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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fourth session

COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE FOUR MEETINGS

held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa,
from 14 to 19 February 1962

Chairman:

Mr. TEKLE HAIMANOT (Ethiopia)

Secretary:

Mr. MATHU

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FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 14 February 1962, at 3.10 p.m.

Acting Chairman:

Mr. MEKKI ABBAS, Executive Secretary of
the Commission

Chairman:

Mr. TEKLE HAIMANOT (Ethiopia)

Secretary:

Mr. MATHU

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY declared the session open, and welcomed the representatives.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained the procedure followed at the previous two sessions, namely that the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission had been automatically elected as officers for the next session. Unless there was any objection, therefore, the representative of Ethiopia might be requested to act as Chairman at the present session. In his absence one of the two outgoing Vice-Chairmen would preside.

Mr. TEKLE HAIMANOT (Ethiopia) took the Chair.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that the need for careful consideration of the Commission's programme of work and priorities had become apparent at its first session. The Committee was therefore meeting to avoid protracted discussions in plenary and to make the Commission's work more efficient.

Some of the instructions received from the Commission would directly affect the work of the Secretariat in the years 1962-1963. The manning table approved for 1962 would contain no less than 95 experts, and funds were available in the budget for short-term employment of officials.

The report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the Secretariat between the third and fourth sessions (E/CN.14/124) included additional suggestions for the programme of work and priorities (E/CN.14/162). A two-yearly programme was being inaugurated to permit advance planning and make funds available. The Committee was fully competent to comment on the various suggestions concerning the work programme and to recommend changes.

He suggested that the procedure adopted at previous sessions should be followed, namely examination of the listed projects seriatim followed by appraisal of the programme as a whole. Members of the Secretariat would introduce the projects with which they were particularly concerned, and representatives might then make their comments. A brief report would be prepared by the Secretariat for approval by the Committee before submission to the Commission.

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1962-1963 (E/CN.14/162/Rev.1)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY drew special attention to footnote 2/ on page 9, which indicated that project 01 had been split into five separate projects.

The difficulties encountered in recruiting staff, and the efforts made to comply with the view expressed both in the Commission and in the General Assembly that the Secretariat should be Africanized, were described in detail in his report on the work of the Secretariat (E/CN.14/124). The policy both of the Secretary-General and of the Executive Secretary had always been to ensure that suitable Africans should be given preference whenever possible.

In appealing for constructive comments on the proposed work programme, he emphasized that research in depth on African problems would be inadequate unless African countries were provided with background papers enabling them to exchange views and make their own contributions.

01 Development Policies and Programming

Mr. LIGTHART (Secretariat) said that projects 01-01 to 01-05 were a reformulation and an expansion of project 01-01 approved at the Commission's third session, made chiefly to separate its different aspects into more specific groups of problems. Projects 01-01, 01-02 and 01-03 covered the whole study of economic development, development planning, and policy formulation; projects 01-04 and 01-05 concerned operation. It was hoped that two or three regional advisers could be made available to countries for fairly long periods on request. There was also a need for short-term advisory services. Those were normally provided by the Secretariat; but owing to shortage of staff arrangements had been concluded with planning institutes for the loan of experts at the request of Members and Associate Members. A roster of high-level planning experts likely to be available at short notice for advisory services was being prepared by the Secretariat.

Under project 01-05, the Working Party on Economic and Social Development, with representatives from 22 countries, had discussed a wide range of subjects. It was hoped that another working party could be convened in 1962 to discuss comprehensive planning and related problems on a more technical level. The Working Party had suggested to the Secretariat that studies should be as concrete as possible, hence on a country-by-country rather than a subject basis. Another useful approach would be to send advisory groups or survey teams to a selected country to work in close collaboration with its government; that approach was used extensively by ECLA, and had the advantage of relating the work to known objectives of government policy.

The General Assembly had at its sixteenth session passed a resolution on planning for economic development^{1/} and another on the economic development of Africa^{2/}. The former requested the Secretary-General to establish an economic projections and programming centre in the regional economic commissions; the latter urged the establishment within ECA of a programming institution. A certain amount of guidance would be required from Headquarters to give effect to those resolutions, which would result in more emphasis being placed on those aspects than had originally been planned.

Dr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) feared duplication of effort, and asked for further information on the establishment of the proposed programming institute and on areas of responsibility.

Mr. LIGTHART (Secretariat) replied that the proposed African institute on economic development and planning was intended to provide advisory services and to train qualified personnel. Owing to the establishment of a projections centre at United Nations Headquarters, there would have to be more emphasis on those aspects in the Commission's work programme than would otherwise have been the case.

In reply to Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria), who had asked which institutes were willing to lend experts for short-term periods for work on project 01-04, Mr. LIGTHART (Secretariat) said that the Director of the Central Planning Bureau of the Netherlands would lend staff subject to certain conditions. The possibility of concluding similar arrangements with other institutions or individuals was being explored.

1/ Resolution 1708 (XVI) of 19 December 1961.

2/ " 1718 (XVI) " " " " .

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) failed to understand why developing countries should always be expected to request assistance in training from developed countries. His delegation believed very strongly that it should be requested from developing countries just a few stages ahead.

Mr. ACQUAH (Ghana) concurred. His delegation believed that opportunities should be afforded African countries to learn and profit by the experiences in economic planning of non-Western countries, in particular the USSR.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said he had noted the comments of the representatives of Nigeria and Ghana. He was aware that Ghana was already receiving assistance in certain development projects from one of the Eastern countries. Concrete suggestions would be very useful in the preparatory stages. He would ask whether for example, the Nigerian representative wished the panel of advisers to be drawn from African countries such as the United Arab Republic, Tunisia or Morocco, or from States which had set up centrally planned economies since the Second World War. There was no question of imposing advisers on governments. If members would inform him which countries they wished to see represented on the panel, he would make the necessary approaches and circulate a list of experts. He was confident of full co-operation.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) replied that he had in mind any country, in any part of the world, which had the right kind of experience. He urged that the Executive Secretary should approach the Economic Commissions for Latin America and for Asia and the Far East for assistance in recruiting suitable advisers, who should be nationals of the countries concerned and not expatriates from Europe.

Mr. AMADOU (Senegal) observed that there could be no universal solution, because the concept of economic planning and the problems involved differed from country to country. It would be difficult to draw up a general list of States which could be approached for planning assistance. Governments should be left to make their own choice - from Africa, Asia, America or any other continent - of the country most kindred in ideas, and to use the services of advisers in whatever way they saw fit. The origin of the experts was not material, since they would act purely as advisers, without any legal or executive authority.

Mr. BENTLEY (United Kingdom), thought that the type of co-ordination referred to by the representative of Sierra Leone would be very useful in project 01-04. Regional advisers should be attached to the institute rather than to ECA headquarters at Addis Ababa.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the General Assembly had made two recommendations: the establishment of a development institute, and the setting-up within ECA of a projection and planning section. While agreeing with the views of the United Kingdom representative, he thought it would be better to take no decision until progress had been made in implementing the resolutions. On account of the scarcity of staff, some form of pooling and co-ordination would undoubtedly prove necessary.

One reason for the proposal that advisers should in the first place be attached to ECA was that it would be some time before the institute was functioning fully. He had already received three requests for advisers, one of which had been met by seconding a staff member from Headquarters.

While appreciating the points of view of the representatives of Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal, Mr. RALANGASOAVINA (Madagascar) felt that their concern was groundless. Through its meetings of experts, ECA was accustomed to dealing with many types of planning, and the institute would undoubtedly be able to handle planning in countries at every stage of development.

Mr. ALLED (Morocco) paid a warm tribute to the Secretariat for its excellent and valuable work. On the subject of co-ordination, he recalled a useful precedent in a resolution adopted by the First FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held at Lagos in November 1960.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the matter would be dealt with when the joint ECA/FAO projects came up for discussion.

02-01 Monetary Systems

Mr. LETICHE (Secretariat) introduced the project, which had its origin in the Commission's resolution 30 (III), which had emerged from two considerations.

One group of African countries had felt that trade was tied too closely to the metropolitan territories; another group had feared that the immediate establishment by independent countries of banking systems in the sterling area and the franc zone might result in inflationary pressures, and thus that foreign exchange controls would have a disruptive influence on trade relations with Europe and within Africa.

He had been invited by the Executive Secretary to prepare a report, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and had started work in June 1961. After consulting all the experts in the African countries and their counterparts in other countries, he was presenting his major conclusions to the Committee at the present juncture, so that members could assist by pointing out any problems that had been overlooked.

The role of banking in African countries had been developed primarily to take care of import and export credit, and in that respect the banks had done good work. They were not directly instrumental in tying trade to the metropolitan territory. They had, however, had little influence in promoting African development generally or in facilitating medium-term and long-term credits.

Nor was there any foundation for the belief that the establishment of central banks would have an inflationary effect on new countries, for a country bent on rapid development could not be halted by the governor of a central bank. With a few important exceptions, inflation was not at present a danger in African countries.

The real problem was more serious: How could the financial institutions help to speed up technical training and capital formation? Hitherto, banking systems had not been able to deal with African economic stabilization and growth, because economic fluctuations had been almost entirely dependent on the international economic situation. Thus the essential role of modern African banking institutions should be to help to develop and diversify African economies -- to expand internal production and consumption. For that purpose medium-term and long-term capital was vital, and indigenous banking institutions would have to provide most of the necessary credit.

