

6 540



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA**

REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION

10-15 May 1976

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**

SUPPLEMENT No. 12

UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1976

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E/5785

ABBREVIATIONS

AFESD	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
AIESP	Arab Institute for Economic Planning
ALO	Arab Labour Organization
AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
AOECS	Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science
AOSM	Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology
CAEU	Council of Arab Economic Unity
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
IDCAS	Industrial Development Centre for Arab States
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
KFAED	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
OAPEC	Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OTC	Office for Technical Co-operation
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	1 - 3	1
II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD SESSION	4 - 74	3
A. Attendance and organization of work	4 - 16	3
B. Election of officers	17 - 18	5
C. Agenda	19	5
D. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the third session of the Commission	20	6
E. Site of the headquarters of the Commission	21 - 44	6
F. Work of the Commission since 11 May 1975	45 - 62	12
G. Issues relating to the seventh special session of the General Assembly and to the recommendations of the Commission at its second session and their impact on ECWA's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1978-1981	63 - 68	18
H. Place of the 1977 session	69 - 70	19
I. Other business	71 - 74	19
III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION		21
IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1976-1977, AND THE COMMISSION'S 1978-1981 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN		35
A. Revised work programme in the field of population, 1976/77 (Section 7 of the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 (E/ECWA/28))		37
B. Addendum to the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 in the field of international trade and development		53
C. Medium-term plan for 1978-1981 <u>1/</u>		

1/ The relevant document under this item is issued as E/ECWA/31/Rev.1.

CONTENTS (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
V. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SECOND SESSION		55
A. Progress report on the implementation of the work programme	1 - 93	55
1. Development Planning Division	3 - 23	56
2. Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division	24 - 31	61
3. Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division	32 - 40	63
4. Natural Resources and Science and Technology Division	41 - 56	64
5. Population Division	57 - 64	68
6. Transport, Communication and Tourism Division .	65 - 69	69
7. Social Development and Human Settlement Division	70 - 77	71
8. Statistics Unit	78 - 87	73
9. Documentation Centre	88 - 89	75
10. Technical Co-operation Unit	90 - 91	75
11. Information Services	92 - 93	76
B. Follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its second session		77
C. Other activities		89
VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT		92
Annex. LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRD SESSION		93

I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolution requiring action by the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

1. At its 7th meeting, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

"The Economic and Social Council,

1. Takes note of the report submitted by the Economic Commission for Western Asia on its third regular session and of the resolutions and decisions adopted by it at that session;

2. Endorses the amendments made to the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 and its draft medium-term plan for 1978-1981, which are issued as a supplement to the above-mentioned report."

B. Resolutions and decisions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Commission draws the attention of the Council to the following resolutions contained in chapter III:

(a) Resolution 22 (III): "Permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia"

(b) Resolution 30 (III): "The economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation"

3. The Commission draws the attention of the Council to the following decision:

"Conditions of work of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Considering the exceptional circumstances through which Lebanon has been passing,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the secretariat to continue to carry out its duties in spite of these circumstances,

Desiring to enable the secretariat to discharge fully the functions assigned to it by the Commission,

Decides to authorize the Executive Secretary of this Commission, after consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to move the secretariat staff, collectively or individually, temporarily, to any suitable place from which they can operate in a more effective manner until such time as these exceptional circumstances in Beirut come to an end, it being understood that the States of the region 1/ shall have priority."

1/ "States of the region" means the States members of the Commission wherever this expression occurs.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD SESSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

4. The third session of the Economic Commission for Western Asia was held at Doha, Qatar, from 10 to 15 May 1976.
5. The Chairman of the second session of the Commission opened the third session after which a statement from His Excellency Sheikh Nasser Bin Khaled Al-Thani, the Minister of Economy and Trade and Head of the Delegation of Qatar was read on his behalf. In his statement His Excellency had indicated that the State of Qatar was proud that this session was being held in its territory. His Excellency added that the countries of Western Asia are in urgent need of development in all its forms and that the Commission is one of the major pivots upon which the wheels of the region's development and vitalization turn.
6. The Executive Secretary then read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to the Commission's third session, in which he had expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Qatar for hosting the third session of the Commission. The statement also emphasized the importance of the Commission's activities to member States, particularly the least developed ones among them and added that despite the tragic situation in its headquarters city during last year, it was able to prepare studies and undertake operational missions to member States in the region. It is very encouraging to note that the third session of ECWA will be taking into account the issues emanating from the seventh special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation.
7. The Chairman of the second session of the Commission made a statement in which he drew attention to the important developments which had taken place during the period since the previous session and which had affected the course of the economic and social progress of the countries in the Commission and also the work of the Commission. On the economic plane, the results of inflation had reached alarming proportions and economic imbalances had increased having a great negative effect on the development trends of the world economy and on the course and volume of international trade. In the face of that situation, the developing countries, including the countries in the Commission, had to concentrate and intensify their efforts and abilities to turn that situation to their advantage and endeavour to bring about a new international economic order which would guarantee them a better position and a more active role in international economic life. The continued usurpation of the Arab territory of Palestine by racist zionism and the resulting destructive efforts to divert the activity and efforts of the Arab States from the achievement of the accelerated economic and social development of the Arab people made it essential to link the national political struggle of member States to their development efforts, as a primary condition of the national development struggle. The Chairman urged the necessity of deciding the question of the site of the headquarters at the current session, in implementation of resolution adopted in 1974, the more so as 1976 was regarded as the final deadline for a decision on the matter, especially since mature projects relating to the matter had been submitted to the secretariat by some member States.

8. The Executive Secretary in his inaugural address expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Qatar for hosting the third session. He referred to the urgent economic issues which are still pre-occupying the world community, in general, and the countries of the region, in particular, and to the efforts exerted in the past year, at the regional and international levels, dealing with them. In this connexion he stated that the most important event was the holding of the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, devoted to discussions of the new foundations and principles on which world-wide economic co-operation should be based. The most outstanding consequences of which were the acknowledgement of the need to lay new foundations for international co-operation, avert confrontation and have recourse to dialogue as an optimum method of resolving existing differences of opinion between the advanced and developing countries.

9. The Executive Secretary commended the participation of the countries of the region, and in particular the rich ones among them, together with the other developing countries, in establishing new foundations and principles in the field of international economic development, the redoubling of their contribution to the financing of development activities within the region and elsewhere, and their energetic efforts in the field of economic and social development and the restoration of their full sovereignty over their natural resources. He set forth the difficulties and challenges which the region still faced, the most important being the imbalance in the economic structure, the acute disparity in income levels between the countries of the region and within some countries, the food shortage problem and other problems and bottlenecks which might be difficult to overcome except within the framework of the integration of the region and of its co-operation with the other Arab countries. He drew attention to the many difficulties to which the Commission had been exposed during the past year, owing to the sad events which Lebanon had witnessed, and to the work which had nevertheless been done by the Commission in implementing its work programme through the preparation of studies, the provision of technical advisory services and the sending of field missions. He commended the great concern shown by member States for the expansion of the Commission's activity and for increased co-ordination with regional and international institutions and development funds in the region.

10. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen Arab Republic.

11. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the Commission's terms of reference, the following Member States of the United Nations participated in the Commission's work in a consultative capacity: Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. 1/

12. The PLO participated in its capacity of permanent observer in the Commission.

13. Representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNHCR and WFP attended the session.

1/ See para. 16 below.

14. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present: the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, WHO and IMCO.

15. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented in the session: AFESD, AIESP in Kuwait, ALO, AOAD, ADECS, AOECs, AOSM, CAEU and OAPES. Also present in the session was the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

16. Representative of KFAED attended the session. One representative of ICC, a non-government organization in category I, also attended the session.

B. Election of officers

17. The Commission unanimously elected His Excellency Sheikh Nasser Bin Khalid Al-Thani (Qatar), as Chairman; His Excellency Mr. Bakr Khomais (Saudi Arabia) and His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Al-Azmeh (Syrian Arab Republic) as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Sabri Al-Sa'adi (Iraq) as Rapporteur for the session.

18. In accordance with rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure, the officers of the Commission examined the credentials of the delegations and found them in order.

