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ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION**ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ARISING OUT OF
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION
AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

(A Note Prepared by the Secretariat in Connection with Item 8
of the Provisional Agenda for the Second Session of the
Economic and Employment Commission, Document E/CN.1/32)

This brief report is intended to acquaint the Members of the Economic and Employment Commission with those activities of the Department of Economic Affairs which are closely related to the recommendations contained in the First Session Report of the Economic and Employment Commission (E/255) and to the Resolutions of the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council on economic problems.

Collection and analysis of materials on economic conditions and trends and economic development in several countries has been one of the major tasks of the Department. The scope and some preliminary results of this work are covered in the reports which are being prepared by the Secretariat and are being made available to the Economic and Employment Commission in connection with Items 5, 6 and 7 of the Provisional Agenda.

A. Technical Assistance to Member Governments in the Field of Economic Development (Document E/255, Part V, Section B, No. 1, Section C, No. 1)

1. The attention of the Economic and Employment Commission is drawn to the Resolution of the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council, concerning the activities related to technical and other assistance (document E/403). The Council expressed its views in this Resolution after having noted the recommendations of the Commission on economic development to the Council.
2. The Council also passed at the same session a Resolution on Expert Advice

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/to Member

to Member Governments (document E/423). Under this Resolution the Secretary-General is instructed to establish machinery within the Secretariat designed to perform several specified services, such as assistance in obtaining information on expert personnel from the United Nations and in securing expert advice.

3. Consultations have proceeded within the Secretariat on various methods of implementing the Council Resolution and plans are under way to issue a brief pamphlet as a guide to Member Governments on the procedure to be followed in obtaining expert advice. This question involves most of the specialized agencies and the Department of Economic Affairs has already informally acquainted the representatives of several specialized agencies with the idea of such a pamphlet. They will be called upon formally to participate in the drafting of this pamphlet.

4. In planning and developing its own activities, the Department of Economic Affairs is bearing in mind possible requests from Member Governments for technical assistance in the field of economic development, so that it could be as fully prepared for them as the budgetary considerations permit.

Although no such requests have reached the Department, it is anticipated that the Member Governments will begin to call upon the Department for consultation and advice within its competence as the activities of the Department become better known. The proposed pamphlet referred to above will serve to acquaint the Member Governments with the type of advice available to them, both from the United Nations Secretariat and from specialized agencies, and will also contribute towards better co-ordination of the activities in this field between the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

5. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has kept the Department fully informed with respect to its projected economic missions to several countries. The FAO invited the Department to have members of its staff join its missions to Poland and Hungary which it is now organizing,

/and the

and the Department is expecting to be represented on those missions, so that it could give attention to those phases of the work of the missions which are of particular interest to the United Nations.

B. International Code Relating to Foreign Investments
(E/255, Part V, Section B, No.3)

In pursuance of the Commission's recommendation that the Sub-Commission on Economic Development should undertake a study of the need for an international code relating to foreign investments, work has been initiated by the Secretariat to provide material for consideration by the Sub-Commission. An exploratory report is in preparation providing basic information on various aspects of international investments relevant to the question of the need for a code.

C. Materials on Economic Development (E/255, Part V, Section C, No.2)

1. The Department of Economic Affairs has continued collecting and analyzing available data on economic development. As a result of this activity, the Department was in a position to prepare a report on economic development in several Member countries which is being made available to the Commission in connection with Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda.

2. The data on economic development available to the United Nations Secretariat are not, however, complete enough to represent a rounded picture of the progress of economic development in the world, nor are they adequate for conducting the type of analyses indicated by the Commission in its Report to the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council. In order to obtain additional information in this field, the Department of Economic Affairs developed a questionnaire which it discussed at informal meetings with the representatives of the Specialized Agencies. This questionnaire (Annex I of this document) has now been sent to all Member Governments with requests that they submit the requested data by 1 July 1947. It is hoped that the Sub-Commission on Economic Development will benefit in its work from the results of this inquiry.

/D. Balance of

D. Balance of Payments Questions (E/255, Part VI, Section A, No.2 (b), and Part X, No.3 (b))

1. The Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council, having noted the recommendations of the Economic and Employment Commission and of the Statistical Commission, adopted a Resolution related to the preparation of full and regular reports and analyses of balances of payments in order to assist the Economic and Employment Commission and its sub-commissions (E/403).