The differentiation between investment in training and the need for capital equipment in agriculture and industry was fictitious as far as Africa was concerned. The great lack of managerial and administrative skills called for a combination of training and loans. It was therefore as important for African countries to use existing banking institutions as to establish new ones, to satisfy the need for short-term capital and the importation of long-term capital from all parts of the world. It was also important to integrate the exchange and monetary arrangements of the different zones to help the expansion of trade among the English-speaking and the French-speaking countries of Africa.

His report would be in two parts:

1. An appraisal of the operations of African financial institutions in the sterling area, in the franc zone, in nations that had close relations with both zones, and, in nations which had never belonged to either zone;
2. Recommendations, on the basis of the experience and needs of African countries, as to how banking institutions could be used to accelerate African economic development.

The report was expected to be ready before the end of the year.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) said he was interested in the effects of different monetary systems on groups of States in the region. West Africa, for example, had a variety of currencies which were to a large extent regulated by the metropolitan countries concerned. He wondered how that situation would affect the desire of countries in the sub-regions to develop their own trade and economy. According to his recollection, the discussions out of which the resolution had arisen had been concerned with the development of trade and how it would be influenced by monetary systems tied to other countries. He requested that the point be mentioned in the report.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY confirmed the recollection of the Nigerian representative and assured him that the point would be covered in the report.

Mr. LETICHE (Secretariat) said that the problem of how to integrate the currencies of the French-speaking and English-speaking territories so as to expand their development was a key point in his report.

Dr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) fully supported the programme as a whole. It might be asked, however, why inflation and savings were to be dealt with separately (project 02-12) since they would undoubtedly be included in the reorganization of the banking systems, which had already started in many countries.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the question would be dealt with under project 02-12.

Referring to Mr. Letiche's criticisms of banks, Mr. AMADOU (Senegal) said that, although some of them were not unfounded, a fairer picture would have been presented if attention had been drawn to the different functions of different types of bank and to the fact that they were not all interchangeable.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that the report was only in preparation and could therefore not be discussed in detail. Delegates would have their opportunity of dealing with it fully at the 1963 session.

02-02 Public Finance

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) said that this was a twofold project, both parts of which were of great importance to the African countries.

The first was a study of taxation systems in Africa and means of improving them to meet economic development needs. An analysis had already been made of the income and revenue systems of eighteen countries, and a report appeared in the second issue of the Economic Bulletin for Africa. In view of the importance of the subject, it was hoped to start a new study during the current year, with the help of a regional adviser who would shortly be joining the Secretariat.

The second was a study of the costs of government services, since several participants in the recent Budget Workshop had drawn attention to the very high costs in many African countries. The task was a difficult one, but it was hoped to recruit a consultant for the purpose.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) agreed that the studies would be useful, but only as part of the whole question of government resources, and not as a first step. The first essential was to establish national accounting systems, so as to be able to compare the extent and utilization of government resources and the proportion used for economic development. For that purpose, a wide variety of systems would have to be examined to find out which was most suited to the African countries; the one used in the United Nations was not necessarily the most appropriate. Such a study would be beyond the resources of the Secretariat, with its limited staff, and it would be advisable to enlist the help of the universities, in the countries where they existed. In any case, the question of government salaries was a delicate one for an outside body to handle. There was an urgent need for austerity measures; Nigeria was aware of it and he hoped that more stress would be placed on it in the future. The real problem was to build up resources and use them in the best possible way.

Dr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) agreed with the preceding speaker's estimate of the relevance and importance of the project as at present designed. If the underlying idea was to improve public finance in order to mobilize greater resources for economic development, it would be better first to undertake a study of national public accounting systems, so as to be able to assess the significance of government spending. Bearing in mind, too, the need for staff economy, he would therefore strongly advocate deletion of the project, or the substitution of some more meaningful study.

Mr. AHMED (Morocco) also supported the Nigerian representative's views. Experience in several African countries had shown that study of the pattern of public income and expenditure was an essential preliminary to the establishment of long-term forecasts.

Commenting on the suggestion that African universities should be asked to co-operate in the proposed studies, Mr. AMADOU (Senegal) stated that the University of Dakar, which had originally been intended to serve all territories formerly comprising French West Africa, might contribute usefully to that work through its Institute of Economic Studies.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY remarked that the opposition to the project was not altogether unexpected. In including it in the proposed programme, he had been influenced by recent repeated pronouncements of eminent economists to the effect that, to deliver the goods, the African countries would have to tighten belts. In other words, governments must find additional funds from revenue to promote economic development. Two matters required particular investigation: public spending on administration (salaries) and taxation systems (to determine whether taxation was equitable and gave a fair yield). There thus seemed excellent grounds for undertaking the two studies comprising the project.

The present issue was whether ECA should go ahead immediately with the proposed studies, or first make a preliminary study of national public accounting systems. Before a final recommendation was reached he would like to hear more views. The Secretariat had already made some relevant studies, but even a perfect system would not by itself show how national expenditure could be saved.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) explained that he did not advocate that the project be dropped. He was in full agreement with the Executive Secretary that there was room for concern at the high cost of administration in African countries. Some countries, however, already realized the significance for economic development of the mal-distribution of national resources under the inherited administrative system; the Nigerian Government, for instance, had become convinced of the need for an austerity programme. The essential aim of such a programme, however, was not merely to effect savings but to redistribute real resources in order to promote economic development. Nothing worth while would be achieved simply by transferring allocations from one unproductive sector to another.

His main concern was to avoid any study of taxation systems that would lead merely to the construction of a model system. The emphasis in the study should be on tax administration procedures and tax yields. Moreover, to cover some fifty African countries would undoubtedly strain ECA's staff resources and take a long time. That was his essential reason for advocating enlistment of the co-operation of universities.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY made it plain that the Secretariat had never meant to cover every African country. The study was designed to cover a cross-section of the Continent chosen to reflect the varying practices. Moreover, some countries had no university.

The whole object of the study was to increase national savings in order to promote economic development. It would obviously not be the fault of the study if governments subsequently proceeded to apply savings to unproductive ends.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) said his point was precisely that in the first instance more had to be done to bring African governments and countries to see the need to husband resources and to use them, together with foreign aid, to the best advantage in relation to needs. Measures could then be taken to show governments where money could legitimately be saved and where spent. The Committee would be failing in its duty if it recommended the study without first examining the consequences.

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) was sure that no member of the Secretariat would disagree; but the Nigerian representative had in fact evoked the highly complex problem of how to finance economic development in all its component parts. A meeting of experts was to study that problem in late 1963.

Despite the objections, he still thought the project would serve a useful purpose, and he appealed to members to give further serious consideration to the issues before finally rejecting it. Perhaps the consensus would favour dropping the first study rather than the whole project.

Mr. HADJERI (Tunisia) felt that ECA should undertake the study. It was better equipped to do so, since many of the countries had no economic institutions of requisite calibre. The project was one of the most important in the programme and should be maintained as it stood.

Mr. MAYAKI (Niger) said that, as the Executive Secretary had not rejected the Nigerian representative's suggestion outright, his delegation would support action based on a synthesis of the various views. All delegations were concerned at the high cost of administration in African countries; and most Africans fully appreciated

the need for a policy of austerity to remedy the unfortunate economic situation left behind by the former colonial administrations. Indeed, in their relatively short period of independence some countries had already done much towards re-organizing their administrative systems in line with national needs. His delegation accordingly held that the Executive Secretary should be instructed to undertake the proposed studies with the help of African universities and regional advisers; the results might enable the African countries to emerge sooner from their inherited economic difficulties.

Mr. ABOU (Dahomey) held that what the new administrations in Africa needed at once was guidance on austerity measures that would not cause undue difficulties or problems. The project should therefore be maintained among programme priorities, and study of national public accounting systems postponed.

Mr. HACEN (Mauritania) and Mr. PARKER (Liberia) endorsed the Niger representative's suggestions for action.

Mr. AMADOU (Senegal) regretted that his earlier remarks seemed to have started a controversy between countries with universities and those with none. He had mentioned the University of Dakar purely because he believed it had a contribution to make. Moreover, the Secretariat would no doubt seek the co-operation of national economic institutes in countries without universities.

Dr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) remarked that one point had so far been entirely overlooked: the intrinsic worth of the studies. Any study might be of interest in itself; but the important question was the value of the information. The project would end in a blind alley, for the simple reason that there was no value in knowing the pattern of government spending without also knowing the total resources available; an accurate assessment of total resources required an adequate system of national public accounts. Moreover, the proposed studies would not cover resource mobilization, or indicate the proportion of resources that governments should allocate for economic development; they would be meaningless because they would throw no light on whether governments should raise more or less revenue by taxation. That was his underlying reason for suggesting that the project be dropped from the priority list and a preliminary study of national public accounting systems undertaken. After that, a study of government spending in the different sectors would then make sense. But if the study should be made now it might be appropriately undertaken by universities or other interested bodies.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) suggested that the two proposed studies be re-formulated as follows: "(i) Study of existing taxation systems in Africa, with special reference to ways of improving tax administration procedures and yields; (ii) Study of the cost and benefits of government services, with special reference to the possibilities of mobilizing further resources for economic development".

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY welcomed the proposed new wording as stating more clearly the whole object of the suggested studies, namely to find ways and means of mobilizing further resources for economic development. The Secretariat would have no difficulty in accepting it.