C. Agenda

19. The delegation of Kuwait proposed that item 7 of the provisional agenda (E/ECWA/29/Rev.1) entitled "Site of the headquarters of the Commission" be brought forward to become item 5 in the order of the items on the agenda. The Commission adopted the agenda as amended by the delegation of Kuwait as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the third session of the Commission
5. Site of the headquarters of the Commission:
 - (a) Administrative progress report on arrangements relating to the provisional headquarters;
 - (b) Site of the permanent headquarters of the Commission
6. Report on the activities of the Commission since 11 May 1975:
 - (a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme;
 - (b) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission;
 - (c) Other activities

7. Issues relating to the seventh special session of the General Assembly and to the recommendations of the Commission at its second session and their impact on ECWA's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1978-1981.
8. Place of the 1977 session
9. Any other business
10. Annual Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

D. Consideration of applications of States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the third session of the Commission

20. The Commission unanimously adopted a proposal to invite the States Members of the United Nations listed in document E/ECWA/34, which are not members of the Commission, to participate in a consultative capacity in its third session.

E. Site of the headquarters of the Commission

21. The Executive Secretary in introducing this item stated that documents E/ECWA/33, E/ECWA/L.24, E/ECWA/L.24/Add.1, and E/ECWA/L.25 contained all the information reflecting developments with regard to the question of the headquarters since the Commission's establishment. He indicated that document E/ECWA/33 contained two paragraphs relating to the temporary headquarters at Beirut and that there was no need to add anything to it. He added that he was confident that all members of the Commission were aware of the sad events which Lebanon has been going through. The secretariat has tried to do everything possible to ensure the continuation of the Commission's work in line with the provisions of the Commission's resolution designating Lebanon as the provisional headquarters. The secretariat has therefore continued with its work, and hoped that the situation would improve. In this connexion, he informed the Commission that the secretariat had received the sum of one million Lebanese pounds which the Lebanese Government had announced it was prepared to contribute annually towards the expenses of the temporary headquarters.

22. The head of the Lebanese delegation made a statement on this item in which he said that Lebanon today bore the scars of many wounds after reaching a stage in which its factories, businesses and other institutions were destroyed and yet it was confident that the new era will be one of constructive work, true co-operation, deep mutual understanding and total dedication to every Arab cause and, primarily, that of Palestine. This new era was in the greatest need of Arab assistance, support and backing in order to make a rapid recovery from its painful ordeal and again play its effective role as a link between its Arab brothers and between the Arab countries and their partners in international co-operation.

23. The Lebanese delegate stated that with profound respect for all the offers which had been made, Lebanon was, none the less, determined that the permanent

headquarters should remain in its territory so that it may faithfully discharge its mission of serving the Arab nation. He added that the reasons were obviously based, in the main, on the Lebanese climate and the availability of numerous services and, in particular, service personnel. The Lebanese delegation considered that the retention of the permanent headquarters in Lebanon would be an act of confidence on the part of the members of the Commission in the ability of Lebanon to get back onto its feet and that the removal of this headquarters to any other place would nullify this confidence and give the impression that the Arab role of Lebanon is coming to an end. None of them would wish this to happen. Moreover, the Lebanese Government is prepared to pay the price of the land and the construction costs whatever they may amount to. Despite our financial straits, money will not be an obstacle to the implementation of this project on Lebanese territory.

24. The head of the delegation of Lebanon added that the distressing events, of which members of the Commission were well aware, prevented completion of the designs and studies for the construction of the permanent headquarters. But for that, everything would have been ready to begin implementation. However, with the start of a new era Lebanon will make up for lost time as soon as possible.

25. The head of the delegation of Iraq made a statement on this item and wished, at the outset, to briefly draw attention to the tardiness of the topic under discussion. He indicated that the Commission, at its first special session, adopted a resolution selecting Beirut as the provisional headquarters of the Commission for a period of five years and stipulated that a final decision on the location of the Commission's permanent headquarters should be taken at its third regular session in 1976, i.e., at this session. The Iraqi delegation, he said, abided by the Commission's resolution on the selection of Beirut as its provisional headquarters for a period of five years and, at the same time, after the three States which expressed a wish during the Commission's first session to host the permanent headquarters had been given sufficient opportunity to submit the details of their offers. He hoped that the Commission will consider these three offers and study them in the light of the common interest of member States, with a view to ensuring the future and stability of the Commission and submitting its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.

26. The head of the Iraqi delegation added that at the second session, Iraq submitted an offer to establish the headquarters of the Commission's secretariat at Baghdad. Some comments on this offer were put forward by the United Nations Secretariat, and these comments were taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the integral Iraqi offer which was before the current session of the Commission. He summarized the characteristics of the Iraqi offer as follows:

(1) A plot of 100,000 square metres has been allocated, the cost of which was estimated at approximately 11.5 million dollars, for donation to the Commission free of charge.

(2) The Iraqi Government had allocated a loan of 27 million dollars to cover the cost of the construction of the headquarters.

(3) The Iraqi project consisted of two parts. The first comprised the headquarters of the Commission and its meeting halls, and the second comprised an

integrated project for housing the staff and experts of the Commission. The United Nations Secretariat had indicated that the designs submitted were compatible with the Commission's requirements.

(4) With regard to the replies to the questionnaire annexed to the document on the headquarters, he mentioned, in particular, that the laws in force in Iraq gave unrestricted scope to all Arab citizens as regards work, residence and travel. He indicated that it could be seen that the terms of the Iraqi offer were more generous than their counterparts submitted by the States hosting the four other United Nations headquarters, which were accepted by the United Nations.

27. He requested, on behalf of the delegation of Iraq, that the details of the discussions be set down in the records of the Commission's meetings. He expressed the hope that the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council would contain a full account to assist the Council in considering the recommendations submitted by the Commission on this vital question.

28. A member of the delegation of Iraq then gave some details relating to the Iraqi offer. He indicated that the Iraqi offer in its final form (E/ECWA/L.25) consists, from the technical viewpoint, of the following two parts:

(1) The general headquarters complex: This comprised two major buildings, one intended for meeting and conference halls and the other for offices for the Commission's staff and experts. This structural separation between the two buildings was called for by the functional characteristics desirable for the two enclosures, but it will not be at the expense of the movement of staff and the flow of activities within the complex. Because of this, the two buildings were planned to rest on a single base, which will act as an axis for movement and for the expansion of all the facilities of the complex. The complex will include car parks, with a capacity of 400 vehicles, lounges, the main dining rooms, information facilities, staff offices, the Commission's printing press and ancillary service areas, the library, interpretation and the television and radio transmission area.

(2) The housing complex: This involved the construction of 200 apartments, with three alternatives regarding the general distribution of these apartments. It included also a number of general amenities necessary for the operation of this complex.

29. He added that the technical organs of the United Nations Secretariat in New York had made some valuable comments on the design philosophy on which the Iraqi offer was based, which were expressed in general terms. The designer had taken all the detailed comments put forward by the Secretariat into account in the revised project which was before the member States of the Commission. He expressed his deep appreciation to the United Nations Secretariat for the evident effort which it had made in studying the Iraqi designs and for its comments appraising the modest effort of the Iraqi technical staff.

30. The head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, in making a statement on this item, said that the Syrian Arab Republic had submitted a broadly outlined offer to have Damascus as the permanent headquarters of the Commission (document E/ECWA/L.24) in the belief that this choice will meet all the Commission's requirements, in addition to the outstanding geographical and climatic characteristics which this site enjoyed. He then proceeded to give some additional clarifications regarding the Syrian offer:

(1) The Syrian Government had allocated a plot of 20,000 square metres which it intended to donate to the Commission. According to a sound architectural study, this area will make it possible to ensure that all the essential requirements are met.

(2) A thorough study of the architectural blocs in the project showed the possibility of creating parking areas in the front and back parts of the building which would absorb at least 300 cars.

(3) An interest-free loan of 15 million Syrian pounds would be extended, to be reimbursed to the Government in annual instalments over 15 years in order to facilitate the erection of the building. This loan represented almost 50 per cent of the total cost of the building.

(4) The expenses of site development, construction, administration, design and architectural work, preparation of site studies and utilities will all be covered by the loan of 15 million Syrian pounds to be paid by the Syrian Government.

(5) The establishment of additional housing for the staff could be carried out within the framework of the private sector.

31. The head of the Syrian delegation added that he would not enter into the whirlpool of competition in numbers whether as regards sums, land area, the floor-space of storeys, shape or dimension of the building as the Syrian Arab Republic was fully convinced that such numbers were liable to change due to changes in world prices. Thus the Syrian offer rested on two basic points. The first was to give the necessary broadlines on which the Syrian offer for the permanent headquarters was primarily based. The second was to reaffirm Syria's readiness to meet the requirements and needs of the Commission fully in all aspects, whether materially or morally. The matter of estimating the detailed requirements will be left for bilateral discussion between the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the competent authority.