2. Plans are now being developed for the collection of balance of payments statistics on a comprehensive scale, although detailed arrangements with the International Monetary Fund remain to be worked out.

3. In connection with the instructions of the Commission to the Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability to give consideration to the methods of presenting the multilateral aspects of balance of payments problems, the Secretariat has reviewed the statistical implications of these instructions. The statistics for an "Inter-economic budget" analysis, showing various aspects of the balance of payments of the countries of the world in relation to each of them, will be to a large extent by-products of the collection of general balance of payments statistics. The rate of progress in the assembly of statistics will therefore depend largely on the arrangements referred to under (2) above. Budgetary limitations affecting the staff which can be assigned to this work also will affect the rate at which this work will progress.

4. In pursuance of the resolution of the Economic and Social Council relating to the financing of urgent reconstruction requirements (E/434) a questionnaire has been submitted to the appropriate member governments and a report to the next session of the Economic and Social Council is being prepared. This report will include material on the balance of payments for 1946 as well as the expected position in 1947, with particular reference to the problem of the shortage of convertible currencies. In that connection the Members of

/the Commission

the Commission may wish to acquaint themselves with the interim report on the needs of the devastated countries, for financing of reconstruction requirements submitted to the Fourth Session of the Council (E/288).

5. The Secretariat has given preliminary consideration to an analysis in pursuance of the suggestion which the Member of the Commission for France made at the last session of the Economic and Employment Commission that a comparison be made of the relative rates of recovery of equilibrium in balances of payments following the first and second World Wars. Because of insufficient staff, however, no work has yet been initiated on this subject. It should be noted, however, that the material prepared in connection with the project listed under (4) above will provide an important source of information on the subject.

E. Economic Commissions for Europe and for Asia and the Far East
(E/255, Part VIII)

1. The Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council established two regional commissions, one for Europe (E/402) and one for Asia and the Far East (E/405).

2. In connection with the recommendation of the Economic and Employment Commission that the Council consider measures to ensure the necessary liaison between the regional commissions and other organs of the United Nations, and in particular the Economic and Employment Commission, the following provision in the terms of reference of both commissions is brought to the attention of the Economic and Employment Commission:

"The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the Specialized Agencies."

3. The First Session of the Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva from 2 May to 14 May. It acted on the following matters:

(a) Deferred to the second session the termination of those essential functions of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe
/which should

which should be transferred to the Economic Commission for Europe, and requested the Executive Secretary to report on the considerations which should be taken into account by the Commission in deciding what activities of the EECE should be taken over, and further decided that the EECE should be terminated not later than forty-five days after the close of the second session of the ECE, with simultaneous transfer to the ECE of functions agreed upon.

(b) Decided to terminate the European Coal Organization not later than the end of 1947, and to transfer its functions to the ECE, and requested the Executive Secretary of ECE to submit concrete proposals regarding the structure of the new coal body.

(c) With respect to the question of European inland transport problems, the ECE requested the Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of transport experts in Geneva on 27 May and to invite to that meeting in a consultative capacity specified organizations and European non-member countries, the first task of the meeting of transport experts being to frame recommendations regarding the functions and organizational structure of that part of the machinery of the ECE which will deal with transport problems, and, secondly, to elaborate proposals concerning practical measures connected with termination of ECITO.

(d) With respect to the question of participation in consultative capacity of European non-member countries, organizations and the Allied Control Authorities, decided that the Commission itself had to take the initiative and decide which countries and organizations should participate in a consultative capacity, and that the Commission will take action in each specific case on the principle that those countries and organizations should be invited whose co-operation would aid the ECE in its work: [The Executive Secretary was requested

/to enquire

to enquire as to the interest of the Allied Control Authorities in the activities of the Commission

(e) Deferred the question of the general relationship of non-governmental organizations with ECE until the next session.

(f) Decided to hold the second session of ECE on 5 July 1947 and to include on the Agenda the approval of an interim report to the Fifth Session of the Economic and Social Council, the consideration of the report of the transport experts, and the final settlement of arrangements for the effective transfer of some or all of the functions of ECITO, ECO, and EECE, and for the liquidation of those three bodies.

4. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East will have its first session in Shanghai beginning on 16 June 1947. One of the main items on the Agenda is the consideration of action to be taken with regard to the collection of further material related to economic reconstruction. Another item on the Agenda is the appointment of the members of the Committee of the Whole, which is tentatively scheduled to meet at Interim Headquarters at Lake Success on 7 July 1947. The Committee of the Whole will have to consider the membership of the Commission, the probable association with the work of the Commission of other territories in the area in question that may be proposed from time to time by Member Governments responsible for the international relations of such territories or group of territories, the geographical scope of the Commission and any other changes in and additions to the terms of reference which the Committee may deem necessary and to submit its recommendations to the Fifth Session of the Council.

F. International Control and Allocations of Commodities in Short Supply and the Problem of Surplus Commodities in Prospect (E/255, Part XII)

It is brought to the attention of the Commission that the International Food Emergency Council is scheduled to meet on 26 May. The Council is expected to consider and act upon measures designed to help Member Governments /cope with

cope with the shortages in commodities under the purview of the Council and to consider the question of continuation of allocation recommendations with respect to those food and ancillary commodities which are likely to continue in short world supply after 31 December 1947. If the work of the Council is completed at the time the Commission is in session, the Economic and Employment Commission may wish to acquaint itself with the results of the deliberations of the International Emergency Food Council on this matter and to invite the Secretary-General of the International Emergency Food Council to one of its meetings for a discussion of this question.

G. "Co-ordination Register" (E/255, Part IX, No.2)

1. The Secretariat examined the possibilities of maintaining a file of information on substantive work in the economic and statistical fields planned or under way, and it has been decided, as an initial step in this direction, to begin publication of an Index of Work Projects.

2. Purposes of the Index

The Index is designed to be useful to the Economic and Social Council, its Commissions and Sub-Commissions, to Specialized Agencies and the United Nations Secretariat:

- (a) In making known the various research resources and materials available or being assembled, thus facilitating their most effective use and interchange;
- (b) In planning further research so as to avoid duplication of effort;
- (c) In bringing to light situations in which conferences or consultation may be useful among United Nations departments or organizations.

3. Scope of Index of Work Projects

In the beginning it is planned to limit the Index to projects of the United Nations, Specialized Agencies and other inter-governmental bodies. It will include all economic or statistical projects completed since

/1 January 1946,

1 January 1946, those in progress and those planned to be initiated within three months of each reporting period.

It is proposed that the Index be issued quarterly, and it is hoped that the first number will be ready during the second session of the Economic and Employment Commission.

The information is being assembled principally by means of a questionnaire and will be prepared by the United Nations Secretariat for publication in the Index. The published data will include a brief description of each project, its nature, origin and purpose; the name of the United Nations Commission or Sub-Commission concerned with the project; the Department or Division of United Nations or of the Specialized Agencies immediately responsible; the name of the person in charge of the project, the approximate starting date and date of completion; the form in which the results of the project will be available, i.e., as a collection of data for working purposes or as an informal memorandum or as a mimeographed or printed report.

Published material will include a carefully cross referenced subject index and a list of professional personnel in charge of the projects.

After the general scope of the Index was discussed informally with representatives of several Specialized Agencies, questionnaires have been sent to the Specialized Agencies and inter-governmental organizations; and material is now being assembled within the United Nations.

H. Housing and Town Planning (E/255, Part XI)

1. The Commission in its First Session Report stated that it would be guided by the action of the Economic and Social Council on the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1946 related to Housing and Town Planning. The Fourth Session of the Council, on 28 March 1947, adopted a resolution (E/424) in which it instructed the Social Commission to continue in collaboration with the Economic and Employment Commission its

/study of

study of housing problems, and instructed the Secretary-General to arrange for a study of housing problems for further consideration by the Social Commission in collaboration with the Economic and Employment Commission, and further directed the Secretary-General to submit to the Social Commission a proposal regarding an international conference of experts on housing (including a statement of objectives, scope and composition) so that the Social Commission in collaboration with the Economic and Employment Commission could submit recommendations to an early session of the Council.

2. In the light of the arrangement made by the chairman of the Economic and Employment Commission and the Social Commission, it would become the responsibility of the Economic and Employment Commission to consider, after the Social Commission had presented the demand side of the housing problem, other economic aspects of housing. It is expected, therefore, that the study and analysis of the housing problem undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat in accordance with the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council will be presented to the Social Commission, which, under the terms of that Resolution, will seek the views of the Economic and Employment Commission on those aspects of housing which come within the scope or functions of this Commission.

