The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa has the honour to circulate to the delegates participating in the work of the first session of the Commission the following letter which was sent to him by the International Telecommunication Union:

"Sir,

With reference to your memorandum on the programme of work and priorities published in document E/CN.14/4, it is my duty, as representative of the International Telecommunication Union, to draw your attention to the fact that the development of telecommunication largely determines the extent of the improvements which may be introduced in a wide range of economic and social activities (trade, industry, transport of all kinds, education, information, etc.) and should therefore be included among the matters requiring the immediate attention of the Economic Commission for Africa.

As in many other spheres, the action required at the international level should bear mainly on problems of planning and vocational training. In that connexion, I may draw your attention to the value of a project which the ITU is at present carrying out in close cooperation with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and which will lead to a series of practical measures for the improvement of telecommunication in all the countries of Asia and the Far East. This project is briefly described in the attached memorandum. The Secretariat of the ITU would, of course, be glad to give you any information which you may like to have concerning the practical arrangements for our cooperation with ECAFE.

In the meantime, I should be very much obliged if you would draw the attention of the Economic Commission for Africa to the importance of the development of telecommunication throughout the region and to the desirability of including telecommunication among the fields of activity requiring priority action. It is suggested that a reference to the problems of telecommunication should be inserted in document E/CN.14/4. It might, for example, be worded as follows (page 20):"
"(g) Telecommunication

33. The development of telecommunication is a prerequisite of improvement in a wide range of economic and social activities: transport of all kinds, trade, industry, information, education, etc. Practical action is urgently needed to improve telecommunication in the countries of the region, both at the national and at the international level. The Secretariat may therefore consider it desirable to get into touch with the International Telecommunication Union for the purpose of studying, together with that agency, possible action to improve telecommunication throughout the region, along the lines, for example, of the project which the ITU is at present carrying out in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East."

I have the honour to be, etc. ...

(signed) Jean Persin
Representative of the International Telecommunication Union