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REPORT ON THE SUMMER COURSE IN ECONOMICS
FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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1. The second summer course in Economic Development for African Students, under the joint sponsorship of ECA and U.S.A.I.D. was held in Addis ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 July to 31 August 1962. This is in accordance with the requirement of ECA resolution 17(II) on which the Commission's continuing project 41-04 of the 1962-63 Programme of Work and Priorities is based. The Commission discussed this matter under item 12 of the fourth session's agenda.
2. The main objectives of the seminar are to provide an intensive course in development economics; to acquaint participating students with the similarities and diversities in problems facing African countries in their quest for economic development and to afford an opportunity to African students from different countries to look at their problems together.
3. The faculty consisted of one professor from the U.A.R. (Director), one professor from a French-speaking university in Africa, two English-speaking professors, one of whom was contributed by FAO.
4. The seminar was attended by thirty students from fourteen different African countries. The academic level of most students attending the seminar was equal to that of students in most European and American universities.
5. The programme of the course included five basic fields of study: development economics, planning and programming, monetary, financial and international aspects of economic development, structural and regional problems and agricultural economics. Students were required to attend each week 15 working hours, evenly divided between lectures and discussions. Apart from the four professors who taught courses,

nine ECA members of the Secretariat were invited to deliver special lectures dealing with particular problems of African economic development.

6. With the seminar focussed as it was on the comparative study of problems faced by developing countries, with particular emphasis on Africa, the students found something new and challenging in the lectures and discussions which is often missing in the regular university courses.

7. In this "Decade of Development", the value of a summer course such as this cannot be over-estimated, and the hope was expressed that this kind of training would be a permanent feature of ECA activities.

8. In future, it might be a help if the professors prepared their lectures ahead of time and submitted them for translation a month before the beginning of the course. While almost four-fifths of the students attended five weeks of the seminar, the last week was marked by the departure of seven students for a variety of reasons.

9. Both the students and teachers felt that while the six-week period was appropriate, the opening date should be advanced two weeks in order to allow for the termination of the seminar some time before the commencement of the academic year in a number of African universities.