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REPORT ON DEMOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

1. In recognition of the importance of the population factor in planning for economic and social development, the former Demographic Unit has been raised to the level of a Section. Attempts are also being made to strengthen the activities of this Section by recruitment of additional staff.
2. The analytical study of the recent demographic levels and trends in Africa has been revised to take account of the more up-to-date and accurate information available. This is scheduled for publication in the ECA Bulletin. The most important findings are the increase in the rates of the growth of populations in almost all African countries, owing to the lowering of the death rates and the constant, high birth rates, with prospects for further acceleration of the population growth in the near future; the increasing pace of urbanization; and the over-whelming predominance of agriculture and related industries in contrast to manufacturing and other "modern" industries.
3. Projections of population of Africa (for five sub-regions by age and sex) for internal use within the secretariat were made up to 2000 A.D. on different assumptions of the future behaviour of the fertility and mortality components. The "medium" population projection envisages the growth of population from 273 million in 1960 to about 457 million in 1980 (an increase of 67 per cent), after which the rate of growth may slacken.

4. Long range programme on demographic studies in Africa: A paper was prepared for the ad hoc group of experts on the long range work programme in the field of population which met in New York from 2 to 4 September 1964. The demographic activities of the Commission was first reviewed and, in the light of present economic and demographic setting in Africa, a long-range programme of work was evolved for demographic studies and extended studies of the inter-relationships of population growth with economic and social development.

5. Contribution to the Seminar on Vital statistics: A technical paper on "Non-sampling errors and biases in retrospective demographic surveys" was prepared for the seminar on vital statistics meeting in Addis Ababa from 14 to 19 December, 1964. Methods for adjustments for non-sampling errors and biases in data obtained from retrospective demographic inquiries have been developed and illustrated with special reference to African data.

6. Contribution to the World Population Conference: A paper on "Response errors in vital statistics surveys" has been prepared for the World Population Conference, meeting in Belgrade in September 1965. This paper reviews different type of response errors that occur in vital statistics surveys and methods of adjusting for these errors.

7. Survey on urban and rural population: Preliminary work on the survey of urban and rural population in Africa has been started as a part of the World Survey on Urbanization.

8. Advisory services: Advice on the analysis of demographic data has been provided to a number of countries, either during visits or through correspondence.

9. Training: The North African Demographic Training and Research Centre was established in Cairo in March 1963 as a result of an agreement between the United Arab Republic and the United Nations to meet the requirements of demographic training and research for the North African countries. The first course of training started in November 1963. The secretariat is in charge of operating this Centre and is actively

assisting in the formulation of the programmes of training and research. During the year under review the secretariat organized the first meeting of the Advisory Committee in Cairo, consisting of representatives of governments, to advise the Centre on its programme of training and research. The secretariat also arranged for the next course of training starting in October 1964. Training facilities have been extended to the Middle Eastern Arab countries through the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Office in Beirut.

10. Preliminary discussions have also been held for the early establishment of another Demographic Training and Research Centre in Dakar, in close collaboration with the IDEP, to serve adequately the needs for facilities for demographic training and research for the rest of Africa especially in view of the importance of analysis of the 1960 and the coming 1970 rounds of population census data. Details on such training activities will be found in the Report on Training Activities (E/CN.14/307).

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