32. The head of the Syrian delegation said that a comparison with regard to the selection of the permanent headquarters should depend on considerations more important than financial ones, such as the natural conditions, the geographical location and the level of the cost of living. He said the city of Damascus enjoyed mild weather and is a reasonable height above sea-level, which reflects a healthy environment for all physiques and ages. It was also situated at a cross roads. Also the prices of commodities and services in Syria are cheaper than in any of the other member States of the Commission. If Syria were not for example, financially regarded to be among the rich countries, yet it was bearing as much as possible in order to make the utmost sacrifices it can for the sake of the cause of liberation and progress. It also devoted to economic development and construction the needed resources in order to advance it.

33. The head of the delegation of Lebanon stated that Lebanon did not doubt at all the capacity of sister countries Iraq and Syria to serve as the distinguished headquarters for the Commission. He commended the two sister States' eagerness to strengthen their roles with regard to hosting regional organizations and offices. He added that Lebanon wished that Baghdad and Damascus would become headquarters for international organs of the United Nations, etc. as this is to the glory of all the Arab States. The matter was no more, in his country's viewpoint, that of

organization or generosity of offers, but, owing to the current ordeal of Lebanon, a matter of confidence in Lebanon's ability or inability to overcome this ordeal. There were organizations and companies which had temporarily transferred their offices outside Lebanon. The Commission's decision as regards its permanent headquarters will be the green light for the return of these organizations and companies to Beirut or the red light for a permanent transfer which would not be the Commission's desire.

34. Lebanon's ordeal, the head of the delegation said, had led to the departure of a host of its most efficient technicians, engineers, doctors and scientists. He added that the Commission, which was concerned with bringing back Arab expertise from abroad, cannot take the decision which would deprive Lebanon of the return of its expertise. Lastly, Iraq and Syria were currently undergoing a great upswing in development, and any decision adopted by the Commission would not affect this upswing. But any negative decision adopted on Lebanon's offer would hinder its rise from its fall, at a time when all the Arab States were eager to help it rise. May your decision be the take-off point for this assistance at the level of Arab and international confidence in Lebanon's future.

35. A member of the delegation of Iraq then made some observations on the two offers submitted respectively by Syria and Lebanon. He recalled the Commission's resolution at its first special session, held in September 1974, on the permanent headquarters and the Commission's discussions reflected in its report on the second session concerning the necessity of promptness in submitting detailed proposals on the site of the permanent headquarters by the three States interested in hosting it.

36. His observations on the two aforementioned offers included the following:

The Syrian offer comprised in its essence four points, namely, land, loan, climate and location. As to land, he said that there was a sharp difference between the Secretariat of the United Nations in New York, which considers the area allotted insufficient to meet the requirements of the Commission, on the one hand, and the Syrian authorities which are of the view that it serves the purpose.

As to the second point, namely, the loan, the representative of Iraq said that everything which was heard and read indicated that the contribution was a loan rather than a grant. As for climate, member States, along with other Arab States, have in the past decided to accommodate other regional organizations in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which made us believe that climate was not the main factor in the choice. If there was an order of priorities among factors, the Iraqi delegation believed that this priority should be accorded to the principle of distributing these headquarters among member States. With regard to location, Damascus was not closer to the other member States than Baghdad.

37. When Iraq submitted its offer to host the permanent headquarters, the representative said, it seriously took into account the financial deficit from which the United Nations has been suffering for years. It was inconceivable that when half the members of this Commission were oil exporting countries we should ask the rest of the international community to bear the greater portion of the expenses of establishing our Commission's headquarters.

38. With regard to the Lebanese offer, the representative of Iraq said that the

decision on the submission of offers had been made before the tragedy occurred in Lebanon and the Lebanese Government had a good opportunity to submit its offer. Furthermore, the issue before us was not the transfer of the permanent headquarters of the Commission from Beirut to Damascus or Baghdad since the Commission had yet not reached a final decision with regard to the permanent headquarters. This question was still pending and was unrelated to the tragedy taking place in Lebanon. A distinction must be made between the two issues of the temporary and the permanent headquarters. As far as the Iraqi delegation was concerned, the temporary headquarters will remain in Lebanon and what the Commission must decide at this session was the question which it had already been debating over the past two years, namely the site of the permanent headquarters of the Commission

39. The head of the delegation of Lebanon made the following remarks: firstly, that the Commission had the right to amend or postpone this implementation of its resolutions and decisions in the light of evolving conditions and circumstances; secondly, that the present decision to be made here by the Commission will be made by an Arab Commission and will have its immediate psychological effect even if the final word will subsequently remain with the United Nations; thirdly, he said, that Lebanon did not wish to enter into rivalries for precedence or attempts to outbid one another between the Arab capitals of Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut. He added that he had, however, received a cable one hour ago from the head of his Government affirming Lebanon's desire that the headquarters be established in its capital and its willingness to provide all the financial undertakings necessary for the establishment of the headquarters in co-operation with the secretariat of the Commission and the Secretariat of the United Nations. The cable read as follows, "The Lebanese Government undertakes to provide everything needed for the permanent headquarters". He urged the delegates to bear this in mind.

40. The head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, commenting on the remarks made by the representative of Iraq concerning the evaluation of the Syrian offer, said that he believed that firstly, the evaluation of this offer was the prerogative of the Commission with all of its members and it was not for any one member to criticize or evaluate the terms of any offer of any member State; secondly, that he had already mentioned and will repeat that the financial terms specified in the Syrian offer were open to amendment and Syria was willing to meet the requirements of the Commission in all their financial and other aspects in accordance with whatever the Commission may decide with regard to the magnitude or nature of these requirements. As to the climate, he said, it would be preferable, since the Commission had the options, to choose the country which had the advantage of the best and most temperate climate for the site of the headquarters and for the effective pursuit of its activities and functions; thirdly, with regard to the site, he said that the intent was not its proximity to member States but the strategic international position which Damascus enjoys as a focal point between Asia and the other continents; fourthly, regarding the principle of distribution mentioned by the representative of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic was in favour of this principle considering that Syria had yet not been chosen as a centre or headquarters for any Arab or international institutions. He made two suggestions to the Committee, the first to suspend the meeting for 15 minutes and the second to adjourn it until the next day's morning. Through voting the meeting was adjourned.

41. The Commission agreed to a request made by one of the member delegations to prepare a summary of the proceedings of the meetings relating to agenda item 5.

42. The head of the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan stated that in view of the differences of opinion on the headquarters of the Commission and in order to give ample time during which the subject of the headquarters could be clarified, Jordan requests the postponement of discussions on the site of the headquarters at this point in the session, it being understood that the Executive Secretary will be given the liberty to invite member States at the time he deems suitable in the course of this session to take the final decision on this subject. The Executive Secretary would be given freedom to adopt whatever he found suitable in connexion with the temporary headquarters.

43. The delegation of Yemen supported the proposal made by the delegation of Jordan, while the delegation of Iraq opposed it and proposed instead the adjournment or suspension of the meeting to provide the opportunity for a closed meeting for consultations on the subject. It was decided to suspend the meeting.

44. In resuming the meeting, the Chairman of the Commission's third session announced that, as a result of consultations and discussions held among the heads of the delegations, agreement had been reached on the draft resolution relating to agenda item 5 (b) dealing with the site of the Commission's permanent headquarters (see resolution 22 (III) in chapter III below). The Executive Secretary made a statement in which he explained that the financial implications of holding the special session in Doha, as provided for in the draft resolution, were estimated at approximately \$US 40,000 to cover all the additional costs and expenses resulting from holding the session outside the headquarters.

F. Work of the Commission since 11 May 1975

45. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item and stated that the period from May 1975 through May 1976 has been characterized by frequent sad events in Lebanon with their adverse effects on the implementation of the work programme of the Commission. He indicated that in reviewing the implementation of the work programme of the Commission, documents E/ECWA/30 and E/ECWA/30/Add.1, the difficult circumstances under which its secretariat has been operating should be borne in mind. He pointed out that the secretariat during this period carried out a number of other activities which were not among those included in the Commission's work programme. It, therefore, has had to reallocate its very limited resources in order to make better use of them and where necessary and possible supplement them by additional resources from extrabudgetary sources. He indicated that while most of these activities have been reported in the above-mentioned document they are briefly also covered in documents E/ECWA/35 and Add 1 which is a report on the Euro-Arab dialogue. He also drew attention to document E/ECWA/32 which gives a brief coverage of the steps taken to implement the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its second session. In particular, reference was made to the report on the requirements for the conduct of a general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia, document E/ECWA/32/Add.1. The Executive Secretary invited the Commission to express its views on the above-mentioned documents.

46. The representative of Lebanon in making some observations on this item referred to the work of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations for the preparation of the Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to

Development and its relevance to the countries of the ECWA region and urged member States of the Commission to actively participate in the work of the Committee and, in particular, in the preparation and revision of suitable projects emanating from its reports for the benefit of the developing countries, in general, and the Arab world, in particular.

