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DEMARCATION OF REGIONAL FRONTIERS AND REGIONAL FUNCTIONS

by

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DEMARCATION OF REGIONAL FRONTIERS AND REGIONAL FUNCTIONS

The criteria for demarcating regions; geographic, historical, administrative, economic and social. The problems arising from the differences between the politico-administrative criteria and the economic criteria. Interdependence between the regional functions and the limits of regions. Small regions or large regions.

Participation and representation at regional level;: method of election and membership of local assemblies; balance between the representatives of economic circles and elected politicians. Choice of the regional executive. Constitution of an economic and physical planning team in the region: number of experts and rôle in relation to the central planning body.

Knowledge of the economic and social data of the regions

Population: population censuses, problems involved in ascertaining the migrations between regions and from and to abroad. Economic data: trend of employment, size and structures of enterprises. Incomes and level of living: agricultural incomes, wages etc... Directions of research in order to make progress: regional bodies for storing data ("informatics" or data-processing centres) and regional economic accounting.

Problems posed in Africa by the setting up of a regional organization

Determination of natural economic regions and nature of their economic activities. Degree of autonomy acceptable for these regions in a new State: need to ensure consistency of decisions on economic policy in the Plan: consequences as regards the rôle of the regional levels of planning. Choices must relate to the functions to be carried out by the regions, distinguishing between three types of demarcation: for overall survey (major zones for physical planning, agricultural regions etc...) for programming (regional physical planning and investment programmes), and for setting up a new political and administrative organization (regional assembly, executive and administration).