With reference to the remarks of the Sierra Leone representative, he trusted that ECA was not thought to be doing no work whatsoever on national accounts. The section on statistics showed that one important meeting of national accountants of the region and Secretariat experts had already been held; that the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth had decided, largely at the instance of the Secretariat, to hold its 1962 meeting in Addis Ababa; and that the National Accounts Section of the Secretariat would be providing help in the matter to interested governments.

Secondly, he fully appreciated the vital importance to Africa of co-ordinating ECA's research with work in universities or research institutions, both in Africa and elsewhere. Every endeavour was being and would continue to be made to maintain close liaison in work on matters of common interest.

Mr. HADJERI (Tunisia) welcomed the latest suggestion of the Nigerian representative, as the changes proposed substantially broadened the scope of the studies.

Mr. ACQUAH (Ghana) remarked that both sides in the discussion obviously shared the same concern that the problem of mobilizing resources for economic development should be broached; their sole difference was over method. The studies as formulated in the report seemed to meet all points at issue. ECA was competent to undertake those studies, and also to impress on governments the need to train national research workers to undertake other similar studies, so that there would be less need in the future to call on it for help in such work.

02-03 Foreign Aid

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) explained that the project was a long-standing one, dating back to the Commission's first session. Under it the Secretariat was required to present each year to the Commission a report on bilateral and multilateral assistance to African countries and territories. The reports had hitherto been prepared mainly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters. The current report, to be submitted under agenda item 12(a), would be found in document E/CN.14/152.

Mr. BENTLEY (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development had also drawn up statistics on such assistance for the years 1956-59, and was preparing similar data for 1960. No doubt the Executive Secretary would wish to take that and other similar sources of information into account in preparing the annual report for the Commission.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY confirmed that that would be done automatically.

02-04 Legal and Legislative Aspects of Economic and Social Development

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) recalled that the project had been discussed at length in the Committee the previous year and a more precise formulation drafted. He regretted that no work had yet been done under the project because of difficulty in finding the right person to do it. He hoped that during the year the services of a competent consultant might be obtained and a start made on the preliminary work.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) drew attention to the pressing need for a comparative study of commercial legislation in Africa, based on geographical groupings rather than on individual countries. Priority of study should also be assigned to industrial legislation; and in both cases it would be particularly appropriate to examine the experience of countries in Asia and Latin America where attempts had been made to adapt legislation to the changing needs of an evolving economy.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

SECOND MEETING

Sunday, 18 February 1962, at 9.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. TEKLE HAIMANOT (Ethiopia)
Secretary: Mr. MATHU

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1962 - 1963
(E/CN.14/162/Rev.1) (continued)

02-10 Development Banks

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that work had started on the project, which had been conceived in pursuance of Commission resolution 27 (III). A group of experts had met on two occasions and had finished its work on 15 December with the adoption of recommendations. On 19 December 1961, the General Assembly had adopted a resolution^{1/} emphasizing the necessity of setting up regional banks in Africa. It was to be noted that, while the Commission resolution referred to a single bank, the General Assembly resolution envisaged several regional banks for Africa. They had therefore to choose between the two texts. Project 02-10 belonged to the category of special priority projects and had been completed; the Commission must therefore come to a decision so as to enable the Secretariat to resume its study of the question.

Mr. SON (Senegal) considered that the Commission should instruct the Secretariat to continue its study of the question, because the report of the experts contained more queries than answers. It was obvious that a single bank for the continent, which would have regional study offices, would have more capital and greater prestige than regional banks, while at the same time it would have a broader notion of African problems.

Mr. APPIAH (Ghana) explained that, particularly in its paragraph 5, the resolution adopted by the General Assembly was a compromise text supported by the various delegations that had submitted the text to the Second Committee, although their opinions differed. Some had favoured a single bank and others several banks. Since the Second Committee had not been composed of banking specialists, it had not wished to prejudge the question and had been content with laying down the general lines on which the Commission could do positive work.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco), Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) and Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) agreed that there was no need for the Committee to open a debate on the substance of the question. It was merely a matter of deciding whether or not the project was to continue to appear in the work programme.

Mr. HASSEN (Mauritania) and Mr. MAYAKI (Niger) said that in view of the importance of the question the Secretariat should continue its study, whatever decision the Commission might reach during its session.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) said that responsibility for changing the work programme rested with the Commission itself. The Committee had met to ensure that the programme conformed to the interests of all Africa. The programme before it was astonishingly incoherent and unbalanced. Thus, instead of giving first place to the four most important questions for the future of Africa - natural resources, industrialization, transport and trade - it allotted a large place to community development and social security, which were but consequences of economic development. It was precisely economic development that should receive first place. Further the programme should be sufficiently flexible to evolve with the situation.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) said that the Committee was there not to draw up a new programme but to make certain that the programme outlined by the Secretariat conformed to the recommendations adopted at previous sessions. The programme included permanent projects - the Commission could change their category only with difficulty because of the work already started - and new projects. With regard to the permanent projects, the members of the Committee had best confine themselves to any suggestions that might have come to mind since the third session and let the Commission take decisions. The Committee should devote most attention to the new projects, with a view to determining if the rank allotted to them by the Secretariat in the order of priorities was suitable.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) had understood from the remarks of the Executive Secretary at the previous session that the Committee had the right to change the programme by making deletions, additions or changes in order.

Mr. ROSSEN (Secretariat) recalled that the powers of the Committee, as defined by the Executive Secretary, derived from a decision taken by the Commission itself at its first session.

Mr. APPIAH (Ghana) said that his delegation felt that the Committee unquestionably had the right to make any changes required by the changing situation in the work programme submitted by the Secretariat.

Mr. RAMANGASOAVINA (Madagascar), supported by Mr. ZELLEKE (Ethiopia), thought that the Committee was quite competent to revise the programme. Priority should be given to the four subjects mentioned by the representative of Nigeria, but without neglecting certain important points like technical studies, and social, financial or other research.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) thought that it would be advisable, at the present session, to follow the usual procedure, without losing sight of the need to give priority to the four main subjects already mentioned.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) proposed that the Committee, without debating the substance, should accept the proposals of the group of experts, approve Project 02-10, and refer it to the Commission.

It was so decided.

Mr. HASSEN (Mauritania) proposed that the Committee should continue consideration of the work programme in the numerical order of the projects.

It was so decided.

02-11 Budget Workshop

Mr. LIGTHART (Secretariat) drew the attention of the Committee to the report of the First Workshop on Budget Reclassification and Management (E/CN.14/117), and pointed out that the Secretariat had proposed a second workshop for 1963 or 1964.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) wondered whether the Committee should not give slight priority to that project, as the Secretariat did not seem certain of being able to carry it out in the immediate future.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) stressed the importance of studies which would enable the African countries to introduce uniform methods of national accountancy and to send to ECA, for the purpose of its economic researches, information which would be easily comparable.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) recalled that the Secretariat of the United Nations had published an important study on functional-economic classification of government accounts. The studies in view might therefore lead to overlapping. In any case, they should not appear among the special priority projects.

Mr. RAMANGASOAVINA (Madagascar) and Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) supported the representative of Sierra Leone and proposed that project 02-11 should not appear on the high priority list.

It was so decided.

02-12. Inflation and Savings

Mr. OYRZANOWSKI (Secretariat) explained that the new project was to be carried out in 1962, in co-ordination with projects 02-01 (Monetary Systems) and 02-02 (Public Finance). Those studies were complementary, and their main purpose was to facilitate the establishment of monetary policies which would assist in the utilization of national resources and promote African economic development. Project 02-12 also came within the competence of the Conference on the Financing of Economic Development, which was to be held in the autumn of 1962.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) said that he would be surprised if the studies in view yielded any positive results theoretically. There was already abundant documentation on inflation and savings. The work which remained to be done was rather within the competence of the national authorities - governments and central banks, which would have to decide, in the light of generally accepted theories, whether they wished to have recourse to cost-price inflation as distinct from currency inflation as a means of economic development, and if so, at what point such inflation seemed to represent a danger to their economy.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) also feared that the Secretariat would only carry out work of purely academic interest, in view of the fact that inflation was a phenomenon practically unknown on the African continent.

Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) agreed with the views on inflation expressed by the representatives of Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Inflationary tendencies in Africa had always been caused by external factors connected with the economic situation of the former colonial countries. The question of savings was, however, extremely important for the African States, and should attract the special attention of the Commission.

Mr. ROSSEN (Secretariat) pointed out that the purpose of the proposed studies was, not to examine the present situation of Africa with respect to inflation, but to help new African States to lay the foundation of a healthy monetary economy without having to run the risks of controlled inflation.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) was happy to note that certain African countries had not experienced and seemed not to fear inflation. Libya, on the contrary, had been obliged to make a thorough study of the situation after its accession to independence, because fears of inflation had been aroused by the changes effected in the structure of its economy. Moreover, travel about Africa was enough to show that in many countries there was at least a fairly symptomatic rise in prices if not inflation proper.

It would therefore not be wise to delete the project. The Committee could, however, direct it more definitely towards economic development by asking the Secretariat to collect as complete information as possible on production and prices and to try to determine the level at which inflation would probably compromise rather than promote economic development. The interest of the study was far from merely academic.

Mr. RAMANGASOAVINA (Madagascar) attached great importance to the study of savings, about which very little was known in Africa, as savings hardly existed there except in the form of hoarding. Otherwise he recognized that project 02-12 did not deserve a very high priority.