3. In connection with the request of the Economic and Social Council to the Social Commission that it should, in collaboration with the Economic and Employment Commission, present recommendations regarding an international conference of housing and town planning experts at an early session of the Council, the following factors are brought to the attention of the Commission:

(a) The next session of the Social Commission will take place after the Fifth Session of the Economic and Social Council.

(b) The session of the Economic and Social Council subsequent to the meeting of the Social Commission is tentatively scheduled for 28 January 1948.

/(c) The Economic

(c) The Economic and Employment Commission is not expected to meet until 1948, after the January 1948 session of the Council.

In view of these facts, and in order to facilitate the work of the Social Commission, the Economic and Employment Commission may wish to designate one of its officers to attend the next session of the Social Commission in order to represent this Commission when the question of an international conference of experts is under consideration, so that the Social Commission may be in the position to discharge its responsibilities to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the terms of the Council Resolution.

I. United Nations Scientific Conference on Resource Conservation and Utilization

1. The Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council decided to call a United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources (E/404) for the purpose of exchanging information on techniques in this field, their economic costs and benefits, and their inter-relations. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary preparatory work related to the organization and scope of the Conference and decided that the Conference be held not earlier than 1948.
2. The Department of Economic Affairs prepared a letter which was dispatched to all Member Governments and to several Specialized Agencies (Annex II), in which they were acquainted with the action of the Council and asked to present to the Secretary-General, as early as possible, their suggestions for topics and participants.
3. The Secretariat is now engaged in preliminary work related to this Conference and it is expected that an advisory committee, contemplated in the Resolution of the Council, will be set up shortly by the Secretary-General to assist the United Nations Secretariat in developing the programme of the Conference.

ANNEX I

A COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ON 9 MAY 1947 RELATING TO THE
NEED OF DATA ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments
to

and has the honour to draw his attention to the resolutions in connection
with economic development which were adopted by the Economic and Social
Council on 28 March 1947 (document E/403), and to the recommendations on the
same subject made by the Economic and Employment Commission during its first
session (document E/255, Part V). In instructing its Sub-Commission on
Economic Development and in describing the kind of services required of the
United Nations Secretariat, the Economic and Employment Commission indicated
the types of data and analyses which the Commission and its Sub-Commission on
Economic Development will require in their work. These instructions have
been fully endorsed by the Economic and Social Council.

Specifically the Council and the Commission expect the Secretariat
to collect and analyze the data required by the Commission and the
Sub-Commission for their examination of the problems that confront Members
of the United Nations in their efforts to achieve economic development.
Accordingly, the Secretary-General intends to assemble and analyze the data
received from the Member Governments and to make them available to the
Economic and Social Council, the appropriate Commissions and Sub-Commissions,
and to the specialized agencies concerned so that each of them within its
own field of responsibility may give consideration to any factors impeding
the progress of the development programmes and to any action designed to
overcome the existing obstacles. In this connection attention is also
called to the recent discussion of these problems by the Food and Agriculture
Organization Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals, which met at
Washington from October 1946 until January 1947, and to the recommendations
contained in its report.

/The Secretary-General

The Secretary-General believes that the following data will be the minima needed to meet the requirements of the Economic and Social Council, its Economic and Employment Commission and the sub-commission on Economic Development, and in view of the importance of this matter to Member Governments has the honour to request that they may be made available to the Secretariat as soon as possible. In the cases of countries that have suffered war devastation, the respective Member Governments may wish to state in what way economic development will be linked to their reconstruction programmes:

1. Name and address of the national Governmental organization dealing with or responsible for the national economic development of the country, and relevant data relating to this organization.

Under this heading, each Member Government may wish to discuss the structure of such national organization, its functions, the statutes under which it operates, the degree of responsibility and authority it exercises, budgets for investment purposes, pertinent laws, and other similar types of information. If no single national organization responsible for all economic development of the country exists, there may be within that country some regional Governmental organizations or enterprises responsible for parts or types of the economic development of the country, and in that case, the names, addresses and a description of these organizations along the lines described above is requested.

2. Description of measures or programmes for economic development completed within a recent period, under way or recently started by an agency or agencies covered by sub-paragraph 1. above.