47. The head of the delegation of Kuwait made a statement on this item in which he underlined the importance of economic integration among the Arab States and Kuwait's role in this field in supporting the joint regional projects between more than one Arab State and attaching importance to joint co-ordination and co-operation in the gulf area. He affirmed the important role which could currently be played by the Arab world in the creation and evolution of a new economic order which would rely basically on affirming the necessity of self-reliance in development, exploiting the aspects of Arab economic integration for the interest of the Arab States' development, actual industrialization, the introduction of fundamental changes to the structure of Arab labour distribution. He affirmed also that the process of over-all economic and social development was deemed necessary and urgent as scientific and technological progress played an outstanding role. On this basis, he referred to the need for the Economic Commission for Western Asia to be a cornerstone and a source to the member States in providing the required expertise and consultations required, as well as assistance to national institutions in the member States.

48. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic also made a number of observations on this item and others on the progress report on the implementation of the Commission's programme of work. He affirmed the importance of carrying out a comprehensive and detailed study by the Commission of the plan of every member State, with special emphasis on the points in common and co-operation among these States. He stated that, at this stage of experience in effective development planning, the countries of the region needed a pamphlet or guide which would help them in carrying out economic feasibility studies in a way which would enable them to evaluate the costs and advantages of projects and in the light of which they could select the suitable ones. In this connexion, he proposed that the Economic Commission for Western Asia could play a fundamental role in establishing a technical machinery entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out feasibility studies and evaluating projects. He drew attention to the necessity for more co-ordination in activities between ECWA, CAEU and the Arab League's Economic Council.

49. The head of the Jordanian delegation made a comprehensive statement in which he stated that the responsibilities and challenges faced by ECWA, whether on the social or the economic level, were increasing daily in form and substance in the light of the speedy developments and requirements of the States in the region and their repercussion on the international sphere. He commented on the Commission's draft medium-term plan and pointed out that it comprised equally vital and important projects whether in relation to Jordan or the countries in the region in general. He saw the importance of co-ordination among the national plans within the framework of an integrated strategy for the countries of the region. He also reaffirmed the importance of development of the agricultural sector, concentration on the problems of energy, and the exploitation of natural and water resources and the establishment of industrial projects in the countries of the area. He referred as well to the great progress realized by the Jordanian economy in implementing the 1973-1975 three-year development plan. He stated that a five-year development plan for 1976-1980 had been adopted in Jordan, whose target was to increase the total national production by 12 per cent per year. That plan would be discussed during an international conference to be held in Jordan in late May 1976.

50. The head of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen made a statement in which he commended the activity of ECWA on the regional and international levels despite the fact that the available financial resources still restricted the possibilities of strengthening its increasing role. He expressed satisfaction at the advisory services extended by the Commission to Democratic Yemen in the various fields. He also referred to the efforts exerted by Democratic Yemen in the field of over-all planned development and its interest in creating the qualified and trained human element.

51. The head of the delegation of the PLO made a statement expressing his delegation's great interest in the work of the Commission and in the role of the countries of the region in building the new international economic order and commended the progress made by the Commission in implementing its work programme under difficult and trying conditions. He made particular reference to the Commission's report on requirements for the conduct of a general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia, emphasizing the importance of this study which will be the first of its kind and a fundamental source of reference for the region, providing that it includes in its scope the Palestinians residing in the occupied territories of Palestine and also those Palestinians who have been obliged by the circumstances of the aggression to remain dispersed. He also referred to the decision, taken at the Commission's population seminar to conduct a comprehensive survey on the distribution of the Palestinian Arab people both within and outside of the region and on the demographic and economic characteristics of this people, stressing the need to take the appropriate decision in order to begin implementation of this project.

52. The head of the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman made a statement expressing the importance attached by Oman to the strengthening of its relations with the Commission in order to enable the Commission to provide the necessary advisory services for the implementation of various development projects. He defined the general aspects of the proposed co-operation with the Commission which would include the provision of advisory services related to planning, surveys, an expansion of the area under cultivation, economic feasibility studies of certain projects and the completion of the transport and communications network. He also proposed the establishment of an effective system for the distribution of documents relating to studies made by the Commission.

53. The representative of Iraq made a number of comments on this item, stressing the need for the Commission to carry out its tasks according to the circumstances and particular problems facing member States, primarily in an Arab context and then in the context of the developing countries and the international community respectively. He emphasized the need for a thorough factual examination of the present development potential of the member States, for a study of the practical experiences of member States, both individually and in co-operation with other countries, and for the exploitation of their available technical potential, which would lead to the creation of a common understanding with regard to planning and development issues and help to provide conditions conducive to the establishment of economic co-operation among these countries. He further emphasized the need for a study of international economic developments and for the setting up of a committee to define the responsibilities of the group of advanced countries towards the developing countries in general and the member States of this Commission in particular along with a review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in the countries of

Western Asia. He went on to say that efforts were required in order to avoid duplication of work with other regional and international organizations and referred to the need for the greatest possible amount of information on available capacities and potential in various fields in the region in order to allow an effective implementation of the Commission's work programme.

54. The representative of Iraq pointed out the need for an equal balance in the Commission's activities in the field of development planning and work priorities and stressed the need for co-ordination between the Commission and the CAEU with regard to the preparation of country studies. He also reviewed the possibility of utilizing available potential in Iraq in the computer field. The delegation referred to the need for research on the subject of planning the foreign trade of member States. In the field of agriculture it stressed the need for the Commission to adopt a new approach in dealing with agricultural issues which would be conducive to development and to the creation of new methods of tackling problems instead of the total reliance on the studies and conclusions of FAO. The delegation also stressed the need for the speedy implementation and completion of the programmed tasks in the field of industry in the light of the rapid and extensive industrial developments being witnessed by certain countries participating in the Commission. The delegation referred to the importance of the study of issues related to natural resources, science and technology and commended the efforts of the Commission in this field while indicating the need to profit from the results of international conferences and, in particular, the Paris Conference. The delegation also pointed out its interest in the draft strategy of action in the sphere of the alternative uses of oil and stressed the need for complete co-ordination between the Commission and the authorities concerned in member States in order to find out their opinion on all of the indicators which might be established by the Commission's studies. The delegation explained the need to study the question of "pollution of the waters of the Arabian Gulf" and stressed its interest in the subject of population and the direction of the Commission's activities towards the treatment of population issues from a comprehensive rather than from a detailed point of view. In the field of transport, communications and tourism the delegation requested the Commission to undertake a study of its programmes at regional levels for member States and expressed its interest in the field of social development and human settlements, referring to the need for studies to be conducted on the situation with regard to social development in the countries of the region, with prior recognition of the fact that certain aspects in the various member States of the Commission required specialized treatment. The delegation indicated the possibility of benefit being derived from the endeavours of Iraq in this field. The delegation called for the Commission to expand its activities in the field of statistics with emphasis on a comparative study of the cost of living in member States and relevant statistics on prices, production costs and analysis of commodity balances and input and output. The delegation proposed the establishment of a documentation centre by the Commission for the exchange of documentary information.

55. The representatives of a number of countries expressed appreciation of the efforts made in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its second session. In particular, they supported the report constituting the frame of reference for a study on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia, E/ECWA/32/Add.1, and emphasized the need for such a study especially at the international scene. It was suggested further that a population census of the Palestinian people should also be carried out in collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The representative of the Palestine Liberation

Organization proposed that such a study should cover the Palestinian people as a whole both within and outside the ECWA region.

56. The representative of Qatar stated that his Government is prepared to provide the sum of \$US 142,758 towards the total estimated cost of \$US 306,241 required to undertake the study on the economic and social situation of the Palestinian people in the region of Western Asia. The balance will be provided from the regular resources of ECWA (see E/ECWA/32/Add.1).

57. The representative of Jordan indicated, in this connexion, that the forthcoming meeting in Luxembourg is aimed at working out certain formulae and modalities of co-ordinating efforts and enhancing co-operation among the Arab countries and member Countries of the European Common Market. He urged active ECWA participation and proposed a draft resolution to that effect.

58. The representative of Saudi Arabia emphasized the need for closer co-ordination of efforts especially with the Arab regional organizations.

