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INFORMATION PAPER ON SURVEY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Note by the Executive Secretary.

1. At its first session the Economic Commission for Africa "considered that there was a great need in Africa for certain types of scientific surveys such as hydrological, geological, geodetic and other surveys of resources including resources for industrialization and of energy such as solar energy" (report E/3201). According to this report, "the view was expressed that as part of this work the secretariat might compile a bibliography of surveys already carried out and draw attention to major gaps".
2. At the request of the Executive Secretary, and as a follow-up to the partial bibliography of surveys on natural resources compiled by UNESCO in 1959 and submitted to the second session of the Commission (E/CN.14/30 and Corr. 1 and 2), UNESCO undertook a survey of the natural resources of the African continent. This was an attempt to gather and review, as far as possible, all existing knowledge on the natural resources of Africa and to present in the form of bibliographies, inventories or indices, a list of works already published covering several of the chapters included in the survey. In some cases bibliographies directly related to the chapters are given in the form of annexes. An inventory of topographic maps in Africa and a list of geological bibliographies of African territories are also appended.

3. Investigation into the natural conditions and resources of the African continent were carried out in the following major fields : topography and maps; geology, applied geology (inclusive of mineral resources) and geophysics; climate and meteorology; hydrology and water resources; soils, including conservation; flora; and fauna (taxonomy, ecology and zoogeography as well as applied entomology and protection of gamestock).

4. These studies are available at the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa in a 500-page document. Since the highly technical nature of this document combined with its very considerable size make its general distribution extremely difficult and expensive, it is suggested that governments or individuals interested in specific sections of the Survey may wish to request the ECA secretariat to make available to them the appropriate sections.

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