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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Memorandum Prepared by the Secretariat
for Consideration under Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda

Consideration of the Provisional Questionnaire as Approved by the Trusteeship Council, 25 April 1947

1. The Economic and Social Council at its Fifth Session considered the Provisional Questionnaire of the Trusteeship Council (T/44) and requested the Secretary-General to place the relevant sections of the questionnaire upon the agenda of appropriate Commissions of the Economic and Social Council for their preliminary examination and comment (E/P.V.119, page 86).
2. The Provisional Questionnaire (T/44) formulated in accordance with Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations forms the basis for the first annual report on each Trust Territory to be submitted by the Administering Authority. This questionnaire presumably represents the kind of information that the Trusteeship Council wishes to obtain on a continuing basis regarding Trust Territories.
3. The Statistical Commission is asked to examine the questionnaire in its competence as defined by the terms of reference of the Statistical Commission and to report to the Economic and Social Council the results of its preliminary examination.
4. It is noted that the Trusteeship Council expects to give consideration, at its session in November 1947, to revision of the questionnaire, including possible adaptation in relation to local conditions in specific Trust Territories. It is noted also that there will be no opportunity for the Economic and Social Council to take further action on this matter prior to the November 1947 session of the Trusteeship Council.
5. Among the aspects which the Statistical Commission may find it appropriate to consider at its present session are the following:
 - (a) The long-run desirability, from the point of view of efficient collection procedures, of a uniform questionnaire covering all Trust Territories, bearing in mind both the possible advantages to be gained by making allowance for the particular circumstances of the different Territories and the risks inherent in this method of lack of comparability of the statistics;

/(b) The possibility

(b) The possibility that problems of comparability of statistics may arise in the absence of detailed arrangements for co-ordination of statistical functions and interests of the Trusteeship Council with the general scheme for collection of statistics for other international purposes as recommended by the Statistical Commission; and

(c) The possibility of utilizing the arrangements for collection of information about Trust Territories as a means of strengthening and improving the statistical systems and organizations in many areas.
