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WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE
SECOND SESSION

Report of the Executive Secretary

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SECOND SESSIONA. Organization of the SecretariatSTAFFING POSITION

1. Considerable progress was made in recruitment for the Secretariat during 1960. Whereas at the end of 1959 there were 17 professional staff members and 35 staff members in the general service category, by the end of 1960 the total staff strength stood at 105 of whom 42 were professional staff. Four more professional staff had accepted offers of appointment and were due to report early in 1961. A considerable proportion of the new staff joined the Secretariat during the fourth quarter of the year.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT

2. The structure of the Secretariat was as follows:

- (a) Office of the Executive Secretary;
- (b) Research Division, comprising sections dealing with economic research, social research and statistics;
- (c) Division of Industry, Transport and Natural Resources;
- (d) ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division;
- (e) Community Development Branch;
- (f) Division of Administration, Conferences and General Services comprising a Personnel Office and Finance Office, Language Section, Library, Registry, Secretariat and Typing Pools and Documents Reproduction and Distribution unit.

3. Attention was given during the year to the building up of a reference library and to the collection and organization of documents from Member States and from the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The process is by no means completed and close attention will continue to be given to this matter.

B. Summary of work done

4. In addition to the specific projects in the work programme approved by the second session the Secretariat was engaged in activities in various African countries in the form of advisory services, help in drawing up technical assistance programmes and in emergency activities at the request of Headquarters. References are made to these activities in appropriate sections of this report and in Part A of the Programme of Work and Priorities 1961-1962 (E/CN.14/87). The Executive Secretary served as the Head of a United Nations technical assistance mission which surveyed the needs of the countries of the Entente and of Cameroun in 1960. He also took part in the debates of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly on technical assistance. The Deputy Executive Secretary advised on the reorganization of public administration in Somalia and served in the Congo (Leopoldville) as a member of the Consultative Group.

I. Research Division

Economic and social development

5. During 1960 the Secretariat continued to collect and analyze information on plans, problems and policies in the field of economic and social development. Members of the staff consulted government officials in several countries and engaged in preparatory studies of various aspects of development policies and programming, in accordance with the programme of work and priorities adopted by the Commission at its second session (E/3320, project 01-01 (a), page 23).

6. A survey of development programmes and policies in selected African countries and territories was prepared for inclusion in the first issue of the Economic Bulletin for Africa (see para. 45). This survey, which is based on the official documents listed in the appendix to the Bulletin article, contains a description and classification of plans and policies in about 20 countries and territories in Africa.

The various plans are classified in two broad groups. The first group includes plans which largely represent public expenditure programmes and do not contain projections, objectives or targets for the private sector. It is sub-divided, by reference to the lines of policy followed, into 5 categories: (1) plans emphasizing produce evacuation, (2) plans emphasizing infrastructure for industry, (3) plans concentrating on agrarian and land reform, (4) plans stressing improvement of agricultural exports and (5) plans aiming at accelerated industrialization. The second group includes plans which are comprehensive in the sense that they contain projections for the economy as a whole within a consistent framework. These plans may be subdivided according to the number of projections made and the number of inter-relationships among economic variables considered.

7. The general impression conveyed by the survey is that, apart from the countries of North Africa, development programming in the region has gone little beyond planning of government capital expenditure.

It appears, however, that a stage has now been reached where it becomes more and more difficult to say in what direction an economy should be guided to achieve its fastest rate of growth or to foresee where bottlenecks may develop. Realizing this, many governments in Africa have moved towards the acceptance of a more comprehensive conception of planning and economic policy, which they are now beginning to put into effect.

8. Plans have been made to convene a working party on economic and social development in the autumn of 1961 (E/3320, project 01-01 (e), page 23). These plans, as well as the direction of further work in the field of development policies and programming, are described in an information paper (E/CN.14/95), submitted to the third session of the Commission. Preparatory work was also undertaken in connexion with the budget workshop (E/3320, project 01-05, page 24) which will be conducted in September 1961. Members of the Secretariat and of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters visited a

number of African countries and territories to consult government officials on technical aspects of budget reclassification and management and on the topics to be selected for discussion at the workshop.

9. The general discussion at the Conference of Heads of Universities and University Colleges in Khartoum (see paragraphs 111-112) showed a universal shortage of teaching staff and research facilities and also a feeling of insufficiency of the volume of research carried on in Africa on problems relating to African economic and social development. The conference made a number of suggestions for more effective co-operation among universities and for assistance from international organizations in their task of the training of economists, statisticians, public administrators, managers of industries and related personnel.

10. The International Association for Research into Income and Wealth held its first African regional conference in Addis Ababa from 4 to 11 January 1961. Senior officials responsible for work on national accounts in Africa and international experts in this field participated. The following three topics were examined during the conference: critical stock-taking of national income work in Africa, special patterns of national income estimation in Africa, and the uses of national accounts for development purposes.

11. In response to a recommendation of the First Conference of African Statisticians (E/3320, project 01-01 (b), page 23), the Commission took advantage of the presence of many national income experts in Addis Ababa to organize from 11 to 14 January a short meeting, which was attended by some of the participants in the IARIW conference, on the uses of national accounts as a foundation for economic policy and development programming and related conclusions on the orientation of statistical development in Africa. The report (E/CN.14/84) which will be submitted for formal approval to the second Conference of African Statisticians, is circulated to the third session of the Commission for information.

12. In the demographic field, the Commission has co-operated in a number of projects applying to the African region initiated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters. The first project of participation in international programmes was a case study of arrangements for evaluating and utilizing population census results to show how demographic data can serve as a factual basis for government policies and action programmes in various fields of economic and social development. A case study on this subject for the Egyptian region was carried out by a staff member of the Commission in co-operation with the Government of the United Arab Republic in connexion with the 1960 population census in that country. Close contact was maintained with the UN demographer assigned to conduct a pilot study on population growth and manpower in the Sudan on the basis of the 1956 census. Furthermore, the Secretariat assisted the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters in the preparation of a five-year programme of assistance to under-developed countries in population studies with special reference to the demographic needs of Africa. Demographic activities related to the Statistical Survey of Africa and the Statistical Handbook are described in paragraphs 57, 61 and 65 below.

13. Whereas the demographic programme was initiated towards the end of 1959, work on social aspects of economic development did not start until the middle of 1960, when staff became available. To assist the Accra Workshop on Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes (see paragraphs 101 and 102 below), a paper was prepared on the effects of urbanization on family life in Africa, mainly designed to clarify the chief problems of family adjustment in an African urban environment. This paper which is submitted to the Commission for information (E/CN.14/71) was prepared in close co-operation with the Community Development Branch.

14. Arrangements were made with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters for studies in the field of low-cost housing, with special reference to self-help programmes. These studies will provide the basis for the 1961 Workshop scheduled under project 31-05. A start was also made on the study of educational requirements under economic development programmes (E/2320, project 01-06, page 24) in co-operation with the UNESCO Liaison Officer to the Secretariat of the Commission. Field work in connexion with this study will be initiated early in 1961.

15. The Secretariat participated in the Inter-Agency Working Party held in Geneva in December 1960 to prepare a world-wide programme of concerted action on the problems of urbanization. As a part of this programme, the ECA in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters and the specialized agencies have planned a workshop on urbanization in Africa in 1962. Basic preparatory work for these activities in Africa have already been undertaken by the Secretariat, including the collection of demographic data on African cities, and the compilation of a comprehensive bibliography on urbanization in Africa (see also para. 103 below).