59. At the conclusion of the debate on this item concerning the activities of the Commission, the Executive Secretary provided some clarifications and answers to questions raised by some delegations. He recalled that ever since its foundation the Commission had endeavoured to establish relations of close co-operation with regional institutions, including the Council of Arab Economic Unity, with which it had been decided the Commission should hold a joint meeting following the current session to set the official seal on this co-operation. The Commission accorded special attention to the study of planning experience in member countries, the study of international economic developments and their effect on the countries of the region and economic feasibility studies. The Commission was aware also of the importance of preparing a manual of development and planning terminology to standardize usage, but that called for additional resources which were not available at present. On the basis of initial research the Commission had prepared a proposal aimed at providing an integrated training programme in electronic computers at all levels to the member countries in the region. The Syrian Government had shown special interest in the matter and had requested assistance and subsequently proposed a draft regional project for training in this field. The Commission had not received an invitation to attend the conference on the use of electronic computers in developing countries mentioned by one delegation.

60. With regard to the comment of one delegation that the industrial programme had been somewhat slow in implementation, the secretariat drew the attention of Commission members to the fact that a number of industrial projects were implemented in co-operation and co-ordination with UNIDO and IDCAS, in order to avoid duplication and repetition and to increase efficiency, which sometimes obliged the Commission to make changes in the implementation schedule of these projects. With regard to natural resources and science and technology, the Commission was prepared to provide all the assistance it could in this field, within the limits of its resources. The Commission's secretariat was acting as a secretariat for the regional group for Western Asia in the field of science and technology. It was evident that the question of pollution and environment in connexion with the waters of the Gulf actually came within the competence of another body, namely, UNEP, although the Commission worked in co-ordination with that programme whenever necessary.

61. The Executive Secretary supported the proposal of some delegations concerning

the need to utilize field studies designed for concrete projects which were suited to the development requirements of member States. The secretariat was undertaking a statistical field study of member States on the participation of women in the development process. It was also studying the various Arab experiments for the development of female human resources. The Commission's experts were currently undertaking a study and design of residential agglomerations in desert conditions. He added that the satisfaction shown by some delegations at the establishment of the Statistical Unit in the Commission would contribute to the success of the statistical plan for that unit. It was hoped to avoid duplication between the work of the Statistical Unit and the Statistical Bureau for Arab Countries of the CAEU.

62. The following draft resolutions were submitted to the Commission on its activities:

- (a) The Euro-Arab dialogue;
- (b) The reconstruction and development of Lebanon;
- (c) The identification and evaluation of development projects submitted by Lebanon, Oman and the United Arab Emirates;
- (d) General study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people submitted by Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen;
- (e) Census of the Palestinian Arab people submitted by Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen;
- (f) Progress report and follow-up action on the resolutions of the second session submitted by Iraq and Kuwait;
- (g) The economic and social situation of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation submitted by Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (h) Co-operation with regional institutions submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (i) Establishment of a voluntary fund submitted by Democratic Yemen;
- (j) Attention to the environmental effects of development projects in general and of industrial projects in particular and the strengthening of co-operation in fields of joint activity between UNEP and ECWA submitted by Kuwait, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.

The above-mentioned draft resolutions were discussed, and amendments were made thereto. The Commission then adopted the resolutions set forth in chapter III. The draft resolution on the establishment of a voluntary fund was put to the Commission, and the delegations of five States supported it, the delegation of four States, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates opposed it, and three States abstained, namely Lebanon, Oman and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Iraq delegation abstained on paragraph 2 of resolution 31 (III) in co-operation with regional organizations.

G. Issues relating to the seventh special session of the General Assembly and to the recommendations of the Commission at its second session and their impact on ECWA's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1978-1981

63. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item and said that document E/ECWA/31/Add.1 before the Commission contained some amendments introduced in the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977. These amendments were based partly on the recommendations made by the Commission at its second session following the Post-World Population Conference Consultations for the ECWA region, held in Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975, and partly on the provisions of resolution 3362 (S-VII) of the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Documents E/ECWA/31, E/ECWA/31/Rev.1 and E/ECWA/31/Corr.1 presented the Commission's draft medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981. The plan was, in general, a continuation of the 1976-1979 medium-term plan of the Commission. Certain modifications, with respect to objectives and strategy considered necessary, had been introduced in order to accommodate the recent developments and changing requirements of the region, both at the national and regional levels. The specific resolutions adopted by the Commission at its second session with implications for its work programme, the findings of the field missions and consultations carried out since the preparation of the 1976-1979 medium-term plan, and the provisions embodied in the resolution of the special seventh session of the General Assembly (3362 (S-VII)) had all been taken into account in the preparation of the documents. The Executive Secretary invited the Commission to examine the amendments to the programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 and the 1978-1981 draft medium-term plan and express its views and provide guidelines in this connexion.

64. The representative of the Democratic Yemen in his statement commended the efforts of the secretariat of the Commission in the follow-up action to the Commission's resolution 16 (II) providing for the development of a programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region. He urged that additional funds should be placed at the disposal of the Commission in such a way as to enable it to consolidate its increasing role in this domain. He further urged the member States to consolidate the "voluntary fund" especially as the United Nations and the UNDP are currently passing through a period of financial difficulties.

65. The representative of Iraq made a number of detailed observations on the Commission's draft 1978-1981 medium-term plan related to its various substantive programmes. The remarks were taken note of and will be given serious consideration by the secretariat of the Commission in preparing the final version of the document.

66. The representative of Yemen Arab Republic in his statement commended the work of the Commission, particularly the services rendered by its secretariat to the least developed countries of the region with a view to accelerating the process of development. Reference was specifically made to the assistance given by ECWA secretariat in the field of national accounts, development planning and requisite training programmes.

67. In concluding the discussions on this item, the Commission adopted its programme of work and priorities for the period 1976-1977 and the medium-term plan for 1978-1981.

68. The delegation of Kuwait referred to the visit paid to the Arab States by a delegation headed by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Qatar, representing UNFPA during the same period of the convocation of the Commission's third session. This was carried but in implementation of the recommendation adopted by the Arab Ministers of Labour Conference held in Cairo in 1975. The recommendation provides for requesting the Arab States to contribute \$25 million to UNFPA to enable the Fund to finance projects related to population activities in the Arab States. The Kuwaiti delegation proposed that the aforementioned Fund should be requested to give priority in extending financial support to the Commission so as to carry out a population census of the Palestinian Arab People (resolution No. 28) as soon as possible, owing to the unanimous support given to this resolution.

H. Place of the 1977 session

69. The Chairman of the third session of the Commission made a statement on the place of the 1977 session. He said that the sessions were normally held in Beirut, it being the provisional headquarters of the secretariat of the Commission. However, with the approval of the Secretary General of the United Nations, it could be held elsewhere, in which case the country wishing to host the session of ECWA, as had happened in the other Economic Commissions of the United Nations, would undertake all the expenses and additional funds related to the convocation of the meeting outside the headquarters. This was, actually, what happened as far as the present session was concerned. The sister State of Qatar had borne all the additional financial expenses resulting from holding the session outside the headquarters. He asked if there were any proposals following the explanation.

70. The head of the delegation of Saudi Arabia thanked the State of Qatar, its Emir, its Government and its people for hosting so generously this session and for presenting such facilities for its work. He added that in the name of the delegation of Saudi Arabia he had the pleasure of inviting ECWA to hold its fourth session in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and hoped that this initiative meets the unanimous approval of the assembly. The delegate of Iraq while thanking Qatar for its kind hospitality in hosting the third session of ECWA said that he was also proud, in the name of Iraq, to support the proposal of the delegate of Saudi Arabia to hold the fourth session of ECWA in Saudi Arabia. He urged members of the Commission to accept this invitation with full appreciation and thanks.

I. Other business

71. The Chairman of the session introduced this item and announced that the Chair had received a proposal that the Commission should examine the question of the proposed establishment of a temporary secretariat of ECWA away from Beirut. The floor was then given to the Executive Secretary, who explained that consideration had so far been given to the possibilities of stationing the staff either (1) in one of the neighbouring cities within the region as the top priority or (2) in one of the United Nations established offices where ECWA could be temporarily accommodated. As regards the period relating to the temporary location of the functioning of the secretariat staff outside Beirut, it would continue until conditions in Beirut permitted the return of staff members and their dependants to the duty station. The provisional transfer of the staff of the ECWA secretariat outside Beirut would entail financial implications which were required to be submitted under rule 24 of

the rules of procedure. It had been roughly estimated that the foreseeable expenditures relating to this measure would be in the neighbourhood of \$US 1.5 to 2 million. If a decision was taken, detailed financial implications would be prepared and submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for appropriate action.

72. The head of the delegation of Yemen proposed that the Executive Secretary should be empowered to take such action as he deemed appropriate in this regard. The Chairman of the session put forward a recommendation whereby the Commission would decide to authorize the Executive Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to transfer all or part of the staff of the Commission's secretariat away from Beirut temporarily to any suitable location where they could conduct their work with greater efficiency, until these exceptional circumstances were over, giving priority to the States of the region (see the text of the recommendation in chapter I of this report).

