrative agencies in host countries. The British Council in the United Kingdom, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Canada and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in Sweden are instances of such major agencies. Where such administrative agencies do not exist, the United Nations uses the office of the resident representative of UNDP for negotiating placement arrangements for United Nations fellowship holders.

Decentralization of responsibility for fellowships (recommendations 41 to 44)

The JIU recommendations under this heading are also in accord with the long-standing policies and practices of the United Nations. Since the beginning of the 1960s, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have, in successive resolutions, declared decentralization of the United Nations activities in the economic, social and related fields to the regional commissions to be United Nations policy and have laid down a number of guidelines and measures required to carry out this policy. The United Nations, unlike some of the specialized agencies, not having other regional offices, can decentralize fellowship operations only to principal offices in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, and to the regional commissions.

Such progress has been achieved, however, in decentralizing fellowship administration in the case of several regional statistical and demographic institutions, such as the regional institutes for population studies in Ghana (RIPS), Cameroon (IFORD) and CELADE in Chile. Also, some public administration institutes, such as CAPEAD in Morocco, have had independent responsibility in the administration of regional fellowships.

Interspecialist co-ordination (recommendation 45)

An important step was taken to implement the major JIU recommendations under this heading when the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) reached the general agreement that there should be regular meetings, preferably annually, of officers responsible for fellowship programmes of a level required to render possible and effective follow-up. The Committee further agreed that, on a rotation basis, there should be a secretary in one organization to serve as a focal point.

The reorientation of fellowship programmes (recommendation 48)

The implementation of the JIU recommendation under this heading relating to the strengthening of existing national and regional training institutions and to the creation of new ones will require close co-operation between UNDP and the specialized agencies.

Review of fellowship programmes and procedures (recommendations 49 and 50)

The JIU recommendations under this heading can be implemented in the course of tripartite reviews of projects and programmes and during meetings of fellowship officers of the organizations with officials from beneficiary countries who are responsible for fellowship programmes.

F. Report on some aspects of the strike at the United Nations Office at Geneva (A/31/137)

88. Recommendation. A draft regulation on the method of applying the principles of the "best prevailing conditions of employment" should be prepared and submitted to the General Assembly, after consideration by the International Civil Service Commission.

Having considered the report of JIU and the related comments of ACC 7/ and the Secretary-General, 8/ the General Assembly, in its resolution 31/193 B of 22 December 1976, requested the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) to establish, as a matter of urgency, the methods by which the principles for determining conditions of service in the General Service category at Geneva should be applied and urged ICSC, in carrying out this task, to take into account this report of JIU, as well as the related comments. ICSC, at its fifth session in March 1977, decided to make a preliminary examination in general terms of the issues involved and to reach tentative conclusions, wherever possible, about questions of the general principle on methodology applicable to all duty stations. At the same time, ICSC took a number of decisions applicable to the 1977 Geneva survey upon those points of method which were required in order to enable the first, data-collecting phase of the operation to be carried out in Geneva before the sixth session of the Commission, which is to begin in August 1977. This survey is currently being carried out and the Commission will report on its findings after its sixth session.

89. Recommendation. The implementation of article 12, paragraph 1, of the statute of the International Civil Service Commission, under which ICSC would make recommendations as to the salary scales for General Service staff and other locally recruited categories, should be accelerated, and the Commission should be provided with the necessary means to that end.

The General Assembly, by resolution 31/193 B, requested ICSC to do this and to inform the Assembly at its thirty-second session of the actions taken in this regard. The Assembly did not adopt the alternative solution suggested by JIU in its recommendation that paragraph 2 of article 12 of the ICSC statute might be amended to enable ICSC to decide itself the best way to determine the General Service salary scales at Geneva and such other duty stations as the Assembly might decide on.

90. Recommendation. Steps should be taken as soon as possible to improve the machinery of consultation between the administration and the staff at the United Nations Office at Geneva with a view to creating a better climate of confidence.

While the General Assembly did not specifically comment on this recommendation, the Secretary-General reported that he had taken the necessary measures to ensure its implementation (see A/31/137/Add.2, para. 4). The review of the entire machinery for consultation between staff and management, to which the Secretary-General's report refers, is proceeding at this time. It may be noted in this connexion, that the Chairman of the Staff Committee in Geneva, in an address to the Staff Council on 5 July 1977, commented favourably on the steps which have been taken in recent months, such as the establishment of an Appointments and Promotions Committee for the Geneva Office.

7/ A/31/137/Add.1.

8/ A/31/137/Add.2.

91. Recommendation. A rule governing career development for General Service staff of the United Nations in both Geneva and New York should be prepared without delay, and the staff should be consulted in the process. An essential prerequisite to the development of any career development plan or programme is the establishment of an adequate job classification system. During the thirty-first session, the Secretary-General submitted a proposal to the Assembly for the immediate implementation of a job classification study of the General Service category in Geneva. ^{2/} By resolution 31/192 B, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to develop, during the course of 1977, job classification standards for the General Service category at Geneva and, based on them, to introduce a job classification system, including a structure of occupational groups and a classification of posts. Early in 1977, a review of systems being used by several Geneva-based organizations was undertaken, and the possibility of implementing a job-oriented system was discussed with senior administrators of all the organizations in Geneva. A post description questionnaire was distributed to approximately 1,400 staff members in the General Service category in the Office at Geneva, and an explanatory note addressed to heads of divisions and services regarding the project and the need for up-to-date job descriptions.