16. A general information paper (E/CN.14/70) on social aspects of economic development was submitted to the third session of the Commission. This paper analyzes the inter-relationships between economic and social factors in Africa, discusses the special kind of social research best suited to promote economic development programmes, and outlines the type of activity contemplated by the Secretariat in this field over the next few years.

17. During the past year the Secretariat participated in various technical assistance activities, including the evaluation of country programmes for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters, and rendered advisory services to governments at their request. Two staff members participated for a considerable period of time in the economic and financial work of the UN office of

Civilian Operations in the Congo. Advisory services were rendered to the Government of Sudan in connexion with the organization of its economic research and the Wadi Halfa resettlement scheme for some 40,000 inhabitants who must be evacuated as a result of the construction of the Aswan High Dam. In the latter case advice took the form of a written report from ECA, based on five weeks' intensive study of the social problems involved, covering the questions of resettlement sites, social and economic policies, and kinds of technical assistance needed (see also para. 56).

International trade

18. At its second session, the Commission accorded high priority to studies and reports in the field of international trade. Resolution 7 (II) requested the Executive Secretary to prepare studies on the effects of European economic groupings on African economies for examination by an ad hoc committee of representatives of members and associate members. Moreover, resolution 8 (II) called for surveys of the state and potentialities of intra-African trade and industry, and requested the Executive Secretary to lend his assistance in the preparation for and the conduct of a conference of African businessmen. Finally, the programme of work and priorities approved for 1960-61 included studies on regional trade arrangements made or contemplated in areas other than western Europe and of international action to stabilize commodity prices (E/3320, projects 02-01 (c) and 01-04 (b), page 24).

19. In response to these requests by the Commission, the Executive Secretary prepared, in 1960, a report on the impact of west-European integration on African trade and development (E/CN.14/72), a study on the significance of recent common market developments in Latin America (E/CN.14/64) and a report on international action to stabilize commodity prices (E/CN.14/68). Moreover, foreign trade developments and problems were described and analyzed in the first issue of Economic Bulletin for Africa (see paras. 41-44 below). The activities of the Secretariat in the field of international trade included also consultations with

government officials in a number of countries, collection of documentation, preparatory work on a number of specific problems and assistance in preparations for the Conference of African Businessmen.

20. In preparing the reports mentioned above the Secretariat was greatly assisted by secondment of staff from the Economic Commission for Europe and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters. Valuable assistance was also provided by the Secretariat of GATT and by other bodies, including the European Economic Community (EEC).

21. The report on the impact of west-European integration deals mainly with EEC. When the report was prepared, EEC had not yet taken certain major policy decisions contemplated in the Treaty of Rome instituting the Community. It was therefore necessary to concentrate, on the one hand, on a factual description of recent developments within EEC and, on the other, on an analysis of the effects of the customs union provisions of the Rome Treaty on African overseas trade, intra-African trade and industrialization.

22. The report devotes special attention to the position of newly independent African States which are associated with EEC. Their independence raised not only the problem of the legal status of the countries concerned but also that of the terms of association which had been formulated at a time when a passive relationship existed. As far as Africa's overseas trade is concerned, the report states that the EEC tariff regime is not likely to have important consequences for consumer prices and consumption in the EEC market. It may, however, influence current trade and production patterns in a number of important African export commodities, especially coffee, cocoa, vegetable oils, bananas and tropical timber in which the African countries associated with EEC would be expected to increase their shares in the EEC market at the expense of non-associated countries in Africa and in other parts of the world. Some of the latter countries are also likely to suffer adverse effects in their trade in and production of temperate-zone agricultural commodities. Existing information on supply conditions

in Africa and on the reactions of producers in African countries and territories to price changes does not provide an adequate basis for assessing the effects on production. Nevertheless, the report attempts to appraise the significance of two factors, namely, type of ownership (modern plantations or peasant holdings) and the time-lag between investment and production. An attempt is made to assess in some detail the position of individual African countries and territories.

23. The EEC and EFTA have long-term implications for African industrialization, in the sense that they are likely to affect current and potential production of and trade in processed materials and manufactures. Whereas the countries associated with the EEC are in a relatively favourable position, since their processed goods have duty-free access to the EEC market, the non-associated countries will not benefit from any special tariff concessions from either of the European trade groupings. The prospects of the export of manufactures from associated countries to Europe are, however, limited and remote. The immediate interest of these countries is, therefore, in industrialization for the domestic market. In this respect countries associated with EEC may run the risk of being hampered by certain aspects of their association especially if they were to prefer the advantage of tariff concessions to the long-run gains of industrial development.

24. Intra-African trade would probably not be substantially affected in the immediate future by these trade groupings. In the somewhat longer run, however, the associated countries may find it difficult to reconcile their special relations with EEC with the need for closer regional ties to promote intra-African trade. This problem is particularly important in West Africa where associated and non-associated countries are contiguous. The report suggests therefore the organization of a special West-African trade conference prior to the renegotiation of the present convention of association with EEC, which expires at the end of 1962. The purpose of this conference would be to assess West-African trade and development and to consider commercial and other policies which could be of mutual benefit.

25. The introductory part of the report on common market developments in Latin America discusses types of regional economic groupings in all parts of the world, the forms of institutional arrangements adopted and the purposes of regional economic co-operation. This is followed by a brief description of the structure and growth of the Latin American economies with special emphasis on trade and industrialization. The main body of the report is devoted to an analysis of the various attempts to promote a Latin American common market. These include either the region as a whole (proposals of the expert working group of the Economic Commission for Latin America) or parts of the region (the Treaty of Montevideo covering seven South American countries and the Central American Programme of five nations). Special attention is given to the problem of discrepancies between the levels of development reached by various participants and to consideration by GATT of the arrangements concluded. The payment arrangements and the principle of reciprocity are also discussed in some detail, because of the importance attached to these subjects by the Latin American countries.

26. Although conditions in Latin America differ from those prevailing in other regions, the experience described in the report would be of some relevance to other under-developed areas. Most under-developed countries may face serious difficulties if they attempt to industrialize in isolation, especially after the first phase of industrialization in non-durable consumer goods has passed. In Africa, however, some of the newly independent countries are so small that they do not offer adequate markets even for non-durable consumer goods industries. Their situation is much more comparable to that of the Central American Republics - where the level of industrial development is also low - than to that of the larger and more advanced Latin American countries.

27. In a sense Africa is in a relatively more favourable position for regional co-operation than Latin America, since the very fact that there are certain well-established industries in Latin America pre-disposes people to think in terms of industry based on national markets alone;

and for this reason there is considerable resistance to the idea of broader regional markets. In Africa there may be fewer obstacles to overcome in the form of vested interests. There are also other respects in which the economic background of African countries may facilitate regional co-operation. African countries have not, in the past, experienced internal and external disequilibrium on the scale that is characteristic of Latin America. This is connected with the hitherto dependent status of African countries and with the absence of pressures for economic and industrial development such as have prevailed in Latin America. African countries are not so far faced with the obstacles to co-operation which result from such factors as rapid inflation or currency instability. There is, however, the danger that the creation of a large number of independent African States, each possessing economic and monetary autonomy may lead to the fragmentation of markets, rather than to closer and more comprehensive co-operation. African countries do now have the opportunity, during their transition to independence, to build on experience of economic co-operation inherited from the past and to adapt and utilize that experience in new ways and for new purposes.

