

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.4  
29 January 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Wednesday, 29 January 1947 at 11:10 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Mr. H. Marshall (Canada)  
Dr. D. K. Lieu (China)  
Mr. G. Darmois (France)  
Mr. P. J. Idenburg (Netherlands)  
Mr. I. S. Malyshev (USSR)  
Mr. S. A. Rice (United States)

Mr. Erichsen was present as observer for  
Mr. G. Jahn of Norway.

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. E. J. Riches (ILO)  
Mr. R. M. Woodbury (ILO)  
Mr. C. Taeuber (FAO)  
Mr. S. V. Arnaldo (UNESCO)  
Mr. S. Hicks (International Monetary Fund)

Secretariat: Mr. H. Campion (Representing the Assistant  
Secretary-General for  
Economic Affairs)  
Mr. W. J. Bruce (Secretary to Commission)  
Mr. A. Rosenberg  
Mr. A. P. Renouf

Appointment of Representative of Statistical Commission to Population Commission

Mr. Rice was elected as the Representative of the Statistical Commission  
to the Population Commission.

Arrival of Dr. D. K. Lieu

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Lieu, member from China.

Transfer of statistical activities of the League of Nations to the  
United Nations. (E/CN.3/17, E/CN.3/18 and E/CN.3/W.1)

The contents of Document E/CN.3/17 were noted and approved by the  
Commission.

/The problem

The problem of whether the Commission wished to assume the functions of the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations raised the following points:

- (a) the question of the legal existence of the Committee.
- (b) questions of the legal steps to be taken for effecting the transfer of the statistical functions of the International Convention to the United Nations.
- (c) questions of revision and redrafting of the Convention.

Regarding the legal aspects of the problem, Mr. Renouf stated that the Committee of Statistical Experts no longer had a legal existence and that the transfer of its functions could be achieved by drafting a protocol amending the Convention. This protocol should be submitted for approval to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly who could then recommend it for signature by Governments.

The Commission was confronted with the difficulties arising from the fact that the International Convention had not been signed by all member nations of the United Nations; also that the twenty-seven signatories were not all members of the United Nations. It might appear doubtful whether it was necessary to take over the functions of the Committee of Statistical Experts. However, it was considered desirable to maintain the continuity of the Committee's activities. In this connection, reference was made to the three unpublished reports of the Sub-Committees of the Committee of Statistical Experts. Considering that the problem was not entirely one of liquidation, the following proposal was presented to the Commission for approval:

"The Statistical Commission wishes to assume the functions previously performed by the Committee of Statistical Experts set up under the International Convention relating to Economic Statistics (1928). The Commission is advised that this is not possible unless and until the United Nations legally assumes the responsibilities

/entrusted.

entrusted to the League of Nations under the International Convention. The Commission therefore asks the Secretary-General to prepare a draft of a protocol amending the Convention and to submit the draft for consideration by the Commission at its next session."

DECISION: This proposal was put to the vote and adopted.

Consideration of Action to be Taken with Respect to Unpublished Reports of the Committee of Statistical Experts. (E/CN.3/15)

While it was the consensus of the Commission that these technical papers should be made available to specialists, there was considerable discussion as to the degree of responsibility the Commission could assume for work carried out under the auspices of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts. It was felt that they were valuable as historical documents, and, that arrangements should be made for their publication under League of Nations imprimatur as the last documents in the series "Studies and Reports on Statistical Methods." It was agreed that the Commission could not now assume responsibility for the content of the papers or for their issue as United Nations documents.

It was noted that one paper, Note on Balance of Payments Statistics, had been circulated to Governments and comments had been received from eleven countries. The decision was reached to refer such comments to the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the relevant Specialized Agencies for consideration.

The meeting rose at 12:50 p.m.

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