Mr. HADJERI (Tunisia) said that, if inflation meant a rise in prices when production was stagnant, there certainly was inflation in Africa. Undoubtedly, inadequacy of statistical data masked the situation. It was, therefore, essential that the Commission should continue its work on the problem, provided that the study on inflation was connected with that on savings and those responsible resolutely eschewed a purely European outlook and concerned themselves above all with producing specific remedies appropriate to the situation in Africa and the dictates of the general economic policy.

Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) repeated that the African countries had not experienced inflation in its classical sense of excess of demand over supply. He therefore considered that the proposed study was premature.

Mr. CISSE (Guinea) stressed that there was permanent inflation in all under-developed countries simply because their economies were directed by remote control from the outside, because they had outlets rather than markets and because advisory prices for their products were imposed upon them.

Mr. SOW (Senegal) said that, at a time when most independent African States should be establishing a really national currency and revising their relations with the former issuing banks, their first concern was to know how inflation and savings could be used for economic development. The two should not be separated, since one was the antidote to the other.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) considered it more important that national planners should be taught how to curb inflation when it occurred than that the various signs of inflation should be studied.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) likewise considered that all questions related to inflation should be studied, above all in connexion with training projects.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) agreed with the representative of Senegal and suggested as a compromise solution that in 1962 the Secretariat should maintain project 02-01 in its present form and in 1963 or 1964 it should make a more advanced study, expanding the work in the sense indicated by various members of the Committee.

Mr. ROSSEN (Secretariat) summarized the discussion and suggested that in 1962 project 02-12 should be accorded a fairly low priority and its execution linked up with project 02-01 and with the work of setting-up an economic development institute.

It was so agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

02-13 Administrative Problems of African Governments

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY indicated that after consultation with the Public Administration Division at Headquarters in New York it had been agreed to convene the Seminar on the Administrative Problems of African Governments in October 1962. The Committee would no doubt wish to propose that the Commission should await the recommendations of the participants in that Seminar - who would be high officials from African States, assisted by experts in administrative questions - before deciding on the future work of the Secretariat in that field.

There being no comments, it was so decided.

03-01 Problems and Prospects of Foreign Trade for African Countries

Mr. NIZAN (Secretariat) said that, apart from the activities in the programme, the Standing Committee on Trade would hold its first meeting in May 1962. In 1963, there would be two seminars on the local products of West Africa and East Africa. Finally, a meeting of trade experts was planned before the end of 1962.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) pointed out that ECA's activities should be principally directed to the development of the African economies. It was therefore of primary importance to discover the possibilities which increased production would offer the African countries for the development of their trade. At the previous session, the representative of Congo (Leopoldville) had quite rightly stressed the need to undertake the study of the prospects for foreign trade at the sub-regional level, to examine the structure of imports and exports in each sub-region, the supply of raw materials, etc.. All those questions were of more importance in the development of intra-African trade than the organization of customs, fiscal policies or

preferential agreements. He would therefore propose the deletion from the work programme of all the projects dealing with those questions and suggest that the Secretariat be asked to deal with all foreign trade problems on a sub-regional basis.

Mr. FAIMI (United Arab Republic) urged that the Secretariat's studies and documents should deal in general with certain groups of questions or certain products, although it would be desirable to extend their scope so as to cover all the African countries. He had made the same comment at the previous session with regard to the incidences of European economic groups; it was equally applicable to foreign trade, which should be studied as a whole and not from the sub-regional angle.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) was doubtful about the extent to which the study of customs systems could help to speed up trade between countries most of which belonged to different economic blocs. He was afraid that such a study would only serve as a pretext to evade the main problem, which was the development of production in African countries and the setting-up of an African common market.

Mr. NEPAN (Secretariat) pointed out that the Commission had conducted or was conducting a number of studies on industrialization and that project 03-01 should be linked with projects 11-01 (Industrial Surveys and Industrial Planning) and 12-01 (Transport). In that context, the project under discussion had real significance.

Mr. ABUIGA (Libya) said that studies on customs organization in the various parts of Africa could not fail to facilitate African trade. In his view the Secretariat should extend to East Africa, and later to North Africa, the study begun in West Africa.

Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) supported the representative of Libya. He did not think that separate studies should be made on intra-African trade and trade between the African countries and other continents, as the study of trade relations between the African region and other parts of the world would bring out the possibilities of trade agreements between the African countries.

Mr. HADJERI (Tunisia) agreed that industrialization was one of the main factors in the economic development of Africa, but stressed the importance of foreign trade, and more particularly of intra-African trade problems. African trade whether developed or stagnated depended on trade relations between the African and the European countries. In Tunisia, it had been observed after independence that 90 per cent of trade was with one European country. An attempt had been made to

diversify Tunisian trade with the European countries and to organize trade with African countries. He therefore supported the study of the problems of intra-African trade.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) did not understand how the study on customs organization could help in the development of industry. Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that the prospects of markets in western Europe were somewhat restricted. Instead of harking back to old problems, the Committee should try to find a solution to the existing situation in Africa.

Mr. ZELLEKE (Ethiopia) thought that the best way of stimulating African trade was to seek to diversify the production of African countries. Customs administration was secondary, and the efforts of the Secretariat should be directed primarily towards the diversification of production.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) drew attention to the importance of agricultural production. He stressed that the savings necessary to the industrialization of a country could be formed out of agricultural production, the effect of which was to give rise to industrial investments.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) shared the views expressed by the representatives of Nigeria, Ethiopia and Morocco. Studies on customs administration should be carried out in the various African regions, because they would permit the elimination of obstacles to intra-African trade; but the Secretariat should nevertheless concentrate its efforts on industrialization.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) pointed out that the Secretariat's resources were limited and should be used wisely. It was therefore important that industrialization, which was essential to Africa's economic development, should not be sacrificed to secondary questions such as transit and customs administration.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that decisions concerning the Secretariat's work should be taken by the Commission. He recalled that the Working Party on Customs Administration in West Africa had suggested that a similar study should be made in other parts of Africa. As to industrialization, the new Director of the Division of Industry, Transport and Natural Resources would be submitting projects to the Commission.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) observed that the members of the Committee were unanimous in recognizing that industrialization and transport were priority questions, whereas customs administration was secondary. He therefore suggested giving the latter project lower priority and going on to the next project.

The CHAIRMAN thought that suggestion would be acceptable to all.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) thought the Committee should give very low priority to the project under consideration.

Mr. SOW (Senegal) pointed out that the African countries were equally ignorant of the moral and material conditions in which intra-African trade could develop. He stressed the fact that industry functioned differently in under-developed countries. It should not be forgotten that the raw materials used in industry had often to be imported and that African countries were obliged to call upon foreign technicians - which all increased the cost price of goods. Certain countries which were loud in calling for the industrialization of Africa refused to buy African products which were dearer than those they could import from European countries. Intra-African trade would develop only when African countries had understood the difficulties peculiar to industry in Africa.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) said he would prefer not to use the terms "high priority", and "low priority". As customs administration had already been studied in West Africa, the Secretariat should proceed with similar studies in other parts of Africa. He suggested, however, that high priority should be accorded only to industrialization but no reference made to the fact that the equally important study on customs administration should have a lower degree of priority.

With reference to the statements made by the representative of Senegal, Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) mentioned another factor in the development of intra-African trade: the consumption of African products. He asked if the Secretariat could organize exhibitions with a view to publicizing the products of the various African countries throughout the continent.

Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) requested that the study on trade relations should be maintained in the programme of work because it would permit the completion of trade arrangements between African countries. Similarly, customs administration should be studied in various parts of Africa, because it happened that certain African countries refused to buy African products owing to the customs difficulties entailed. Finally, studies on trade relations between the African regions and other parts of the world should not be neglected, because the economic decolonization of African countries was not yet complete.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) pointed out that trade was bilateral and as a rule depended upon the reciprocal advantages to be gained by the interested parties. While he did not object to studies on those questions, he did not consider them essential.

Mr. SOW (Senegal) said that the taxes imposed by certain countries were another obstacle in the way of intra-African trade. As to what the representative of Nigeria had said, intra-African trade should in his opinion be considered on a multilateral rather than bilateral basis.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) asked the Chairman to put to the vote the question of the priority to be accorded to the project.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) requested the representative of Sierra Leone not to insist on his request for a vote, and suggested that the Committee should merely invite the Secretariat to give high priority to projects relating to industry and transport.

Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) supported the suggestion of the representative of Libya.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) agreed.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY expressed regret that the question had not been put to the vote, because the Secretariat would have liked to receive precise instructions on the matter.

Mr. CISSE (Guinea) said he was astonished that the study had been refused by the representatives of countries that were prisoners of a customs enclave. They should not forget that production and not the marketing of products constituted the most important question. Despite the impact of trade on the national economy, a country might be obliged to take a politico-economic decision not exclusively conditioned by commodity prices.

It was inadmissible that certain products which were 75 per cent foreign and made to appear African should be considered as originating in Africa.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) said he would agree to the study being maintained in the programme of work provided that it was not considered essential and provided further that it would be concerned with trade relations and not with trade conditions.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

THIRD MEETING

Sunday, 18 February 1962, at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman :

Mr. TEKLE HAIMANOT (Ethiopia)

Secretary :

Mr. MATHU

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1962-1963 (E/CN.14/162/Rev.1) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN appealed to representatives under rule 46 of the Commission's rules of procedure to limit their interventions to five minutes, because of the shortness of the time left to the Committee in which to complete its work.