It is suggested that under this heading all such data should be communicated as are easily available on economic development programmes recently completed, already started or under consideration; describing the nature and purpose of the programme, the locations of projects, methods and extent of financing, plans for repayment, etc.; indicating, in regard to economic development programmes, how far they /could be

could be carried on from domestic resources and to what extent they would require external resources. While it is hoped that the data on these developments will be as complete as possible, Member Governments may find that at this time only partial reports or descriptions can be made readily available. The Secretary-General urges Member Governments to send such reports as are available now, and also to indicate when the Secretariat may expect to receive the remainder.

3. Description of obstacles to economic development experienced by Member Governments.

Under this heading it is suggested that Member Governments should indicate in some detail for each large development project now under way or being planned, what major obstacles are being experienced in their programmes; and what steps are being taken and what assistance, if any, is desired from international agencies to overcome them. Some indication would be helpful of the relative seriousness to each major project of such obstacles as availability of materials, technical skills, financial means, labour supply, and other factors.

The Secretary-General hopes that Member Governments will be able to supply the requested information, or at least some parts of it, not later than 1 July 1947, and requests that it may be addressed to:

The Division of Economic Stability and Development,
Department of Economic Affairs,
United Nations,
Lake Success, New York.

In order to avoid the necessity for the submission to the Secretariat of data which have already been made available to a specialized agency, the Secretary-General has the honour to request that Member Governments should ask the specialized agency concerned to supply copies of specific documents to the Secretariat, or alternatively to suggest that Member Governments should supply the Secretariat with copies of such material in cases when this may conveniently be done.

/The Economic

The Economic and Employment Commission and its Sub-Commission on Economic Development will be interested in measures or programmes affecting territories other than the metropolitan. In respect to Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration, however, the Member Governments concerned may be already arranging to supply information on economic development for submission to the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council in the annual reports on Trust Territories under Articles 87 and 88 of the Charter, for transmission to the Secretary-General under Article 73 (e) or in other ways. Should this be the case, it would be appreciated if this could be indicated in the replies to this letter; if important information is not being so covered, it is suggested that it might with value be supplied for the present studies.*

Apart from the Non-Self-Governing Territories covered by Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the Charter, there may be other territories in respect of which your Government may wish to supply information on economic development as the Member Government responsible for the international relations of the territories, and information under the three heads mentioned above would be of great value in these cases.**

* This paragraph, as well as the following paragraph, was included in the letter that was sent to the United Kingdom and France.

** This paragraph was included in the letter that was sent to Belgium, Australia, United States, Netherlands, Denmark, and New Zealand.

ANNEX II

A COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS,
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION,
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AND THE
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT ON 2 MAY 1947 RELATING
TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to
and has the honour to draw his attention
to the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 28 March 1947
calling a United Nations Scientific Conference on Resource Conservation and
Utilization (document E/404).

The Council decided that the Conference should be devoted solely to
the exchange of ideas and experience on these matters among engineers, resource
technicians, economists and other experts in related fields, and requested
the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary preparatory work. In the
course of this preparatory work, he was further requested to consult with the
representatives of the specialized agencies and to consider suggestions which
might be submitted to him by Members of the United Nations.

In implementation of this resolution, the Secretary-General has instructed
the Department of Economic Affairs of the Secretariat to start preliminary
discussions with the specialized agencies and with members of the delegations
of Member Governments in New York as to the subjects with which the Conference
might deal. He also intends in the near future to convene a preparatory
committee of experts which will include representatives of the specialized
agencies to advise him on the programme for the Conference.

The work of selecting the most useful individual topics will necessarily
take several months. The task of selecting the most capable technicians
available to present papers at the Conference will take some additional time,
and later still these experts will need a further period for the preparation
/of their

of their scientific contributions.

It is therefore highly desirable for Member Governments and the specialized agencies to make their suggestions for topics and participants available to the Secretariat at an early date, and the Secretary-General wishes to stress that their co-operation in this matter and in making the necessary scientific personnel available to participate are essential to the success of the Conference.

[A letter addressed to the Government of the United States of America had the following sentence after the words "at an early date":

In view of the statement made by the President of the United States of America in his letter of 4 December 1946 to the Honourable John G. Winant, at that time the representative of the United States on the Economic and Social Council, that the United States would be able to make skilled resource experts available to aid this Conference, the Secretary-General has the honour to request that the selection of these experts may be made at an early date so that their co-operation with the Secretariat in the preparations of the Conference may start as soon as possible.]