28. The report on commodity stabilization examines the general problem of commodity instability, the principles which may be applied in dealing with this problem and the development of international action in the fields of production and trade in primary commodities. It then considers the statistical position of African countries and territories in various commodity markets, proceeding therefrom to a brief discussion of the general attitudes which African governments might adopt to existing or projected stabilization schemes.

29. The predominant role of primary commodities in their economies makes African countries and territories keenly interested in any action for commodity stabilization. Despite marked increases in recent years, Africa's share in world exports of most primary commodities remains comparatively small. But African exports of individual primary commodities are frequently concentrated in a few countries, which

may therefore occupy a strategic position in respect to international schemes for commodity stabilization even in cases where Africa, as a region, does not dominate the market.

30. Whatever the statistical position of a given commodity, there is likely to be some scope for regional co-operation, which will almost certainly become more and more important for commodity stabilization in coming years. What appears to be a promising form of regional co-operation in Africa is the co-ordination of the policies of existing organs such as "marketing boards" and "caisses de stabilisation".

31. In the past, international negotiations on commodities were often conducted by metropolitan countries on behalf of their dependent territories in Africa. From now on the governments of the newly independent African countries will take an increasingly active part in shaping international commodity policies. One of their main problems at present appears to be the policies to adopt on restrictionist schemes which may conflict with the basic interest of African growth and efficiency.

32. Although intra-African trade is mentioned only occasionally in the various documents produced by the Secretariat, work on the subject has been a major preoccupation throughout the year. An attempt was made to obtain at least a summary picture of the problems raised by and possible ways of promoting intra-African trade. Its importance was found to be greatest for West Africa, but also very marked for a number of countries in other parts of the continent.

33. As far as West-African trade is concerned, the Executive Secretary considers that there is an urgent need for surveys of unrecorded trade among the countries concerned. A major effort is also required to clarify and improve foreign trade statistics (see also paragraph 62) and to survey in detail customs regulations, classifications and practices in West-African countries. These activities would call for close co-operation not only with the governments but also with commercial and industrial firms operating in the area.

34. In this connexion the Executive Secretary is looking forward to the Conference of African Businessmen which is to be convened in 1961 to consider intra-African capital movements, expansion of trade and markets among African countries and co-operation through joint venture in the development of their natural resources by private enterprise. A member of the Secretariat attended the preliminary meeting held at Monrovia in early August 1960, and the Executive Secretary continues to keep in close touch with developments in the planning of the Conference.

35. In the course of its work on trade problems the Secretariat noted that a considerable amount of knowledge is accumulated in Ministries of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, Customs Administrations and other bodies which would be of great help in the interpretation of published data. Close and continuous relations should therefore be established between the Secretariat and the officials of these bodies. The interpretation of quantitative and qualitative information relating to trade requires highly specialized knowledge both of trade problems in general and of the special conditions in African countries in particular. It has proved difficult to secure the services of economists expert in either of these fields, and virtually impossible to find any qualified in both. Hence, the trade work of the Secretariat may be hampered in coming years by staffing difficulties which can only be overcome by extensive training and specialization of the Secretariat's research staff.

International economic assistance to Africa

36. In response to the request contained in paragraph 55 of the report of the first session of the Commission (E/3201) and as a sequel to the review of current bilateral and multilateral economic assistance to Africa prepared in 1959 for the second session (E/CN.14/23), a review of international economic assistance to Africa (E/CN.14/88) was prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters in consultation with the Secretariat of the Commission.

37. This review analyses the flow of public assistance in the form of grants-in-aid, long-term loans in cash or kind of an economic nature, and corresponding re-payments of principal. Bilateral and multilateral assistance received by African countries and territories in the two-year period 1957-1959 is summarized in tabular form by contributing country or international agency and by recipient country or territory. The tabular summary is followed by a description of recent developments in multilateral assistance, including loans by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and contributions by United Nations technical assistance agencies to African countries and territories for the period 1 January 1958 - 31 December 1959. Information is also provided, detailed by recipient country, on United Nations Special Fund projects, the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP), and the European Economic Development Fund. Finally, material is presented on recent developments in bilateral assistance from four major sources, namely France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, with details under each scheme and programme.

38. The review shows that in recent years there has been a steady and remarkable growth of international assistance to Africa, although until a year or two ago, in the perspective of the period 1953/1954 - 1957/1959, such assistance had increased somewhat less than in the case of the under-developed regions of Latin America and Asia.

39. As regards loans made to Africa as a whole by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Africa's share of all loans by the Bank has strikingly increased. Up to 30 June 1959 that share was only \$589 million out of a total of \$4,426 million, i.e. 13.3 per cent; but it rose to 36.3 per cent (\$239.2 million out of \$659 million) in the period 1 July 1959 - 30 June 1960. Similarly, the proportion of all regular United Nations technical assistance funds devoted to Africa increased from 6 to 16.3 per cent between 1955 and 1960, while, as of 31 May 1960, a total of \$6,615,200 from the United Nations Special Fund was approved for African countries. Similar increases have been recorded in bilateral assistance,

and there is reason to believe that the trend will continue; but the increases recorded still fall short of needs.

Review and analysis of current trends

40. The first issue of an Economic Bulletin for Africa (E/CN.14/67) was prepared in accordance with the programme of work and priorities approved by the Commission at its second session (see E/3320, project 03-01, page 24). This comprises two analytical parts and a statistical appendix containing foreign trade and production data; Part A deals with current trends, mainly in the field of trade, while Part B contains three articles on specific subjects.

41. The preparation of the first issue of the Bulletin met with difficulties due to the great number of countries and territories to be covered, the shortage of staff at the beginning of 1960, the rapid political and institutional changes during the year and, above all, the general lack of adequate statistical and factual information. Even when such information was potentially available it proved often difficult for the Secretariat to obtain it in time. The differences in nomenclature and classification among national statistics, frequent revisions of data already published, varying shares of unrecorded trade and other similar shortcomings should also be mentioned as serious problems. Only close co-operation between the ECA Secretariat and African governments can eliminate or reduce some of these difficulties for the future, and thus improve the quality of the Secretariat's work.

42. As is shown in Part A of the Bulletin, total African trade between 1958 and 1959 followed very closely the general trade pattern of primary exporting countries. The latter year was one of expanding economic activity in industrial countries, though the expansion affected the trade of industrial countries with one another more than their trade with primary countries. While it is true that the volume of exports from primary exporting countries showed an impressive rise between 1958 and 1959, a further decline in the prices of primary commodities made the primary exporting countries' corresponding gain in foreign exchange earnings considerably smaller. On the whole, despite the greater quantity of goods

exported, the 1959 expansion did little more than restore the 1957 level of these countries' export proceeds.