03 International Trade

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) introduced the remaining projects under this heading (except 03-10). Under project 03-02 (Regional and Preferential Trade Arrangements), he said, the Secretariat had prepared a report on recent developments in western-European economic groupings (E/CN.14/139), including the most recent decision of the European Economic Community on a common agricultural policy. That would be studied by the Standing Committee on Trade at its next meeting in May 1962.

Two further papers were expected to be ready for issue within the next few weeks. The first, on the Commonwealth preferential system in Africa, had been held back on account of the current negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Common Market. The second related to African trade with centrally-planned economies.

Project 03-04, a continuing activity, included the publication of a "Foreign Trade Newsletter" containing information taken from periodicals and newspaper reports. It was hoped that African governments would agree to nominate permanent correspondents to the publication, in order that new developments might be fully reported. The Conference of African Businessmen (project 03-11) had originally been planned for 1961 and was now scheduled to take place in 1962. A specific conference secretariat in Monrovia was primarily responsible, and ECA was merely helping with arrangements for the Conference.

Projects 03-12 and 03-13 (Transit Problems in West Africa), had already come in for comment at the previous meeting. Preparatory work was expected to start during the year, and it was hoped that the Panel of Experts on Transit Problems might be convened towards the end of 1962 and the Working Party on Frontier Traffic during 1963.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) recalled that a preliminary Conference of African Businessmen had been held in Monrovia in 1960, to study some common problems in intra-African trade. At meetings of the Steering Committee for the projected Conference, held at Monrovia and Casablanca in early 1961, it had come to light that many of the proposals made at the earlier Conference had already to some extent been implemented by ECA and certain African political groupings. However, some aspects of the original programme were still subject to discussion, and it had been decided to proceed with the project. His delegation, once fully represented, would be able to give the Commission more information on the subject.

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) outlined the background to project 03-10. The Executive Secretary was arranging to convene a meeting of African primary-producing countries to consider the position of the agricultural commodities of main interest to them, and preparatory work was now proceeding in collaboration with United Nations Headquarters and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Nigerian Government was considering a proposal that the meeting should be held in Lagos during June 1962.

04-01 Economic Bulletin for Africa

Mr. STALENKOVIC (Secretariat) recalled that the Commission, at its first session, had concluded that it ought to produce a more flexible publication than an annual economic survey for Africa, and had accordingly decided that an economic bulletin should be published twice yearly. The practice had thus far been to devote the first issue of the year to an analysis of the current economic situation, and the second issue to special articles on subjects of specific interest to African countries and on activities of the Commission. The bulletin was intended not only to meet the immediate needs of government officials, but also to provide documentary material on African problems for universities and research workers.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY added that he was seriously considering the preparation of an economic survey of Africa since 1956, to be completed by the end of 1963 and submitted to the Commission at its sixth session in 1964. The Committee would recall that an earlier survey covering the years 1950-1956 had been submitted to the Commission at its 1960 session in Tangier. He hoped the resources at his disposal would enable him to carry out the task.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) congratulated the Executive Secretary on the excellent work done in producing the Economic Bulletin, and suggested that future numbers should include a bibliography of publications put out by ECA and the other regional economic commissions.

05 Social Aspects of Economic Development

Mrs. BASTER (Secretariat) stated that project 05-01 dealt with social problems and policies in relation to economic change. Part of her assignment as a regional adviser on social development had been to collaborate in the preparation of the regional chapter on Africa for the 1963 Report on the World Social Situation; in gathering together the available material on major social trends, the staff were exploring much of the area of research covered by the project.

An attempt had been made to formulate the project in a somewhat more positive fashion than hitherto, following as far as possible indications provided by recent working parties and expert groups. To take account of proposals made by the Working Party on Economic and Social Development and the Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare, the Executive Secretary proposed to amend the wording of study (b) by adding at the end the phrase: "and values and institutions conducive to development". The main purpose of the addition was to ensure that the positive inducements as well as the barriers to change should be covered by the study.

A similar amplification was proposed for study (c), the formulation of which would now read: "Analysis of the Social Aspects of Development Plans and of Expenditure on Social Programmes, and the Integration of Social Programmes and Policies in Comprehensive Development Plans". The addition was intended to make it possible to follow up the discussion that had taken place on those topics in the Working Party on Social and Economic Development, and in particular to co-operate with the Development Unit in the preparatory work for the group of experts expected to meet in 1963 to discuss planning in the social sectors in relation to overall development plans.

She drew attention to the references to co-ordination with other projects and with the work of the Development Unit and the Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare. The Standing Committee had put forward at its latest meeting a number of suggestions for research, as a guide to the subjects considered important by those concerned with the execution of social policy.

The lines of work proposed under the project would allow the Secretariat to make the best use of its limited staff resources.

Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey) thought the word "social" somewhat narrow, and suggested that it be replaced by the word "sociological", which embraced the position of the individual in society.

Commenting on the section as a whole, Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) said that his delegation believed that the emphasis there should be on training, and more especially on the training of national planners in social development. The Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare had already noted that view; but he would like an assurance that adequate steps would be taken to put the policy into effect. The studies should merely constitute the background for the training.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY referred the previous speaker to the section of the training programme which contained all the training projects in every field of activity under one heading. (E/CN.14/162, page 49). Project 41-02 was devoted to training in economic and social planning.

Introducing the projects on population and urbanization questions (05-02, -03, -10 and -11), Mr. COMHAIRE (Secretariat), remarked that they were both modest and ambitious. They were modest because they purported merely to clarify certain social aspects of economic development, and because they were limited to studies and left the decision on action to be taken by others. They were ambitious because the small staff was being called upon to fashion the tools that would enable others to act more effectively.

The Standing Committee had given an impetus to the work by putting forward valuable recommendations, including one proposing that studies on African municipal taxation and small traders should be undertaken in 1963.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) proposed that, to avoid duplication of work, the study on the economic and social implications of migration be included under project 05-02 rather than under project 05-01(b). The subject would obviously have to be covered in any study of demographic factors, and the same work should not be repeated elsewhere.

The CHAIRMAN answered that the Executive Secretary was ready to accept the suggestion.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) recommended that first priority be given to project 05-03(a). A mass of information on urbanization in under-developed regions, including Africa, was already available, and the most urgent need of African governments was for a summary of the findings to be derived from that information, to guide the framing of urbanization policy.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY agreed that the activity was very important. Under project 05-01 it was planned to convene a meeting of national officials responsible for urbanization in April 1963, when all available information would be placed at their disposal and arrangements made for an exchange of views. It was hoped that the results would prove useful to African governments.

Mr. CHIDZERO (Secretariat), introducing project 05-04, said that the Executive Secretary desired the Committee's guidance on future pursuit of the activity. A number of sub-regional studies on the economic and social consequences of racial discriminatory practices had already been carried out, and the point at issue was whether those studies should be extended to the remaining sub-regions, or whether priority should be given to studies in depth in the sub-regions already covered, or to studies of specific aspects of the question. All three methods had advantages and disadvantages. Under the terms of the governing resolution the Secretariat was bound to continue sub-regional studies, which might yield little of substance while other more important areas were neglected; hence the need for the Committee's guidance.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) was impressed by the way in which the Secretariat had handled a most difficult and delicate subject. The main value of the work, as he saw it, was to establish an inventory of racial discriminatory practices that were more or less institutional or legal: i.e. recognized and condoned by society and in some cases reinforced by legislation. Once the situation throughout the region in respect of such practices was known, action could be taken to abolish them. He accordingly hoped that work would continue to be focussed on those points until the whole region had been covered.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) thought there might be some advantage in conducting further research in depth in the areas already covered, in order to perfect the Secretariat's investigating techniques and grasp of the problems. The processes of racial discrimination were often so complex and elusive that more detailed study was needed for their proper understanding.

Mr. MORGADO (Portugal) supported the view of the Libyan representative that the studies should be extended to the remaining sub-regions in order that the Commission might get a general picture of the problem throughout the region as a whole.

06 Statistics

Introducing this section, Mr. BERTHET (Secretariat), said that the various projects listed under it represented an extension of the programme submitted in the previous year; the object was still the same, namely to help African countries to improve their statistical services so as better to meet economic and social planning needs.

Project 06-01 constituted the basis of the whole programme, and 19 countries had already drawn up plans for developing their statistical services. A new development had taken place in technical assistance which it was believed would meet a long-felt want, namely the establishment of a regional advisory service, comprising the three permanent staff members and five regional advisers assigned under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, to provide a short-term consultative service to supplement longer-term technical assistance.

He went on to describe the work to be done under the other projects, and lastly drew attention to the training programme included in the general section on training. The worst bottleneck in the whole programme was lack of trained statisticians, and it was hoped that three training centres for middle-grade statisticians would be available by 1962. ECA was also giving assistance to a training centre for top-level statisticians, and was making arrangements to receive candidates for training in operation of the data-processing machines available in the recently established Secretariat mechanical unit.

Mr. AHMED (Morocco) congratulated the Secretariat on the work done in statistics. The task was tedious but indispensable, since accurate statistical data were needed for accurate forecasting of trends in economic development. His country, recognizing the importance of the task, had followed ECA's recommendations by re-organizing its statistical services and instituting training courses for statisticians.

One side of the work, however, appeared to have been somewhat neglected, namely agricultural statistics. It was difficult enough to obtain accurate statistics on industry, but even more difficult to obtain them on agriculture, because of the unpredictable conditions. His delegation would accordingly like to see permanent contact established between ECA and the FAO agricultural statistical unit, with a view to improving agricultural statistics in Africa.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) said he had been interested to learn that ECA's statistical section now had a mechanical unit where training might be given in the use of data-processing machines. He asked what exactly the facilities consisted of.