73. The Executive Secretary explained that the Commission's secretariat had received a request from IDCAS to accord it permanent consultative status with the Commission, under rule 66 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure. It was decided to refer the matter to the secretariat and it decided to comply with this request in implementation of Commission resolution 9 (II) on the strengthening and development of relations with Arab regional institutions. The Commission decided to accord IDCAS permanent consultative status with the Commission.

74. Statements were made in the course of the session by representatives of the States invited to participate in a consultative capacity, the United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, in which they expressed interest in the Commission's work and a desire for increased co-operation with it and with the States of the region by the carrying out of joint activities in various fields and indicated the future projects which they intended to carry out in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). A statement was also made by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP in which he emphasized the need for interregional co-operation and delineated possible areas for such co-operation.

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

22 (III). Site of the permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 6 (S-I) on the site of the permanent headquarters of the Commission,

Taking into consideration the offers to host the permanent headquarters which have been submitted and the discussions held on this question,

1. Decides to postpone the final decision on the site of the permanent headquarters of the Commission until a special session to be held at Doha on 21 August 1976;

2. Decides also that the end of the new time-limit shall be absolutely the final deadline for the three member States which have submitted offers to host the permanent headquarters of the Commission to complete all the requested studies and detailed information and to submit them to the Commission, waiving application of paragraph 3 of rule 8 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure;

3. Decides to transmit its final decision on the selection of the permanent headquarters to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixty-first session;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to prepare an estimate of the cost of implementing the offers presented in accordance with rule 24 of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure;

5. Expresses gratitude to the State of Qatar for volunteering to host the forthcoming special session and defray the costs involved.

4th meeting
12 May 1976

23 (III). The Euro-Arab dialogue

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having considered the secretariat's report entitled "The Euro-Arab Dialogue", 1/

Bearing in mind that the countries members of the Commission are deeply interested in achieving the desired objectives of the Euro-Arab dialogue,

Recognizing that the secretariat of the Commission can assist member countries in deriving greater benefits from this dialogue,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the secretariat's efforts in the preparation of the aforementioned report;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on ways and means which could enable the Commission to assist in achieving the objectives of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

1/ E/ECWA/35/Add.1.

24 (III). Reconstruction and development of Lebanon

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recognizing its obligations in promoting the economic and social progress of member States and in assisting in the removal of obstacles to this end,

Recognizing further the gravity of the economic and social problems which Lebanon is now facing as a result of the devastation caused by the grievous events of recent times;

1. Appreciates the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a Special Fund designed to assist in the reconstruction and development of Lebanon;

2. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Secretary-General to designate the Executive Secretary of the Commission as the co-ordinator in Lebanon of the above-mentioned assistance channelled through this Fund;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to extend all possible assistance for the co-ordination of efforts made for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

25 (III). Identification and evaluation of development projects

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Conscious of the growing need to intensify efforts in order to accelerate the development of the member States of the Commission,

Drawing attention to the fact that serious measures are being taken by these States to allocate an increasing portion of their financial resources for development purposes,

Noting that, in order to achieve these objectives, member States may need to develop further their technical and institutional capabilities in the field of pre-investment studies and project evaluation and appraisal;

Requests the Executive Secretary:

1. To intensify the secretariat's activities in the field of project identification, evaluation and appraisal;

2. To develop, in consultation with member States and regional and international institutions, appropriate training programmes and increase advisory services to member countries, with a view to building up the expertise and institutions required in this field.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

26 (III). A programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 16 (II) on a programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region, urging the Executive Secretary in paragraph 2 to continue his efforts to provide additional services and activities to promote the economic and social development process in those countries,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 2803 (XXVI), aiming at the support of country programmes carried out in the least developed among the developing countries and also of regional and subregional programmes of special significance for these countries, and associated resolutions as a result of which the United Nations regional project for public finance and administration was established,

Appreciating the services which the Commission's secretariat has provided and is continuing to provide by means of this regional project in the field of training and advisory services in public finance in favour of the least developed countries in the region,

Recognizing the urgent and real need of these countries for the continuation, intensification and expansion of the services of the regional project for public finance and administration,

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to consult with the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to finding a method of obtaining adequate funds for a reasonable planning period so that the United Nations regional project for public finance and administration may continue its services during its second phase in order to meet the requests of Governments, recipients of the services of the project;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on this to the fourth regular session of the Commission.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

27 (III). General study of the economic and social situation
and potential of the Palestinian Arab people

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling resolution 12 (II) on the Palestine Liberation Organization,

1. Notes with appreciation the report on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people; 1/

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to make arrangements to carry out a comprehensive study of the economic and social situation and potential of the entire Palestinian Arab people in accordance with the broad outline in the report and in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

1/ Document E/ECWA/32/Add.1.

28 (III). Census of the Palestine Arab people

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Noting with appreciation the revised programme of work containing the Commission's projects in the field of population, 1/

Taking into consideration the fact that among the urgent projects of far-reaching importance is the project for a population census of the Palestinian Arab people wherever they are found,

1. Urges the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to furnish the material support necessary for beginning implementation of this project before the end of 1976;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, for beginning the population census operations as soon as possible after the meeting of the preparatory committee to be held in 1976.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

1/ E/ECWA/31/Add.1.

29 (III). Progress report and follow-up action on the resolutions of the second session

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having studied documents E/ECWA/30 and E/ECWA/32 and the addenda thereto and having heard the discussion on them,

Decides:

1. That it is necessary to achieve clear modes and forms of co-ordination between the activities and work of the Commission and the work of other bodies, particularly Arab ones, and to avoid duplication of work and functions;
2. That it is necessary to concentrate and intensify the Commission's efforts and available capacities for the completion of clearly specified tasks, within a set order of priorities, and to avoid dispersal of these capacities and efforts over a wide range of different tasks which exceed the available and the anticipated capacities of the Commission;
3. That the implementation of the work programme should rely on the utilization of the capacities and expertise available in member States and the use of foreign expertise in cases of extreme necessity;
4. That it is necessary to bear in mind goals of such forms of integration as Arab economic integration and to study new industrial projects in the region, after taking into consideration the existing industries and endeavouring to raise their productive capacity and regulate the quality of their products;
5. That it is necessary to avoid the conduct of surveys and studies which tend towards the reidentification of problems already identified and to be seriously oriented towards practical surveys and studies of the new problems faced by member States, while ensuring the submission of practical and clearly defined solutions to those problems.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

30 (III). Economic and social conditions of the Palestine Arab people under occupation

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Having studied the development projects relating to the peoples of the region represented in the Commission,

Taking into account the poor economic and living conditions which prevail among the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and which are deteriorating daily as a result of the racist Zionist practices directed against these people, which are violations of the most elementary principles of human rights and international documents and which aim at changing human, geographical, social, cultural and economic characteristics,

1. Decides that it is necessary to appeal to the Economic and Social Council for prompt action to take practical measures to ensure the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian Arab people in their homeland;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the concern of the States members of the Commission and their desire that he take prompt steps to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

31 (III). Co-operation with regional institutions

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the operative paragraph of its resolution 9 (II) on co-operation with regional institutions,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts and accomplishments of the secretariat of the Commission in this field,

Desiring to create optimum conditions for the establishment of close and fruitful co-operation with regional institutions,

1. Calls upon the secretariat of the Commission to define the modes and principles of the proposed co-ordination and co-operation with regional institutions, to make arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation with them in consultation with these institutions and to undertake to notify the Commission at its next meeting of the steps taken in this connexion.

2. Calls upon the secretariat of the Commission to make arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation with regional institutions in the form of agreements where these institutions so request.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

32 (III). United Nations Development Programme

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 10 (II) on relations between the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Development Programme, which urges the States members of the Commission to increase their proportional representation in the Governing Council of the Programme,

Expressing satisfaction at the increasing effective co-ordination and co-operation between the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Development Programme and the importance of its programmes and projects in the region,

Noting with deep concern the dimensions of the current financial crisis which the United Nations Development Programme is facing and the great reduction in the implementation of the Programme at the country, regional and international levels as a result of this crisis,

Recognizing that the Programme's financial crisis has affected projects of great economic importance undertaken jointly by the Governments of States members of the Commission and the Programme and being executed by United Nations specialized agencies and that the unresolved continuation of the crisis will affect development projects of strategic importance to States members of the Commission,

Commending the appeal made by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in January 1976 to Governments to endeavour to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme in 1976 in order to enable the Programme to finance existing projects,

Urges the Governments of member States to exert every effort to contribute to the alleviation of the financial predicament which the United Nations Development Programme is facing so as to enable it to continue implementing the projects adopted by it to assist the developing countries and in particular the least developed countries and peoples in the region.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

33 (III). Establishment of a voluntary fund

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling its resolution 11 (II) authorizing the Chairman of the second session and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to hold urgent consultations with member States with a view to exploring the best and speediest ways of establishing an additional fund financed from voluntary contributions for the extrabudgetary financing of the Commission's work programmes and for meeting requests by member States for studies and advisory services,

Taking note of the Executive Secretary's report in this regard, 1/

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for its generous contribution to the proposed fund and to the Governments of member States which have declared their willingness to contribute to the said fund,

1. Decides to establish the Voluntary Fund of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to utilize the resources of the fund to finance the greatest possible amount of services in the various fields of economic and social development in favour of the least developed States members of the Commission.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

1/ E/ECWA/32.