43. Roughly in line with the overall increase in exports of primary exporting countries, total African exports in volume terms showed a rise of somewhat over 10 per cent, while the increase in value did not amount to half that figure. Imports, on the other hand, were below the 1958 level in both volume and value. Expressed as a percentage of imports, exports rose from 73.7 per cent in 1958 to almost 81 per cent in 1959; but, as already stated, this improvement in the trade balance of the region was partly due to reductions in imports, especially, in many cases, imports of capital goods. The figures for the first quarter of 1960 show a further increase in African exports, but also - in contrast to the 1959 developments - a substantial rise in imports, probably reflecting the higher level of export proceeds achieved in 1959, with due regard to the usual time-lag.

44. The trends in total African exports and imports, however, conceal significant divergencies in the development of trade in individual countries and territories. It appears in general that, as in the case of most primary exporting countries, African exporters of raw materials fared considerably better in 1959-60 than countries and territories which belong to the predominantly food-exporting group. However, increases in the quantities of the products exported enabled a number of countries in the latter group to achieve substantial increases in their export values despite the decline in prices of food products. Moreover, in a few cases certain exceptional circumstances played an important role in determining the 1959 export level. The changes by sub-region and country in exports and imports in 1958, 1959 and, whenever possible, in the first part of 1960 are discussed in some detail in the Bulletin, which also includes notes on production of and trade in a number of individual African export commodities.

45. Part B of the Bulletin contains a survey of development programmes and policies (see paragraphs 6 and 7 above), an article on institutional changes in selected African countries and an analysis of economic developments in the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) from 1957 to September 1960.

46. In recent years, important institutional changes have taken place in African countries, particularly in the fields of foreign economic relations and central banking. Such changes occurred in a large number of countries belonging to the Franc Zone. Within the Sterling Area, where changes were more limited in scope, Ghana, Nigeria and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland were selected for closer analysis. Outside the two main currency areas, important institutional changes occurred in the Congo (Leopoldville) and Somalia. The analysis of individual countries is preceded by brief appraisals of the mechanisms of the Franc Zone and the Sterling Area from the point of view of their African members.

47. The main positive features of the Franc Zone arrangements are summarized as follows: (a) on the monetary side these arrangements were used to eliminate balance-of-payments difficulties (at least in relation to the Zone) as an obstacle to economic development; (b) they included a large-scale programme of public assistance with investments mostly in infrastructure; (c) by achieving some degree of stabilization of commodity prices within the Zone, they gave a considerable incentive to primary production; (d) they also provided a framework favourable to trade expansion between members other than Metropolitan France. However, there were also certain inherent dangers, especially in the long term, since the arrangements tended to create semi-autarkic conditions with a pattern of high prices. Moreover, the working of the whole mechanism involved strongly centralized powers of decision in all fields - a feature which was incompatible with the growing political autonomy. The attitude of the member countries of the Franc Zone after independence varied from a clear break (Guinea) to negotiated adjustments (Malagasy Republic and the former Mali Federation), while Morocco and Tunisia retained some links with the Zone.

48. The extreme flexibility of the Sterling Area arrangements makes an appraisal rather difficult. The trade preferences of the Commonwealth tended to decrease in importance, but members continued to derive significant advantages from belonging to a vast trading area with varied resources and a convertible currency. The Currency Boards instituted in the colonies were replaced by central banks, as they were not equipped to create local capital and money markets or to serve as a tool of government policies. Finally, the price paid for the banking and monetary services of the Sterling Area was frequently felt to be too high and attempts were made to change the distribution of official holdings.

49. The article on the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) was originally prepared by a United Nations economist, during his assignment to the United Nations Office of Civilian Operations in the Congo, for the use of experts advising the Congolese Government on general economic and financial problems. This Bulletin article reviews general economic developments in the Congo from 1957 until the summer of 1960 and presents an analysis of economic conditions and problems during the first three months following independence.

50. The Republic of the Congo did not attain independence in favourable economic circumstances. In fact, at the end of June 1960 the economy was operating below capacity; unemployment was substantial in urban centres, and foreign exchange reserves and treasury balances had declined to abnormally low levels. This situation was aggravated as a result of the events which took place after the attainment of independence.

51. In September 1960, economic conditions were characterized by low utilization of plant and equipment, increased unemployment in urban areas and substantial declines in the volume of foreign trade and in public revenue and expenditure. The basic reasons for the deterioration in supply and production were lack of security, break-down of the administrative machinery, cessation of relations with Katanga and lack of a national central bank. The same factors contributed also to a steep decline in the volume of aggregate demand, which however, mitigated the danger of serious inflationary pressures.

52. The physical machinery of production and distribution remained largely intact at that time. The broad aim of a rational economic policy would therefore be to improve supply conditions rather than to curb the growth of demand. Aggregate demand should be allowed and - whenever necessary - even stimulated to grow in step with the improvement of supply conditions.

Statistical survey of Africa

53. In implementing the Statistical Survey (E/3320, project 04-01, page 25), the Secretariat took steps during 1960 to follow up developments and, where requested, to render direct assistance to members and associate members in the preparation of programmes covering statistical activities over the next five years. Three statisticians from the Secretariat and also a UN Regional Adviser appointed under the Technical Assistance Regional Programme visited seven North African and eleven West African countries during the first half of the year. In addition, two informal meetings were convened at the instance of the Executive Secretary. The first of these, which was held in Nairobi from 30th May to 3rd June 1960, was between two ECA statisticians and the heads of the statistical offices of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, the East African Statistical Department and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland; the second, held in Cairo from 21st to 24th November 1960 was between the UN Adviser, two ECA statisticians and the heads of the statistical offices of Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and UAR.

54. During the visits to individual countries and also at the two informal meetings country programmes for the Statistical Survey of Africa were discussed, advice was given on technical assistance requirements in connexion with these programmes and the subjects of regional co-operation in the statistical field, training requirements, exchange of documents and evaluation of data were also covered.

55. Projects of co-operation for 1961 were considered at both the informal meetings. At Nairobi a review was made of field surveys due to be started in East and Central Africa in 1961-62 and it was decided that study tours could well be organized in 1962, when household surveys would be in operation. At Cairo forthcoming activities by the participating countries were reviewed and it was suggested that a visit to the Tunisian surveys might take place in June 1961 on the occasion of the Second Conference of African Statisticians and that a study tour would be planned for the third quarter of 1961 to visit field surveys in UAR and Morocco.
56. Plans for training centres in three countries, to provide training on a sub-regional basis with UN assistance, are under negotiation with the countries concerned and are referred to in more detail in the training section of this report. The Commission has provided technical assistance to Tunisia in connexion with that country's programme of statistical surveys and to Sudan in connexion with the Wadi Halfa survey and with a programme of statistical expansion ancillary to the Sudanese Seven-Year Development Plan.
57. Consultative advice was provided in connexion with the censuses and demographic surveys being carried out in North and West Africa by the demographer of the Commission during two visits made to these sub-regions and during the study tour of West African statisticians on population census techniques.
58. In accordance with the recommendations of the First Conference of African Statisticians (report E/CN.14/25 paras. 61 & 64), arrangements have been made to convene a second conference of African statisticians in the second half of June 1961. It will be the task of that conference to review the progress of the Statistical Survey of Africa to date and to recommend lines of future development. The Government of Tunisia has kindly extended an invitation for the conference to be held in Tunis.