Secondly, he asked why it was considered necessary to prepare methodological manuals on household surveys and the like adapted specifically to African conditions (project 06-04(b)), and whether such adaptations would still conform with the recognized basic requirement of international comparability of statistics.

Mr. BERTHET (Secretariat) explained that the recently-established mechanical unit was provided with IBM data-processing machines, and that the intention was to enable African governments to send suitable persons to Addis Ababa for training in their operation.

There was no contradiction between ECA's efforts to draw up methodological manuals suited to African conditions and the need for ensuring international comparability of statistics. Experience had shown that the methods suitable for use in advanced countries could not be successfully applied in the less-advanced countries without adaptation to their peculiar conditions. There was no question, however, of compromising on recognized international standards for the compilation of statistics.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) was still not convinced of the value of a mechanical processing unit using the IBM punch-card system. If countries had no such machines, there was no point in sending trainees to Addis Ababa. Nor did he advocate publication of statistical handbooks. The basic problem in many African countries was not to collect statistics but to publish the available data.

Mr. BERTHET (Secretariat) replied that countries which possessed IBM machines might still lack competent technicians to operate them. A number of Africans had been sent to Europe for training, but the added advantage of learning the mechanical process in Addis Ababa was the opportunity it gave Africans to become acquainted with the work of ECA.

He agreed with the representative of Sierra Leone that the main problem was to collect and publish statistical data - which raised the question of the form in which they should be published. In general there was only one good method, but attempts were being made to analyse the various proved techniques. The publication of a handbook on agriculture, for instance, was costly, and the FAO technique helped to overcome the financial difficulty.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) agreed up to a point with the views expressed by the representative of Sierra Leone. What was wanted was a standardized nomenclature and indices to improve the comparability of statistical data.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) advocated training on the spot in countries possessing computers. The Secretariat was too optimistic in thinking that all African countries would adopt uniform standards for the compilation of statistics.

11-01 Industrial Surveys and Industrial Planning

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) said that the project was in the early stages of development. The programme of surveys necessarily covered a wide and important area of all-African economy, and the Secretariat would welcome a substantial expression of views. The build-up, initiated under the project of a country-by-country inventory of African industries, demanded a major effort to collect and process available statistics. The data would be published in the first place in a general document on the industrial situation in Africa, to form a basis for further studies of intra-African trade.

Mr. NOMVETE (Secretariat) said that project 11-02 (Study of Individual Industries and Groups of Industries) had been initiated in conjunction with the inventory. The studies of the listed industries would be carried out on a regional, sub-regional or country basis, as appropriate. A number of seminars would be convened in 1962 and 1963 arising out of the studies made for the purpose of submitting concrete recommendations with regard to future plans. Provision had been made for feasibility investigations under project 11-10, to be followed by investment studies with a view to assisting governments to carry out development projects. Preliminary plans had been made for a conference on African energy resources in 1963, and considerable progress had been made in preparing a manual on the implementation of investment projects.

With regard to project 11-01, Mr. PARKER (Liberia) suggested that the description should include a reference to the African industries' sources of investment. He also appealed to ECA to include some type of industrial development training programme on the lines of those provided in a number of European and American countries.

Replying to the first point raised by the representative of Liberia, the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY agreed that some description should be included in project 11-01 of the African industries' sources of investment. On the second point, he indicated that negotiations were being initiated with the Governing Body of the Special Fund for the setting-up of an industrial development institute, similar to the proposed economic planning institute, at which Africans would receive training in development programming.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) expressed concern about the availability of staff to make an inventory of African industries. Regarding the setting-up of an industrial development institute, he recommended that ECA, in co-operation with UNESCO, should undertake a survey of skilled manpower in the sub-regions and enquire in particular how the supply could be improved in quantity and quality, failing which the institute would be run entirely by staff from outside Africa. Something should also be done to adapt industrial research to the special needs of Africa. In the interests of intra-African trade it was also important to discover, measure and evaluate African mineral resources prior to a study on industrial development. Turning to the list of industries enumerated under project 11-02, he stressed the importance of agricultural equipment suited to special conditions in Africa.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) agreed with the representatives of Liberia and Nigeria on the importance of industrial training and research. Pointing to the difficulty of developing African industries if budgetary considerations were kept apart from balance-of-payments problems, he formally proposed the inclusion in the description of project 11-02 of studies of the inter-relationship between fiscal problems, the balance-of-payments situation and industrial development. A study should be made of that kind of inter-relationship, and the position in each country spelt out.

This proposal was adopted.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) assured the Secretariat that his Government was fully in favour of the proposed build-up of an inventory of African industries, and was prepared to supply the necessary information for Morocco. In setting up an industrial institute for Africa it would be well to draw a distinction between industrialization and the spirit of enterprise. Seminars should be organized for that purpose.

In reply to Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone), who expressed some concern about duplication with the feasibility investigations already being carried out by the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Special Fund, and other bodies, the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY pointed out that those agencies' activities were world-wide in scope.

In reply to a question by Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) regarding the functions of the proposed industrial development institute, the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that a reference to its establishment would be found in document E/CN.14/162. He hoped to be

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria), stressed that negotiations for the establishment of an industrial development institute should be given the highest priority in 1962.

Mr. EHRENROOTH (Secretariat) said that the group of studies under 12-01 represented a continuing project on transport problems in Africa, with emphasis on the role of the transport industry in promoting economic development.

A conference on sub-regional roads in West Africa had been held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 23 to 27 October 1961, and a report was being submitted to the fourth session in document E/CN.14/147. It contained four resolutions, the first calling for a seminar of chiefs of highway authorities in West Africa (project 12-05), which was expected to take place early in 1963. The Monrovia Conference placed great emphasis on continuing action and the creation of the necessary machinery.

A study on East African transport was being prepared under project 12-01, in pursuance of Commission resolution 35 (III), and a progress report was contained in document E/CN.14/148. The principal recommendation in the report was that a meeting of government representatives be held in the East African sub-region, enlarged to include Ruanda-Urundi and Madagascar, to discuss sub-regional transport problems (project 12-06). In accordance with the Commission's terms of reference, a seminar on port administration was included as project 12-07. It was intended that the project should be carried out in 1963 in co-operation with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In all the projects he had mentioned, stress was laid on joint action by African States; and it was hoped that many similar projects would be introduced into the work programme in the near future. Advisory services would be placed at the disposal of governments on request.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) recalled that it had been stated, rather cynically, that most countries on attaining independence acquired a flag and a national anthem, joined the United Nations, and established an airline. But in Africa air transport was a matter, not of national prestige, but of economic necessity. Airlines had been established in many regions of Africa, but it was doubtful if they were profitable. Running an airline involved serious economic dangers, and it was vital that the question should be investigated before other States or organizations in Africa ran into economic difficulties.

He therefore proposed that the Commission should consider the possibility of making a study of air transport in Africa with the object of determining (a) the problems involved, and (b) the possibility of co-ordinating the various bodies engaged in transport.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that he was in complete agreement with the representative of Liberia. Since the preparation of the work programme he had received a study on the subject from the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and had informed him that he hoped to use the document in the forthcoming meeting on transport in East Africa. The question of air transport would be added to paragraph (b) of project 12-01, with emphasis on the aspect raised by the representative of Liberia. However, like the question he had referred to earlier, it was one which the Secretariat had not yet studied fully and could not yet be placed on the work programme. In that connexion, certain people associated with air transport had suggested that Africa might learn from some of the European countries, for example the Scandinavian ones, which operated a joint air transport system. A pan-African system would certainly reduce costs.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) supported the views of the representative of Liberia, though he doubted whether some of the African countries would seriously consider joint services before they had learnt by experience the difficulties of running their own.

With regard to project 12-01 as a whole, while he questioned the value of studying such self-evident subjects as the role of the transport industry in promoting economic development, or the relative economics of road, rail, water and air transport in economic development, he hesitated to tamper with the work programme by suggesting their deletion. Instead, he would propose an additional subject for study by the Secretariat, namely the regional development of the international rivers of Africa with a view to their service in transport and energy.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that he had thought the subject adequately covered by the description of paragraph (b) of the project, which he read out.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) expressed himself as satisfied with the Executive Secretary's reassurance.

Mr. ACQUAH (Ghana) expressed great satisfaction with the efficient way in which the Secretariat had prepared the transport section of the work programme. He was particularly pleased to see the subject given high priority, for it was unrealistic to discuss trade without relating it to transport. While, however, he appreciated the Secretariat's interest in such subjects as those described in projects 12-01 and 12-05, he felt that attention should be paid in seminars and workshops to the very urgent problem of developing inter-State highways throughout Africa. The most acute problem in the region was its primitive transport system: until very recently, for example, anyone wishing to travel from West Africa to the Commission's headquarters had been obliged to go through Europe. A good transport system was also essential to West and East Africa.

It was in the problem of transport that the Secretariat could be of the greatest use to Member States; for transport was the nervous system of a region. He therefore urged that the Commission should concentrate on the problem, and assured the Executive Secretary of his Government's full co-operation.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) fully supported the views of the representative of Liberia. With regard to the statement of the representative of Ghana, he pointed out that the coastal transport systems had been designed to serve the import requirements of Europe - in other words to transport material outside Africa - and therefore had nothing to do with the needs of Africa itself. He was surprised, therefore, that a West African Conference should have discussed national transport systems, and that the Commission was proposing (12-05) a seminar to discuss such problems as soil stabilization and road construction. It was useless to perpetuate a transport system that had been inherited and found inadequate. He therefore proposed that project 12-05 should be replaced by a project for studying the economic and technological problems of linking sub-regional transport systems.