34 (III). Attention to the environmental effects of development projects in general and of industrial projects in particular and the strengthening of co-operation in fields of joint activity between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic Commission for Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the discussions which took place, the remarks made by the delegations of certain member States and the statement made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Appreciating the importance of the work being carried out by the countries of the region in the field of rapid development to raise the level of the peoples of the region,

Taking into consideration the adverse effects on the environment produced by some development programmes in general and industrial development programmes in particular,

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to co-operate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme in connexion with the protection of the environment and the promotion of environmental awareness in all countries of the region.

2. Calls upon the secretariat and member States to accord attention to the environmental aspects of development projects side by side with the economic aspects.

7th meeting
14 May 1976

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK AND
PRIORITIES FOR 1976-1977, AND THE COMMISSION'S
1978-1981 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

FOREWORD

This document introduces some revisions into the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977, as recommended by the Commission at its second session and as called for by the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). It comprises two parts.

The first part presents the revised version of the Commission's programme of work for 1976-1977 in the field of population, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultations for the ECWA region, held in Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975, and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII).

The second part consists of an addendum to the Commission's programme of work for 1976-1977 in the field of international trade and development pursuant to paragraphs (3), (6) and (8) of section III and paragraph 2 (c) of section VI of resolution 3362 (S-VII). No further amendments to the programme of work were required. The specific activities and projects envisaged under the 1976-1977 Programme of Work of the various substantive programmes of ECWA already provide the follow-up actions called for by the other provisions of the resolution bearing on the work of the Commission.

A. REVISED WORK PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION, 1976/77

(Section 7 of the Commission's programme of work
and priorities for 1976-1977)

INTRODUCTION

During the second session of ECWA, it was proposed that "recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultation for the ECWA region, held in Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975 (henceforth called the Doha/Beirut meeting), be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the population programme". ^{1/} These recommendations had not been considered in the work programme presented to the second session because of the very limited time between the end of the consultation meeting and the beginning of the ECWA session. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that a revised population programme will be presented to it at this third session. The present document is in fulfilment of this request.

The regional projects that arose from the recommendations of the Doha/Beirut meeting require, for their implementation, significantly more resources than are presently available to the Population Division of ECWA. Therefore, a selection of projects and activities was made which constituted a minimum response to these recommendations and only these projects were included in the present revised work programme (projects 7.1 to 7.10). The remaining projects are placed in the annex to this revised version of the Population Work Programme for the biennium 1976-1977.

It must be noted that this revised work programme takes into account the results of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 3362 (S-VII) entitled "Development and international economic co-operation". This was done in at least three different ways: by assigning high priority to areas within the population field that received special attention in the above resolution (e.g., migration of qualified personnel), by selecting regional projects that are of special significance to the least developed countries of the region and to countries in greatest need for technical assistance (e.g., data collection and analysis) and by emphasizing activities which promote greater direct co-operation between the developing countries of ECWA (e.g., regional population surveys) as recommended in the above resolution.

At the request of United Nations Headquarters, country projects were eliminated from the revised programme since United Nations procedures require that these be submitted by the countries themselves and not be included in the regional programme of work. Where countries specify ECWA as the executing agency, this particular activity of ECWA is included, without specific reference to the individual project, under item 7.1 of this work programme, in particular under subheading 3 entitled "Advisory services and substantive support".

Financial implications

The proper implementation of even this minimum programme (excluding the annex) requires a significant addition in the staff resources of the Population Division. It should be noted in this regard that, before January 1975, the Population

^{1/} Report on the second session, 5-10 May 1975, p. 7.

Division was a unit and then a section; its functions have been expanded to the level of a division while its resources from the regular budget have remained unchanged at the 1973 level when it was only a unit. UNFPA has already indicated its willingness to finance at least three new posts (i.e., from extrabudgetary funds). A review of needs will be made in 1976 in the context of the total needs of ECWA and, at that time, demands may be made on the regular budgets if the need arises.

With regard to the annex, no financial implications for the present budget is envisaged. If the projects in the annex, in principle, receive the approval of the Commission, financing will be sought from extrabudgetary funds and projects will be implemented as funds become available.

7.1 Programme formulation and management and expert advisory services and support

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description:

The management of the programme comprises the following three main responsibilities:

1. Over-all responsibilities of a continuing nature:

- Management of the programme including detailed planning of future activities and the preparation of briefs and reports for meetings in population and related fields in which ECWA is invited to participate.
- The organization and servicing of regional seminars and short-term training courses in demographic and population studies.

2. Review and assessment of current developments:

- Over-all review of the current population situation in the countries of the region.
- Contributions to the statistical abstract of ECWA, the report on the World Population Situation and other similar international publications.
- Publication of the Population Bulletin of ECWA, a scientific periodical and newsletter on population matters issued twice a year in both Arabic and English.

3. Advisory services and substantive support:

- Provide technical advisory services to Governments, upon their request, and substantive support to United Nations technical co-operation programmes dealing with censuses, surveys, vital registration systems and other population activities.

- Acting, at the request of Governments, as executing agency for national population censuses and demographic socio-economic sample surveys.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	46	101	147
General service m/m	24	90	114
Consultant m/m	-		
Travel		\$13,600	\$13,600

7.2 Regional population surveys

Expected completion date: 1976/77

Description:

Four major surveys were requested in the recommendations of the UN/UNFPA Post-World Population Conference Consultation for the ECWA region which took place in Doha, Qatar, from 24 to 25 March and Beirut, Lebanon, from 1 to 2 May 1975: A survey of Palestinians, a survey of Arab scholars, a survey of intraregional migration and a survey of Bedouins. However, resources that can at present be reasonably expected to become available to the ECWA population programme do not permit more than a beginning of activity and this only with regard to the first three surveys:

(a) Survey of Palestinians

The Doha/Beirut meeting recommended that "ECWA, in co-operation with Arab States and concerned Palestinian institutions, conduct a comprehensive survey regarding the distribution of the Arab Palestinian people inside and outside the region and the demographic and economic characteristics of these people". Unlike previous recommendations, therefore, the present one is not a request for a research undertaking but for a comprehensive census-type enumeration of Palestinians which would give their size, composition and major socio-economic characteristics. The information thus collected would form the basis for projections and can also constitute an important background for future studies of the socio-economic conditions and problems of the Palestinians. Because of limited funds, only a preparatory meeting for this survey is envisaged which will take place in 1976. The main purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the definitions, concepts and methods of data collection. The UNFPA funding (\$10,000) has been requested for this meeting. The survey itself would need to be financed separately and additionally (see annex).

(b) Survey of Arab scholars

The Doha/Beirut meeting, as well as the second session of ECWA, emphasized the need to study the determinants and consequences of the brain-drain in the Arab countries. The Doha/Beirut meeting additionally

recommended that ECWA, in co-operation with the League of Arab States, UNFPA and specialized agencies, formulate an integrated plan at the Arab level for the purpose of surveying Arab scholars inside and outside the region, in order to determine their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Here again, only a preliminary meeting to discuss the definitions, concepts and methods of work is envisaged and for which funds (\$18,030) have been requested from UNFPA. This meeting would take place in 1977 and would include experts on the relevant statistical techniques. The survey itself would need to be financed separately and additionally (see annex).

(c) Survey of intraregional migration

This project may be divided into two parts:

- collection and analysis of existing data; and
- a field survey of intraregional migration to collect new, comprehensive and up-to-date information.

The first phase of this project has already begun and is expected to be completed towards the end of 1976 but no financing has yet been obtained for the survey part of this project (see annex).