59. During 1960 a UN adviser on statistics was seconded to the Secretariat for the specific purpose of visiting African countries and assessing their technical assistance needs. He assisted the statisticians of the Secretariat who had occasion to visit countries in connexion with the preparation of country programmes for the Statistical Survey of Africa. The Secretariat maintained close contact with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters and played an active part in the negotiations for assistance requested by African countries. A member of the Secretariat participated in a technical assistance mission to Somalia, to assess the needs of that country for assistance in the statistical field.

60. A detailed progress report on the Statistical Survey of Africa is submitted to the Third Session of the Commission (E/CN.14/83).

Exchange of information and development of statistical techniques

61. A study tour in connexion with the Ghana census was held in Accra from 3rd to 20th June 1960 in co-operation with the Government of Ghana. The study tour which was held with the participation of most countries of the sub-region, was organized in conjunction with the post-enumeration survey of the Ghana population census and served as a demonstration project in problems relating to the collection of demographic data in West Africa. It permitted a discussion of the planning and operational aspect of population censuses and an evaluation of variations in techniques in the countries represented at the meeting.

62. Two Working Groups on National Accounts met in Addis Ababa from 27 June to 2 July 1960 and from 11 to 14 January 1961, respectively. The first of the Working Groups was concerned with a methodological study, viz. the treatment of the subsistence sector in national accounting; the second was concerned with practical applications of national accounting to the needs of development programming (paragraphs 10-11 above). The reports of these two Working Groups will be submitted

to the Second Conference of African Statisticians and are circulated for information to the third session of the Commission (E/CN.14/60 and E/CN.14/84).

63. A bibliography of statistical publications on African countries and territories has been prepared and is submitted as an information document to the third session of the Commission (E/CN.14/65). The first two issues of a statistical news-letter were published in July 1960 and January 1961 respectively.

Processing and Publication of Statistical Data

64. Statistical data for the Economic Bulletin for Africa and for economic studies undertaken by the Secretariat were compiled and analyzed during 1960. A reference unit has been instituted to collect and collate published statistical information for this and similar purposes. However, the receipt of countries' statistical publications continues to be much delayed, particularly in the field of trade statistics. As a result the statistical tables included in the Economic Bulletin had to be revised and reduced to less ambitious proportions. As the Secretariat is mainly dependent upon countries' statistical offices for the supply of up-to-date information, it cannot be over-emphasized that a ready flow of such information is necessary if the Secretariat is to give its fullest possible service in the processing of data. Moreover, lack of comparability between national statistics based on different systems presents numerous difficulties. The Secretariat proposes to raise this matter at the Second Conference of African Statisticians and to ask the Conference to make appropriate recommendations for promoting a greater degree of uniformity in this respect, especially with regard to trade classification, as recommended by the Commission at its second session (para.105 of report E/3320).

65. Work is proceeding on the first of the projected statistical hand-books. This will be devoted to demography and will bring together the various statistical series that are available for African countries in the fields of population and manpower. The aim is to facilitate intra-regional and international comparison of existing statistical series, studies on reliability and accuracy of each series and examination of scope and coverage in relation to development needs.

II. Industry, Transport and Natural Resources Division

66. Recruitment of staff members in the professional grades progressed rather slowly during the year. At the end of the year one transport economist was at work in Addis Ababa. Industrial economists have been recruited and are expected to take up their duties early in 1961.

67. A programme of work was established in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters. Co-operation from Headquarters in the study of a number of areas of special interest to the region is expected under the expanded programme of work on industrialization to be carried out by the new Committee on Industrial Development established by the Economic and Social Council.

68. In response to the request by the Commission at its first session for studies of selected transport problems in Africa, a study (E/CN.14/63) was prepared for submission to the third session on transport problems in West Africa in relation to economic development. This study stresses the fact that hardly anywhere in Africa is there a fully integrated transport system permitting a rational selection of the mode of transport best suited to demand. Since existing transport systems were primarily developed to serve foreign trade, there is a marked lack of services catering for domestic markets. Hence one of

the main problems for study would be the question of secondary and "feeder" roads, which are indispensable for the promotion of increased production and economic development in general. The study, as an attempt to assess the present and future contribution of transport to economic development in West Africa, refers in its conclusions to a variety of possibilities for sub-regional action.

69. Among possible projects mentioned are, apart from the study of secondary roads, surveys of intra-regional road links from the point of view of both construction and operation, traffic safety, co-ordination of transport, international river transport, port problems, railway tariff policies, domestic air transport and transport statistics. Suggestions for future action in the field of transport are presented in an information paper submitted to the third session (E/CN.14/94).

70. At the Executive Secretary's request, UNESCO began work on a survey of the natural resources of the African continent (see paragraph 59 of the Commission's report on its first session). One chapter of this survey, on geology, was completed and submitted to the Commission at its second session. As indicated in the information paper (E/CN.14/96) the additional chapters deal with the following: topography and maps, climate and meteorology, hydrology, soils (including conservation), flora (sub-divided under (a) Africa north of the Sahara and (b) Africa south of the Sahara) and fauna (sub-divided under zoology, entomology and conservation).

71. The chapter on topography and maps comprises a study on the progress of topographic mapping in Africa and an inventory of topographic maps available at the end of 1959. Until 1949 only 43 per cent of the surface of the African continent had been mapped; but considerable progress has been made in the interval. The most urgent mapping tasks in Africa would appear to be: (1) to complete the coverage of 1:50,000 maps as required, (2) to install a network of geodetic bases and (3) to prepare a precision levelling grid.

The Secretariat of the Commission has been requested by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters to ascertain the views of members and associate members concerning the desirability of convening a UN cartographic conference for Africa. The replies received (E/CN.14/78) are submitted to the third session.

72. In the chapter on African climate and meteorology it is pointed out that little systematic observation or recording of meteorological data has been done except in the more advanced countries, but the situation has been improving in recent years. There nevertheless remains an urgent need for more rapid dissemination of information; for example, agriculture would benefit considerably from appropriate early presentation of the meteorological data, whether for single or for mixed crops.

73. The review of hydrological work reveals that, apart from certain tropical areas, few territories possess pluviometric or hydrologic stations for the collection of data concerning rainfall, run-off, evapo-transpiration, sediment load of rivers, river discharges and other similar subjects. The review also stresses the importance of groundwater for the daily needs of human beings and livestock alike, as well as for various kinds of economic development. Although the occurrence, recovery, replenishment, conservation and quality of groundwater have received close attention for many years, they still require much additional study in the less developed countries.

74. It emerges from the study that soil survey work, which was hitherto mostly devoted to the production of reconnaissance maps, received a great impetus from the Second Inter-African Soils Conference held in Leopoldville in 1954. Many large-scale and small-scale maps have since been produced covering large areas of the Congo (Leopoldville), Angola, Mozambique, Ghana, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Cameroons, the Chad and most of North Africa.

75. Research in the mineralogy and chemistry of soils, evolution of phosphates, the role and evolution of soil organic matter, soil microbiology, soil structure and stability is now being conducted in many African laboratories with encouraging results. Research in soil biology in Africa is still in its infancy but is developing steadily.

76. Systematic botany introduced in Africa in the eighteenth century, is providing more and more information concerning African vegetation and its environment. A bioclimatological map and a climate vegetation map of the Mediterranean zone covering Africa north of the 20th Parallel are under preparation by UNESCO and FAO, a vegetation map of Africa south of the Tropic of Cancer has already been published with the assistance of UNESCO and FAO has prepared a grassland map of Africa.