92. Pending the outcome of the study, an interim set of guidelines for career ranges for General Service posts is being established to define the appropriate span of grades for 30 occupational groups in Geneva. All but three of these occupations were developed in consultation with the other organizations. The other three are peculiar to the Office at Geneva. A similar study will have to be initiated in New York when time permits and resources are available. The General Assembly, in that resolution, also requested the Secretary-General to provide ICSC within the first half of 1977 with job descriptions for the General Service category at Geneva, grouped according to common job functions, in order to permit ICSC to carry out its survey task. Descriptions of 15 typical posts were submitted to the Commission before the end of April 1977.

93. Recommendation. In parallel with the definition of a career structure for General Service staff, prompt action should be taken to establish a new structure for the General Service salary scale designed to ensure a greater spread and to re-establish a normal hierarchy for the remuneration of the various grades and to re-establish also a reasonable relationship between General Service and Professional salaries and pensions.

The action the General Assembly requested ICSC to take under its statute with respect to the first two recommendations also covered the question of the structure of the General Service category. The question of the relationship between General Service and the Professional category conditions of service is before ICSC.

^{2/} A/C.5/31/47, paras. 15-20.

G. Asia and the Pacific: a report on the technical co-operation provided by the United Nations system to the regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements (E/5959)

94. General. While they are not specifically directed towards a particular geographic subregion within the ESCAP region, several noteworthy steps have been taken by the Commission to strengthen the moves towards co-operation amongst the countries of the region:

(a) The entry into force of the Bangkok Agreement on 17 June 1976, with its ratification by the Governments of Bangladesh, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, provides an example of moves towards regional co-operation in the field of trade negotiations;

(b) The continuing expansion, in terms of both membership and the volume and value of transactions, of the Asian Clearing Union, to which the ESCAP secretariat provides technical assistance and backstopping, is a further example of a regional co-operation movement which is gaining momentum;

(c) Another area of region-wide co-operation which has reached the pre-operational stage through the efforts of the ESCAP secretariat is reinsurance. The project to establish the Asian Reinsurance Corporation has been welcomed as "an outstanding example of the useful role that ESCAP could play in promoting collective self-reliance" at the thirty-third session of the Commission in April 1977;

(d) At its thirty-third session in April 1977, the Commission took a major step towards the fulfilment of the objective of self-management by the regional countries with regard to a group of their regional projects through the election of an Intergovernmental Governing Council of 15 members to manage the affairs of the five regional training and research institutions established by ESCAP, with the support of UNDP. These institutions are the Asian Centre for Development Administration, the Asian Centre for Training and Research in Social Welfare and Development, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development.

95. Recommendation 1. The ESCAP secretariat has continued to take steps in the direction of strengthening the subregional co-operation movements in the ESCAP region, particularly through the provision of technical assistance to joint activities in the fields of economic and social development of specific interest to the members of such subregional co-operation movements. Some of the highlights of such action steps, taken subsequent to the period of the report are indicated below.

96. ESCAP has continued its efforts to mobilize resources and provide technical assistance to the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Off-shore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC), which is a major project in the context of co-operation movements and of concern to the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC). At the thirty-third session of ESCAP in April 1977, the project was commended as "a model in subregional co-operation, involving the use of the scarce resources of the participating countries, and a free interchange of their staff, with

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appropriate financial and technical support from international bodies and supporting countries".

97. Recommendation 2. In providing technical assistance to technical co-operation projects within the region - both in regard to their gestation and at the stage of implementation - the ESCAP secretariat has continued to work in close co-ordination and consultation with appropriate regional co-operation movements, such as ASEAN, SPC and SPEG. As these consultative and co-ordinative processes take root and expand, steps will be taken towards their greater institutionalization, on a selective basis, as appropriate. A prominent example of such mutual attempts is reflected in resolution 173 (XXXIII) concerning SPC and SPEG, which was adopted by the Commission in April 1977.

98. Recommendation 8. By February 1977, ESCAP was able to complete the pre-operational activities of the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre, which is an effort to meet an important developmental need of the member countries of ASEAN. The project manager was appointed in February 1977. In developing the activities of this Centre, there would be very close co-ordination with the secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. The secretariat has also continued to render technical assistance to ASEAN through its multilateral trade negotiations project.

99. The Trade Promotion Centre of the ESCAP secretariat has played an increasingly active role in ASEAN activities, particularly as a result of the developments subsequent to the Bali summit meeting, through intracountry, as well as ASEAN intercountry, training programmes.

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100. Information on the following JIU reports issued in 1976 and thus far in 1977 will be included in the next report by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its thirty-third session:

(a) Report on fellowships in the United Nations system (referred to in paras. 86 and 87 of the present report);

(b) Asia and the Pacific: a report on the technical co-operation provided by the United Nations system to the regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements (referred to in paras. 94 to 99 of the present report);

(c) Latin American integration: report on the technical co-operation provided by the United Nations system;

(d) Report on country programming as an instrument for co-ordination and co-operation at the country level;

(e) Report on evaluation in the United Nations system;

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(f) Report on first-class travel in the United Nations organizations;

(g) Africa and Western Asia: report on the technical co-operation provided by the United Nations system to regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements;

(h) Report on the General Service of the United Nations and Geneva-based specialized agencies.

Moreover, further information will be given regarding the following reports, issued prior to 1976:

(a) Report on the capacity of the regional commissions for a unified approach to development;

(b) Report on the decentralization of United Nations economic, social and related activities;

(c) Report on regional structures of the United Nations system.