The CHAIRMAN invited speakers for or against the motion.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) stressed the importance of transport in Africa, both north-south and east-west. His Government had, at its own expense, constructed a road which ran 700 km northward and could be extended to the borders of Niger, Mali and Chad. He hoped that work would continue on the basis of his country's modest contribution.

With regard to the Nigerian representative's proposal, with which he was in sympathy, he suggested that the difficulty might be solved by the addition of economic aspects to the study, instead of by dropping the seminar altogether.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) replied that soil statistics could be studied in research laboratories, and the Commission should first find out what work was being carried out by other organizations and what funds were available. That study, however, would make no contribution to the real problem, which was to establish road links in Africa.

Mr. HASSEN (Mauritania) supported the proposal of the representative of Libya. He also described how he had to travel through London, at heavy cost, in order to cross Africa without going through South Africa, with which his country had no diplomatic relations.

Mr. AHMED (Morocco) also supported the Libyan representative's proposal, and suggested that the subject of telecommunications should be included in the study. With regard to the Nigerian representative's proposal, he considered that the matter was outside the present agenda and should be noted for a future meeting.

The suggestion regarding telecommunications was approved.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) saw no reason to cancel the seminar under 12-05, which was the proposal of a group of responsible technical experts. He suggested that the subject of economics should be added to the seminar's task.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that he and his staff found themselves in a very awkward situation. They were being asked to delete a project that had arisen out of a report unanimously adopted by a conference of high-level experts, including a Minister of the Nigerian Government. Personally, he agreed with the representative of Nigeria on the need for priority, but he was faced with conflicting directives.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) maintained his proposal.

Mr. FAHMI (United Arab Republic) shared the views of the Libyan representative regarding the importance of African airlines. He also drew attention to the importance of navigation, and referred to difficulties encountered in transporting merchandise under the existing system. He would like to see a study made of the navigation lines between all African ports.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) submitted his proposal in a slightly revised form: "Study of the economic possibilities of constructing regional transport systems". He was proposing a separate item because he was convinced that a study of road stabilization would not produce the linking of transport systems that was so vital.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) pointed out that project 12-01 was one of continuing high priority, which was what the representative of Nigeria was appealing for; whereas project 12-05 was a new one, designed to fill one of the many gaps in the study of the transport system as a whole. He suggested that the work programme should be left unchanged, on the understanding that the aspects referred to by the Nigerian representative were included.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the Secretariat would be in favour of the insertion of an additional item, in the terms indicated by the representative of Nigeria, as a new 12-01(c), the former (c) becoming (d). Amendment of the work programme would need the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to amend project 12-01 in accordance with the proposals of the representatives of Nigeria and Morocco and of the Executive Secretary.

After discussion of a point of procedure raised by Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey), it was agreed that the Chairman should summarize the Committee's decision on each project, to avoid the need for voting.

13-01 Natural Resources

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) introduced the projects, which, he said, were part of a continuing activity going back to the Commission's first session. The seminar on groundwater development proposed for 1963 was to be organized in co-operation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and plans would be discussed shortly with the head of that Department. Plans for the regional cartographic conference for Africa were at a more advanced stage, and the conference would be held at a date between 1 April and 30 June 1963. The subject was wide, and the project was based on decisions by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) strongly supported the projects on natural resources and hoped they would be given high priority. In his own country, despite recent discoveries of oil, groundwater development was essential and in the drier regions a matter of life or death. It involved difficult legal and economic problems. His Government was currently enquiring into his country's groundwater resources, and would later need guidance on the best methods of using them. He would welcome information on experience with modern methods in other countries with dry regions.

The Committee approved the project, and the comments of the representative of Libya.

21 and 22 Agriculture

In a general introduction to the projects, Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) said that they were to be carried out by the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, a method adopted by all United Nations regional commissions. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was conducting a very extensive programme in Africa and employed nearly a hundred field experts under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. FAO projects under the United Nations Special Fund were increasing rapidly, and FAO headquarters at Rome was dealing with a wide variety of economic and technical problems. ECA was concerned with the economic aspects; its function was to provide a link between the FAO programme and the economy of the region, and to perform continuing secretarial tasks such as preparing documentary material and organizing meetings.

The programme had three main parts, described under projects 21, 22 and 23. Apart from certain additions designed to make it more precise and practical, it differed little from the one approved in 1961 by FAO and ECA.

21-02 Agricultural Development Programmes and Planning

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) was glad that the Secretariat was devoting so much attention to agriculture. He wondered whether it would be useful to have ECA/FAO liaison officers in all African countries. His country wanted advice on the important question of the use of agricultural surpluses as an aid to economic development. He hesitated to suggest that a new item be inserted in the programme, but asked for the Secretariat's views.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY replied that the problem of the distribution of food surpluses was world-wide, and was being tackled by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO. If the representative of Morocco thought there should also be regional committees to deal with it, the Secretariat would be willing to examine a proposal to that effect.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) said that he had not intended to propose the establishment of new committees, but to draw attention to the problem, which was important in Africa. His country had considerable experience in the use of surplus food production.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) asked the Secretariat for a detailed description of the activities it proposed to pursue in 1962 under project 21-02 (c) (Analysis of Particular Problems of Agricultural Development).

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) replied that the question was not easy to answer. It had not been possible so far to do a great deal on those subjects, which were referred to at every meeting of ECA and FAO. The diversification of agriculture was part of the larger problem of diversification of the economy as a whole, and had been discussed in a recent issue of the FAO Monthly Bulletin. Agriculture included production for local consumption and production for export. Diversification of production for export could, however, be a two-edged sword; for if all countries diversified they would eventually compete with each other. It must be approached with caution, and with due regard to developments in other countries. Diversification for local consumption was different, for Africa was faced with problems of malnutrition and maldistribution. Africans suffered from protein deficiency because of the inadequacy of livestock production. Secretariat action in that field was still limited to relatively small projects. Recently, for instance, a staff member had visited Tanganyika and advised its Government on peasant tea schemes, wattle bark and coffee production, and irrigation projects. The Secretariat had also advised on irrigation projects in Kenya, on field abattoirs in East Africa, and on commodity possibilities in two other countries, which had, for instance, been told of the state of the market for sisal.

The transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture was one of the main problems of agricultural development. ECA had in 1960 been co-sponsor with FAO of a Land Policy Centre in East Africa, and in May 1962 the two agencies would be sponsoring a sub-regional centre on agricultural credit. They were also studying the economic aspects of land settlement schemes, peasant tea schemes, and the commercial use of game, and were conducting a livestock survey in southern Ethiopia with a view to increasing the export potential and thus the cash income from livestock.

Such were the contributions they were making in those large and rather nebulous fields.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) raised the question of duplication of work, suggesting that the activities proposed under project 21-02 were suitable for institutional action. He asked the Secretariat to clarify the relationship of the project to the proposed economic planning and development institute.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) replied that the main function of the institute would be to provide training, whereas many of the activities under project 21-02 were investigational. The intention was that training activities should be channelled through the institute.

21-03 Studies and Meetings on Agricultural Development

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) expressed the fear that a meeting on agricultural planning in African countries would serve no useful purpose unless a previous study had been made of agrarian structures and land ownership in the various countries.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) said that project 21-03 had been included in the programme because the January meeting of the ECA Working Party on Economic and Social Development had clashed with an FAO meeting and consideration of the agricultural sector had therefore been postponed. The present proposal was to hold, before the second FAO Regional Conference for Africa, a small meeting of agricultural economists to discuss agricultural planning and its relation to overall planning. He did not understand the contention of the representative of Morocco that agricultural planning might be useless unless preceded by a census of agricultural holdings.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) agreed with the representative of Morocco that if countries did not know enough about their agrarian structures there would be little point in holding a meeting on agricultural development planning. A meeting would be valueless unless the participants were provided with new information. Unless assured that the meeting would serve a useful purpose, his delegation considered that the emphasis of the item should be laid on the training of economic planners.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) agreed that meetings were useful only when the participants were supplied with fresh information. He felt certain that the meeting proposed under project 21-03(e) would provide much information that would be new and interesting to participants. The statistical information on land ownership requested by the representative of Morocco would presumably be provided under project 06-01, and information gained from that survey would be used in preparing for the meeting. He supposed that the meeting would not dwell on already-published information but would bring together persons working on agricultural development planning whose purpose would be to produce documentary material on the development plans of the various countries. It would thus serve a useful purpose, and his delegation considered that the project should be retained in the programme.

Mr. DOUKKALI (Morocco) insisted that the item was very important. He had spoken of the need for surveys because Morocco had experience of the difficulties involved. His Government was reluctant to grant agricultural credits or finance irrigation schemes unless it was certain that they would benefit a large part of the population. A knowledge of the country's agrarian structures was therefore essential.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) agreed with the representative of Morocco that detailed plans at district and farm level could not be made without that knowledge. The Secretariat of the Commission, however, was concerned with the broader issues rather than with the details of each country's internal affairs. The Moroccan representative's suggestion was not well suited to the more general approach adopted by FAO and ECA.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) asked how a country could plan its agriculture if it was unaware of the extent and quality of its land and of the types of fertilizer and machinery best suited to its conditions.