77. The review of current knowledge of the zoology of Africa deals with the main fauna of Africa and in particular with the adaptation of animals to life in arid regions. As regards cattle, sheep and goats of the grasslands, it is pointed out that there is scope for further work in the fields of selective breeding and long-term genetic research. The establishment of national parks is considered to be of great biological importance, if only because they provide a natural field for ecological studies. There is a separate chapter on entomology.

78. Although the flora and fauna of humid tropical regions in Africa are in general better known than those of similar regions in other parts of the world, no ecological data are available on them and knowledge regarding the equilibrium which maintains the organization of biological communities is fragmentary.

79. In view of the possible extension in Africa of the cultivation of various kinds of cereals, sweet potatoes, coffee, cocoa, cassava, sugar cane and cotton, the need for a closer study of insect pests seems indicated. A sustained major effort is also required to control

and mitigate locust damage to crops. Furthermore, it is suggested that the African continent may provide parasite material for destroying pests in other parts of the world.

80. In conclusion the survey emphasises the importance of the collection and interchange of research data throughout Africa. The series of reviews is not only of value in indicating the present position and the outlook for research in the various fields covered but also demonstrates the vast amount of scientific material already in existence and the need to make it freely available whenever and wherever required. Generally speaking information is needed, not so much for Africa as a whole, but for certain parts of it, depending on climatic and geographical factors. Adequate steps should therefore be taken to ensure that, at both national and regional levels, scientific material is circulated and classified so as to be readily accessible, and so that information required can be easily exchanged; countries and centres should be assisted in carrying out this important task.

III. Agriculture: ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division

Agricultural progress and development

81. Work on the food and agricultural situation in Africa continues to be handicapped by lack of up-to-date publications and other source material. Some contributions have, however, been possible under project 21-01 in the form of notes on some major agricultural commodities for the Economic Bulletin for Africa (E/CN.14/67). Collaboration has also been maintained with FAO Headquarters and Regional Offices in connexion with documentation for the First FAO Regional Conference for Africa and for the current session of the Commission, with particular reference to the food and agriculture situation (E/CN.14/62),

control of desert locust (E/CN.14/66), sea fisheries and land policies. A brief report on the FAO/ECA Centre on Land Policies in East and Central Africa is contained in Document E/CN.14/69.

82. In connexion with Project 21-02 information continues to be collected on agricultural development programmes in the countries of the region. This work, too, is handicapped by the limited information available to the Secretariat. Discussions have been held with government officials in a number of countries of the region, including East Africa, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. The participation of the Chief of the Division in the First FAO Regional Conference for Africa in the capacity of Conference Secretary provided a valuable opportunity to meet agricultural leaders from the region and to learn of current and prospective agricultural developments.

83. In accordance with Resolution 18 (II), paragraph 2 (a), a long-range programme is being developed to investigate various problems of the traditional agricultural sector and its integration into the modern sectors of the national economies. An examination has been initiated of the attitudes of subsistence farmers and pastoralists to the sale of their products and the incentive measures required to stimulate cash sales and increase the contribution of the agricultural sector to the national income. In this connexion, numerous approaches have been made to government departments in the region and to universities and individuals both in and outside Africa for information. It is proposed to follow this up with a systematic programme of more specific enquiries, in collaboration with the appropriate authorities, with a view to ascertaining what practical measures and incentives are likely to be effective as instruments of government policy.

84. Action is being taken to support and initiate projects likely to contribute directly to this transition to more efficient production for cash sale. One example in 1960 was ECA co-sponsorship with FAO of the Centre on Land Policies in East and Central Africa referred to in paragraph 81 above. Two staff members of the Joint Agriculture Division participated in this and a lecture was delivered on the conditions which

land tenure policy must fulfil. if the agricultural sector is not to act as a brake on general economic growth.

85. With a similar objective in view support is being given to the promotion of agricultural co-operatives in Africa. These are currently the subject of a survey by a consultant. Work on co-operatives is being conducted with the Community Development Branch (see para. 104).

86. The provision by FAO of a rural development officer to work with the Joint Agriculture Division in early 1961 is expected to strengthen further the work of the Division in the field of rural institutions, and plans are being made to work closely with FAO on training activities in rural credit and extension as factors in economic development.

87. Steps have been taken in collaboration with FAO to initiate a survey of timber resources and requirements in Africa under project 21-03 (formerly 21-05 (d)). A forest economist has been engaged as a consultant and will work initially with the Forestry and Forest Products Division of FAO in Rome. Later the consultant is expected to make a number of specific investigations within the Africa region. This regional survey will be one of a series being conducted jointly by the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and FAO. Similar surveys have already been conducted in Europe and in Asia and the Far East and another is being currently conducted in Latin America.

88. Preparations were made for a survey of the market for esparto grass and esparto grass pulp in accordance with paragraph 44 of the report of the first session of ECA. It has not been possible to proceed with this concerted action project, because the governments of North Africa were not in agreement regarding the value of the projects, and it has not been possible to secure the services of an expert acceptable to all the governments concerned.

Distribution and consumption of agricultural products

89. The examination of recent trends in the level and direction of exports of agricultural products (Project 22-01(a), formerly 21-03(a)) has been restricted by lack of up-to-date information, but statistical tables have been drawn up from available sources for use in the Economic Bulletin for Africa (E/CN.14/67).

90. The marketing of agricultural products is being pursued under project 22-01 (b), formerly 21-03(b). Discussions have been held with FAO experts in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan and with two visiting FAO experts who conducted a comprehensive regional survey during 1960 of meat and livestock marketing possibilities in relation to livestock diseases. Discussions were also held with authorities in Kenya regarding a meat consumption survey in the Central Province of that country. The possibility is being considered of assistance to the Government of Kenya.

91. As part of a general policy to support action projects having a direct impact on the training of personnel and on the increase of agricultural income, arrangements were made to co-sponsor with FAO the African Livestock and Meat Marketing Centre held at Fort Lamy, Chad Republic, during December 1960. This was attended by a member of the Division, who contributed to the discussion, emphasizing the potential economic role of the livestock industry and the importance of increasing commercial sales through efficient marketing practices.

92. In connexion with the FAO Freedom from Hunger Campaign, active steps are being taken throughout the world to improve knowledge of food consumption levels, with a view to revealing deficiencies and ascertaining requirements. A new approach is therefore being organized in the various regions to extend the preparation of food balance sheets and to promote consumption surveys. The Division has, under Project 22-02 (formerly 21-03(c)), engaged a consultant who has visited Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, Mozambique and Angola, the Cameroun Republic, Nigeria, Ghana

and Sudan to collect information on production, trade and consumption levels and advise local authorities on methods of preparing national food balance sheets.

Assistance and advisory services in the field of agriculture

93. Numerous discussions have been held, under project 23-01 (formerly 21-04), with the relevant authorities in governments and in agencies supplying technical and economic aid. These included preliminary reviews with FAO of the 1961 and 1962 Expanded Technical Assistance Programme in the field of agricultural economics in African countries, and consultations with representatives of the Technical Assistance Board, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the US International Cooperation Administration and the United Nations Special Fund. Jointly with FAO a forward appraisal of technical assistance programmes in the agricultural field was made with the Government of Sudan. This was along similar lines to a forward appraisal made in Ethiopia at the end of 1959.

94. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the 1959-60 annual report of the Second Session of the Commission (E/3320), close contact is being maintained with the authorities responsible for the control of the desert locust. At the request of the Executive Secretary, a report has been prepared by FAO for the third session of the Commission (E/CN.14/66).

IV. Community Development and Related Activities in Social fields

95. Out of eight projects requested and approved by the second session for the Commission's work programme in 1960-1961, the Community Development Branch in 1960 concentrated on two and began work on three others (31-04, 31-07 and 31-08). Of the former two, one (31-06) has been completed and one phase of the second (31-02) has also been achieved.

96. The general survey of community development in Africa (31-02) was originally recommended by the Workshop on Community Development organized by the Commission and held in Addis Ababa in September 1959. It was included in the work programme and priorities for 1960-61 and approved by the second session. The Commission recruited a consultant and requested him, in part fulfilment of this project, to survey community development programmes in Uganda. The consultant visited Uganda in July-August 1960, held discussions with the authorities in charge of community development and related activities and observed a number of field projects. A report (E/CN.14/81) has been submitted to the third session. The report describes the main factors affecting community development in Uganda, efforts to organize and educate self-help groups, the history of the Community Development Division, community development activities sponsored by other ministries, problems of administration and finance, women's work and personnel training. It concludes by analyzing certain problems facing newly independent countries in Africa.

97. The second session of the Commission requested similar surveys to be undertaken in other African countries. It is expected that the comments on the Uganda report will suggest lines of approach to be followed in subsequent surveys.

98. A start has been made on the establishment of ECA clearing-house on community development (project 31-04) was also recommended by the Community Development Workshop and approved by the second session. A start has been made on it; but some of the proposed activities had to be postponed owing to shortage of staff. Meanwhile the Branch has been able to secure a fair amount of literature on community development and related fields in Africa. This includes UN publications, publications produced by such specialized agencies as UNESCO, ILO and FAO and material on national community development programmes.

99. As part of the preparation for the publication of a bulletin on community development, the branch has undertaken some analytical studies. These have already served as background documents for the Workshop on the Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes, and will later be published in the proposed bulletin.

100. The Commission has co-operated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters in organizing a community development study tour, in which six officials from Ethiopia, Tanganyika and the Malagasy Republic, participated. Community development projects in Tanganyika, Ghana, the Western Region of Nigeria and the Southern Region of the UAR(Egypt) were visited. A report on these visits describing the aims, methods, organization and execution of both rural and urban community development projects is submitted to the third session (E/CN.14/80).

101. The original project 31-06 approved by the second session was entitled "Training course for women on methods of women's participation in community development". It was later agreed between ECA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters that this project should be integrated with a UN seminar on child and family welfare into a Workshop on the Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes.

102. The Workshop was held in Accra from 21 November to 3 December 1960 and was attended by 65 representatives from 18 Member States and 4 associate members of ECA and by representatives of ILO, WHO, FAO, UNESCO and UNICEF. The Workshop drew up a report summarizing the discussions and the general suggestions to be considered by the United Nations and ECA in planning future action. The main topics of discussion were: the organization and administration of national family and child welfare services, the extension of family and child welfare services within community development programmes and the role of women in community development programmes. In their conclusions the participants emphasized

certain points, some of which had already been stressed by the first Workshop on Community Development held at Addis Ababa in September 1959, and, in particular, the importance of the legal aspects of family and child welfare, the inter-dependence of economic and social development and the desirability of closely co-ordinating them, the need to seek the most adequate forms of technical assistance, and the value of undertaking studies, expanding training programmes, arranging periodic regional seminars and study tours, and giving more assistance to countries in the planning and running of family and child welfare services. The report of the Workshop (E/CN.14/79) is before the Commission.

103. Project 31-07 (study of the applicability of community development techniques to urban areas in Africa) as approved by the second session consisted of two parts: (a) initiating two community development pilot projects in urban areas in Africa and (b) undertaking a study, in co-operation with the research institutions in Africa, of steps necessary to minimize the social disruption due to urban development. Only the second part has been embarked upon. The Commission has co-operated with the University College of Addis Ababa in carrying out a social survey of the city of Addis Ababa. While the main work-load has fallen on the University College, the Secretariat has assisted with advice and the Commission has contributed financially to the project, on which the University College has submitted a report to the Secretariat.

104. Project 31-08 (study of the present state and progress of the co-operative movement in Africa) has its origin in Commission Resolution No. 9 (II) adopted at the second session. In consultation with FAO, ILO and UNESCO, the Commission has recruited a consultant to study and report on the present state of progress of the co-operative movement in Africa. The consultant visited Tanganyika, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Senegal, and is now preparing a study which will include a preliminary survey and a detailed analysis of co-operative movements in four countries representing various types or phases of development. It will cover such topics as legislation and administration, the development and present state of

co-operatives, the co-operative movement's contribution to economic and social development, co-operative promotion and training and probable future developments. The study will be based on documentary research and the results of the above mentioned visits to countries and will be submitted to the Commission at its fourth session.

V. Training Activities

105. As mentioned under the heading "Statistical Survey of Africa," training was among the subjects discussed during the various individual visits to countries made by statisticians of the Secretariat and at the two sub-regional meetings held in Nairobi and Cairo. The most general need appeared to be for middle-grade statistical staff, as shortages at that level can handicap the execution of even the best-planned statistical projects. The qualifications of such staff were reviewed during each of the country visits and meetings, and the possibilities of inter-country co-operation in establishing sub-regional training centres - with or without UN assistance - were explored.

106. As a result of these activities, training centres are contemplated for Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco and other countries. It is the view of the Secretariat that any such centre established to serve more than one country should address itself to the task of training personnel to a recognized professional level that commends acceptance in the trainees' countries and that will, preferably, be regarded as a qualification for promotion. This is considered very desirable in order to ensure the interest of the trainees. It is proposed that the UN contribution should take the form of fellowships for trainees from other countries of the respective sub-regions and of technical assistance in the form of lecturers,

In the case of the centre to be established in Addis Ababa with the co-operation of the Government of Ethiopia, the Secretariat would also have over-all responsibility for the training programme, since the centre is meant to service many countries of the region.

107. The Secretariat has also co-operated with the Government of Ghana in developing a programme for a three-months' training course in population census techniques. This course, which may begin in the first quarter of 1961, will be attended by participants from English-speaking countries of West Africa which are planning census programmes. As French-speaking countries of West Africa have also indicated interest in population census techniques the Secretariat intends to investigate the possibility of holding a similar course for French-speaking participants. The scope of the training is referred to in more detail in the progress report on the Statistical Survey of Africa (E/CN.14/83).

108. The proposal in Project 04-02 for the establishment at ECA headquarters of a small mechanical processing unit, which could be used for the demonstration of methods of processing and analyzing data, is still in the formative stage. However, it is hoped that such a unit will be installed sometime in 1961.

109. In pursuance of resolution 16 (II) the Executive Secretary arranged a programme of in-service training to be conducted at the regional economic commission for Europe and for Asia and the Far East. Requests were sent to Morocco, Tunisia and the UAR(Egypt) to nominate candidates for the training programme at ECE. Kenya, Nigeria and Sierra Leone were asked to nominate candidates for the in-service training programme at ECAFE. The Headquarters in-service training course for African economists continued on an enlarged scale.

The Secretariat of the Commission was associated with the selection of participants, and arrangements have been made for the participants to spend some time in Addis Ababa at the end of the course in order to familiarize themselves with the work of the Commission.

110. The Executive Secretary discussed resolution 16(II) with the ACC meeting in Geneva in July 1960 and initiated plans for the establishment of a permanent training programme in the field of economic planning at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa. This programme, where appropriate, will follow the lines of a similar programme at ECLA. Correspondence with international agencies and with planning experts has provided the Executive Secretary with a list of names from which two instructors, who would be regular members of the ECA staff, may be recruited to organise and conduct the training programme. It is also planned to recruit experts on a temporary basis to assist with the programme. This new training programme is expected to constitute a major service to member governments. The Executive Secretary hopes to be able to announce a first experimental course of relatively short duration for late 1961 or early 1962, which should help to determine the nature of the long-term programme.

111. The report on the meeting of Heads of Universities and University Colleges in Africa on the training of African staff in the field of economic development (E/CN.14/86), which is submitted to the third session of the Commission, records the various problems discussed at the Khartoum conference, and underlines the main conclusions reached. The conference discussed, among other things, the problems of recruitment and staffing and considered that the area of recruitment of staff should be broadened. In order to lighten the teaching load in African universities and to release local teachers to undertake study and research, the conference inter alia suggested that some economists with teaching experience should be attached to the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa and seconded for varying periods to universities.

112. The conference also discussed training graduates and university staff, curricula, examinations, standards, refresher courses, conferences, libraries and text books. It was agreed that the provision of centralized

regional training facilities would be particularly suitable for subjects like national income accounting, statistics, demography, economic development, agricultural and rural economics. It was pointed out that it was desirable to strengthen existing institutions rather than to create new ones. The conference was, however, aware of the fact that new universities will be created in African countries and that they will also need all the assistance governments and international organizations can give them. A number of suggestions were made regarding financial and other ways in which international organizations, in co-operation with various governmental and non-governmental agencies, could assist African universities in the training of personnel required for the promotion of economic development of Africa. A summary of recommendations made by the Conference (E/CN.14/86 Add.1) is submitted to the third session of the Commission.

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

113. Co-operation continues to develop between the Commission and the International Labour Organisation. This relationship will become increasingly important as the Commission's work programme regarding industrial planning and development becomes fully effective. The ILO participated in the ECA Workshop on the Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes held in Accra in December 1960.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

114. In accordance with the memorandum of understanding concluded between the Executive Secretary and the Director-General of FAO on 7 April 1959, close working relationships are being maintained with FAO through the ECA-FAO Joint Agriculture Division. These have included co-sponsorship of regional seminars on Land Policies in East and Central

Africa and on Livestock and Meat Marketing. This close collaboration was also maintained at the First FAO Regional Conference for Africa, which was attended by the Executive Secretary, while the Chief of the Joint Agriculture Division was General Secretary of the Conference. The FAO has contributed documents to this Session of the ECA on the food and agriculture situation (E/CN.14/62) and on the control of desert locusts (E/CN.14/66).

115. A consultant, engaged jointly by ECA and FAO visited a number of African countries to assist in the preparation of food balance sheets, and arrangements have been made for a consultant to work closely with FAO on a survey of timber resources and requirements in Africa. The FAO agreed to attach a rural development officer to the Joint Agriculture Division in 1961 to develop a programme of work on rural institutions. FAO was represented at the ECA Workshop on Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes.

116. The work of the ECA Secretariat in the field of agriculture is conducted in close contact with that of the FAO Headquarters and the African and Near East Regional offices of FAO.

117. According to a second memorandum of understanding between the Executive Secretary and the Director-General of FAO, concluded in July 1959, the FAO Regional Statistician for Africa is outposted in Addis Ababa at the Headquarters of the ECA Secretariat. This officer took up his duties in February 1960 and has been working closely with the Secretariat in developing statistical services in Africa in the field of agriculture, in particular with the Statistical Survey of Africa and preparations for study tours and seminars for statistical training.

118. During 1960 the Secretariat co-operated with FAO in a joint statistical project in Tunisia and Sudan. Close liaison was maintained with the FAO Regional Nutrition Officer in work on food consumption Surveys. In addition, consultations have been held with the various interested specialized agencies in connexion with preparations for the Second Conference of African Statisticians.

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

119. The Commission participated in the UNESCO meeting of Ministers and Directors of Education which convened in Addis Ababa in February 1960 and also contributed a paper to the UNESCO Refresher Course for African Economists which was conducted in Rabat in December. During the year a UNESCO social science specialist was attached to ECA headquarters. UNESCO also co-operated with the Commission on the Conference of Heads of African Universities held in Khartoum in December, and participated in the ECA Workshop on Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes, which took place in Accra earlier in the same month.

World Health Organization (WHO)

120. WHO participated in the Workshop on the Extension of Family and Child Welfare Services within Community Development Programmes. It is expected that co-operation with WHO will no doubt increase in scope with the initiation of the Commission's programmes dealing with the social aspects of economic development.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

121. Arrangements were made for informal contacts at the working level between members of the ECA Secretariat and IBRD officials engaged in activities concerning African countries. A member of the IBRD mission to Uganda visited ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa to discuss development problems of that country with members of the Secretariat.

Interim Commission of the International
Trade Organization (ICITO/GATT)

122. Relations between ICITO/GATT and ECA were considerably strengthened as a result of consultations between the Executive Secretaries of the two Organizations. The Executive Secretary to the Contracting Parties prepared

an information paper on the accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for the third session of the Commission (E/CN.14/61). Valuable comments and other assistance were provided by members of the GATT Secretariat on the studies of the Impact of West European Integration on African Trade and Development (E/CN.14/72) and on the Significance of Recent Common Market Developments in Latin America (E/CN.14/64). An observer from ICITO/GATT attended the meeting of the ad hoc Committee on Western European Trade Groupings in Addis Ababa in January 1961.

SPECIAL FUND

123. During 1960 several requests by African countries for assistance by the Special Fund were submitted to the Secretariat for its comments before they were presented to the Consultative Board. The Managing Director of the Fund expects (A/C.2/L.519) the regional economic commissions to assist in the provision of additional advisory services and intensified research and training in the field of development programming.

OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

124. In accordance with paragraph 13 of its Terms of Reference the Economic Commission for Africa has established relationships with the Conference of Independent African States, the Economic Committee of the League of Arab States and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara, whereby the Commission maintains constant liaison with the secretariats of these inter-governmental organizations. Machinery exists for the exchange of studies, documents and other information with these organizations, which are entitled to participation in sessions and other meetings of the Commission.

125. In view of the fact that the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa South of the Sahara, of the three inter-governmental organizations, engages in considerable number of activities of interest to the Commission. The exchange of information therefore with the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa South of the Sahara has been regular.

126. At its meeting in Addis Ababa in June 1960 the Conference of Independent African States adopted a resolution recommending, among other things, the establishment of a Council for African Economic Co-operation. The Conference also emphasized the important role of ECA in Africa (see Part A, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Commission's Programme of Work and Priorities 1961-62). The Executive Secretary was invited to address a plenary meeting of the conference.