If that argument were carried to its logical conclusion, said Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) in reply, there would be no planning of any sort unless countries had exhaustive knowledge of all their resources. Few countries had complete knowledge of all the factors involved in their industrial development plans. Information would be gained from the Statistical Survey of Africa and from the technical assistance experts working at various levels, and information on the general sectoral distribution of government resources was also available.

Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) said there seemed to be some confusion about the purpose of the meeting. The representative of Nigeria seemed to fear that delegations would be presented with mathematical models and linear programming applied to agriculture. If that fear were correct, he would agree that the meeting would serve no very useful purpose. If, however, as he thought, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the extent of practical planning in Africa, then it would be far from theoretical and should be retained in the programme. If the Secretariat would confirm that his idea of the purpose of the meeting was correct, agreement would be possible.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) said that the representative of Libya had put his finger on the crucial point. The meeting would primarily be an FAO meeting, and certainly not a theoretical exercise on planning applied to non-existent data.

The CHAIRMAN summarized the discussion, and asked the representatives whether the item should be retained in the work programme.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 6.58 p.m.

FOURTH MEETING

Monday, 19 February 1962, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. de SOUZA (Dahomey)

Secretary: Mr. MATHU

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1962 - 1963 (E/CN.14/162/Rev.1) (continued)

22-01 Trade and Marketing of Agricultural Products

No comments.

22-02 Food Consumption Levels

No comments.

22-03 Commodity Stabilization

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) did not think that the project should, if continued, enjoy high priority, as the volume of trade between industrialized countries and African countries producing basic commodities was constantly diminishing.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) pointed out that stabilization of the prices of agricultural commodities was vital to the African countries. The Secretariat would continue to implement the project unless the Committee decided otherwise.

23-01 Technical Assistance to Governments

No comments.

23-02 Specific Projects of Importance to the Region

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) asked for details of the projects.

Mr. ACOCK (Secretariat) explained that the Secretariat was taking part in meetings on locust control and preparing reports. The Commission had emphasized at its third session the importance to tourism, which could become an important factor in the economic development of several African countries. The East African Institute of Social Research was co-operating in the project, which would take one year.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) pointed out that locust control came within the direct competence of FAO. The Secretariat's activities could therefore only be secondary and should not be the object of a special project. He proposed that project 23-02 be deleted and the activity, with the enquiry on tourism, included in project 23-01 (Technical Assistance to Governments).

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) seconded the proposal.

Mr. KPOGNON (Dahomey) emphasized the importance of locust control measures for the African countries. Tourism might also develop into an industry which would assist certain States to improve their economic development. He therefore asked that project 23-02 should not be deleted but receive a lower priority.

Mr. APPIAH (Ghana) declared that the project ought to be transferred, not deleted.

Mr. DOUCOURE (Mali) felt that the two activities were too important to be considered merely as an annex to the technical assistance programme. He therefore requested that project 23-02 should be retained.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Nigerian representative had not asked for the deletion of the project but simply for its inclusion in the programme of technical assistance to governments. The proposal to give the project lower priority seemed acceptable to everyone. The Secretariat would therefore take into account the view expressed by the Committee.

It was so agreed.

31-01 to 31-12 Community Development

Mr. DULPHY (Secretariat) said that in establishing this part of the programme the Secretariat had taken into account both the lessons drawn from the previous year's activities and two recommendations adopted at the Commission's third session, under the first of which there had been set up a Standing Committee on Community Development and Social Welfare - whose recent first session had provided some guidance - and the second of which had stressed the priority to be accorded to certain aspects of community development. The twofold aim of the programme was, first, not to separate social from economic development and, secondly, to ensure that projects would be as concrete as possible.

Project 31-01 (Assistance to Governments in the Planning, Organization and Administration of National Community Development Programmes) would give scope for both short-term and long-term consultations. The Technical Assistance Administration had already arranged to recruit a consultant in community development.

The purpose of project 31-02 (General Survey of Community Development in Africa) was to obtain a better knowledge of national programmes in order to draw from them conclusions of general interest.

session, covered refresher training courses for administrative and technical staff rather than training proper. The first course had been held at Dakar; there had been 19 participants and it had been a complete success. Other courses would be held in coming years. Project 41-08 continued the earlier course for the training of social workers.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) congratulated the Secretariat on drawing up a community development and social welfare programme distinguished from its predecessors by its dynamic character. He feared, however, that there was some overlapping between certain projects, especially in urbanization; he asked for reassurance. Further, the fact that the clearing-house would be at the headquarters of the Commission handicapped other Member States, and it would be interesting to know how the Secretariat intended to overcome that difficulty.

With respect to the first point raised by the representative of Nigeria, Mr. DULPHY (Secretariat) said that the study on Addis Ababa had been carried out in conjunction with the Social Research Section, which dealt with urbanization, and that subsequent projects would be similarly conducted, thus obviating the danger of duplication.

The Secretariat intended that the clearing-house should be an active force. In addition to the card index and documentation which would be available at Addis Ababa, the Secretariat was considering the publication of a liaison bulletin which would be sent to all Member States and would contain not only theoretical articles but also accounts of the results obtained in various countries. It was also considering using microfilms for the conveyance of all material at its disposal to the governments concerned. Finally, it would keep governments supplied with documents and bibliographies.

Mr. KPOGNON (Dahomey) congratulated the Secretariat on the high priority it had allocated to community development, which was indispensable to African countries. He hoped that the application of community development to the rural as well as the urban sector would be studied. He would also like a study to be made of the economic measures necessary to enable community development to play its role in the State. Finally, he hoped that the training of specialized personnel would be accelerated so that community development might play its proper part, above all in agriculture.

Mr. ACQUAH (Ghana) congratulated the Secretariat on its community development programme. With respect to project 32-06, which provided for a study tour on social welfare, he asked why the tour was confined to women. It was a fact that in most African countries women held much lower positions in the welfare services than men. If they wished the programmes to improve, exchanges of view should be at a higher level and between more experienced persons.

As regards project 31-10, he was glad to see that the Secretariat was studying urban development by concentrating on migrations, about which hardly anything was yet known. He emphasized, however, that the conclusions of the study made on Addis Ababa would not necessarily apply to any country but Ethiopia and he hoped that the Secretariat would continue to be realistic in that respect.

41-01 to 41-06 Training

Introducing projects 41-01 (Training Facilities in Africa) and 41-02 (Training in Economic and Social Planning), Mr. OYRZANOWSKI (Secretariat) pointed out that the duties of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, which the United Nations General Assembly had decided should be established under the auspices of the ECA, would include training, research and advisory functions. Preparatory work was being carried on actively in co-operation with universities, research institutes and other appropriate bodies in Africa, as well as with the United Nations specialized agencies.

Mr. KPOGNON (Dahomey) hoped that the Secretariat would reserve its due place to the accelerated training of African staff, since it was above all the absence of qualified staff which hindered the execution of development plans.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) emphasized the necessity of previously determining the categories of specialists needed by the African countries for their economic and social development. He agreed that the success of development programmes depended on the quality and quantity of the staff assigned to execute them.

Teaching personnel to train African staff was another important consideration. The Secretariat should take care that the training was not unilateral; it should therefore call upon specialists from all parts of the world, including planned-economy countries, and preferably specialists from under-developed regions with difficulties similar to those of Africa. There should be no repetition of a recent experience, in which the direction of a training course had been entrusted to two American professors who had never been to Africa or had any contact with African university circles.

Replying to the representative of Dahomey, Mr. OYRZANOWSKI (Secretariat) said that the Secretariat hoped to remedy the present scarcity of African staff by organizing short training courses, following the example of the Latin American countries.

In reply to the representative of Nigeria, he said that during the next two months two members of the Secretariat would visit several African countries for the express purpose of determining their needs in qualified staff. The Secretariat was also in liaison with the African universities on that subject and hoped soon to have a pretty clear idea of the situation. As to the training courses organized, it went without saying that the Secretariat always endeavoured to entrust them to the most qualified specialists available, irrespective of nationality or any other consideration.

Mr. LARDNER (Nigeria) wanted to know what the Secretariat understood exactly by "in-service training". He hoped the expression did not apply solely to the training courses organized to date, particularly at United Nations Headquarters, which had left much to be desired.

Mr. MATHU (Committee Secretary) gave as an example project 41-03 (In-service Training for African Economists and Statisticians), which had started two years before. Under that project, ECA sent African officials - economists, statisticians, planners - appointed at the suggestion of their governments, to attend courses at the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or the Economic Commission for Europe, where they followed the research work carried out in that special sector. At present, a trainee from Sierra Leone was studying economic development planning at Bangkok and a Sudanese trainee was specializing in trade questions at Geneva.

ECA also reserved at its headquarters a certain number of "training" posts, the holders of which participated closely in the work of the service to which they were assigned. There was, for example, a young official from Ghana who was being initiated into the trade problems of Africa. ECA proposed to extend such activities through the establishment of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

He added that the summer course for African university students of economics and statistics (Project 41-04) had been arranged at the express request of the participants in the Conference of Rectors of African Universities held at Khartoum in December 1960. In 1961, ECA had invited 20 universities to send some 30 students to the course. The main purpose of the course, which had lasted eight weeks, had been to relate theoretical economics as taught in the universities to actual problems in Africa, and the results obtained had been most encouraging. During the current year some 40 students from about 20 universities were expected to attend.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.