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	6	11	17
General service m/m	-	9	9
Travel		\$4,000	\$4,000

7.3 Analysis and presentation of demographic and related socio-economic data

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description:

An inventory of recent and relatively reliable demographic socio-economic data has been completed and will be updated as part of the over-all management of the population programme. Where gaps exist, estimates will be made through indirect demographic and statistical methods to obtain reliable information. The purpose of this project is to undertake in-depth analysis of this information and to present it in forms suitable for development planning exercise and other development purposes. Accordingly, four main activities are envisaged: first, the preparation of "country population profiles" in which the demographic socio-economic information on countries of the region will be analysed, supplemented and presented in a brief and simple form. Country profiles will contain, in addition, information on national policies explicitly aimed at affecting population variables. Secondly, the preparation of "demographic socio-economic data sheets" in which a simplified tabulation of this information is presented in readily accessible form. Thirdly, the undertaking of projections of population and

related socio-economic variables which will go beyond the systematic and standardized projections of United Nations Headquarters by utilizing methods adapted to the needs of the countries of the ECWA region. Fourthly, studies of specific population/development questions, in particular a study of population and manpower in the ECWA region to be completed in 1977 containing statistics, estimates and projections of components of population growth, composition and structure of the labour force, educational status and attainment, and other such important variables.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	-	69	69
General service m/m	-	42	42
Travel		\$8,000	\$8,000

7.4 Study of the correlates of differential morbidity and mortality in selected ECWA countries

Expected completion date: 1977

Description:

The Doha/Beirut meeting placed great stress on the need for research on the interrelations between population and socio-economic factors. It recommended that research be conducted "on the levels and trends of demographic variables and their interaction from the standpoint of their effect on the level and nature of economic development and the effect of development on them". Among the components of population growth, morbidity and mortality received the greatest emphasis at both the World Population Conference and the Doha/Beirut meeting. In some countries of the ECWA region mortality levels remain relatively high and major efforts are under way for reducing them in all countries of the region. Even where average mortality has reached relatively low levels, morbidity and mortality differentials among regions within the country, among social and economic groups, and between the sexes, remain quite significant. Nevertheless, very few studies have been conducted to determine the socio-economic variables most generally associated with these differentials in the ECWA region. The purpose of the present study will be to fill this gap and to determine, as reliably as possible, the social and economic conditions most significantly associated with the relatively high levels of morbidity and mortality. The results should provide significant help in the formulation of national policies in the fields of health, social welfare, income distribution and the distribution of social services. This study is expected to be initiated in 1976 and terminated in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	10	-	10
General service m/m	-	8	8
Travel		\$2,000	\$2,000

7.5 Research into the socio-economic determinants of desired family size and fertility in the ECWA region

Expected completion date: 1977

Description:

A strong relationship exists between socio-economic levels, for example, educational attainment and fertility behaviour. Nevertheless, the empirical and causal relationship between education and fertility or, in fact, between any socio-economic variable and reproductive behaviour, is not a simple one and varies between regions and countries. Because of the peculiarity of the development process of most countries of the ECWA region, generalizations obtained from studies outside these countries might not be totally relevant to them. The Doha/Beirut meeting recommended that comprehensive studies be conducted "to determine the nature of the relationship between reproduction and socio-economic and cultural levels of the family and the individual and to make use of this relationship in drafting population programmes and policies at the local and regional levels". Accordingly, the present study has been designed to collect available statistical information on this particular population/development relationship, to supplement this information with needed estimates and to analyse the results in general as to shed light on the development/fertility relationship in countries of the ECWA region. The study will be initiated in 1976 and is expected to be completed in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	10	-	10
General service m/m	-	8	8
Travel		\$2,000	\$2,000

7.6 Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description:

The World Population Plan of Action recommended that "Monitoring of population trends and policies discussed in this plan of action should be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of the United Nations and reviewed biennially by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system beginning in 1977". It further recommended that "comprehensive and thorough review and appraisal of progress made towards achieving the goals and recommendations of this plan of action should be undertaken every five years by the United Nations system". The Doha/Beirut meeting recommended, in turn, that "ECWA would follow up the execution of this meeting's recommendations within the framework of its work programme and available resources, and co-ordinate these activities with those of review

and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action". In addition to the data collection, appraisal and analysis, these activities will require an up-to-date inventory of national policies dealing with population growth, urbanization, international migration and other population variables. Accordingly, a data bank of these policies for all States Members of the United Nations and specialized agencies has been developed at United Nations Headquarters based on a literature search of official documentation. This data bank is now being updated and completed with a questionnaire on population policies and related matters which is being developed by United Nations Headquarters in close co-operation with the regional economic commissions. ECWA's responsibility in this monitoring, review and appraisal activities is to supply basic information at its disposal on a number of population and related socio-economic variables and to assist in the analysis of the results of the policy questionnaire. This contribution would take place during both 1976 and 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	-	7	7
General service m/m	-	11	11
Travel		\$2,000	\$2,000

7.7 Comparative study of decision-making in population policy: the role of national population commissions

Expected completion date: 1978

Description:

Population policy is a multidisciplinary activity having to do with a variety of subjects including statistics, health, education, housing and other social and economic fields. Governments, on the other hand, are organized sectorally and in terms of ministries and organizations dealing with specific functions and disciplines. As with planning, therefore, the need for a multidisciplinary unit to deal with the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population activities and policies is clear and was strongly emphasized in the World Population Plan of Action and in the Doha/Beirut meeting. Where no national population commissions exist, such commissions may be created with the assistance of ECWA. In all cases, the proper location and functions of these commissions (e.g. within the planning organization) must be clearly identified. The purpose of this research project is to study the location and functions of existing commissions (mostly constituted in conjunction with national preparations for the World Population Year and World Population Conference, 1974), to compare these with existing commissions elsewhere, and to identify models for establishing such commissions that are relevant to the conditions of the countries of the ECWA region. This project will be initiated in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	-	3	3
General service m/m	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-

7.8 Integrated population goals and inputs in the development plans and programmes of the ECWA countries

Expected completion date: 1977

Description:

Perhaps one of the most important vehicles to implement population programmes is their incorporation into the development plans of countries. On the other hand, demographic and related socio-economic variables are themselves major inputs in these development plans on the basis of which the needs in education, health, manpower and other social and economic sectors are determined. Nevertheless, development planning and programming exercises, within as well as without the region, generally take these demographic socio-economic factors inadequately into account. The purpose of this study is to analyse the development plans and programmes of the region with a view to determining the ways in which population and related factors have been integrated and to recommend appropriate methods of achieving this purpose. Completion of this study might point out the necessity of having a seminar of representatives of Governments to discuss the results and to exchange information on this matter. Work on the study will be initiated in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/m	-	7	7
General service m/m	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-

7.9 Meeting requirements

Type of meeting(s) : Short-term training course

Year : 1976

Title : Regional training course on demographic data collection and evaluation

Place : Beirut, Lebanon

Duration : One month

Type and number of participants : Two government officials from each country of the ECWA region

Justification: The Doha/Beirut meeting placed great emphasis on the need for population and related socio-economic statistics in the region. It has recommended that countries of the region conduct "periodical censuses at least once every 10 years and create a permanent government body in each country to supervise census operations". It is, therefore, expected that countries of the region will very actively participate in the United Nations 1980 round of censuses. However, the Central Statistical Offices of many of these countries are still inadequately staffed by local expertise because of the shortage of statisticians among their nationals. Furthermore, because of the peculiarities of the region (e.g. the existence of nomads and fishermen, and the extent of intraregional and international migration) training in census techniques of national personnel must contain a strong component that is specifically relevant to regional conditions. The purpose of this course is to train middle to high level national personnel in census operations from the cartographic stage to the stage of data appraisal and analysis. Instructors and the material for the course will be chosen taking account of regional needs and conditions.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estimated cost		\$40,260	\$40,260

7.10 Meeting requirements

Type of meeting(s)	:	Expert group meeting
Year	:	1977
Title	:	Expert Group Meeting on Census Techniques
Place	:	Beirut, Lebanon
Duration	:	5 days
Type and number of participants	:	Two participants from each of the 12 countries of the ECWA region.

Justification: The great emphasis placed by the Doha/Beirut meeting on the need for intensifying efforts in the field of data collection and appraisal resulted in a number of recommendations for the assistance of ECWA in this undertaking. The meeting also recommended that the States of the region in co-operation with ECWA and UNFPA formulate an integrated regional plan for data collection which would contain censuses, multipurpose surveys and specialized surveys; this programme would include the standardization of questionnaires, technical concepts, instructions and tabulation of final results and would make use of regional statistical expertise in an efficient manner. The major purpose of the present meeting is the exchange of relevant information among the countries of the region concerning co-ordination of their national census activities and the discussion of the most suitable forms that the standardization of census and survey questionnaires, of technical concepts, of census and survey instructions, and

of tables of final results and other related activities could be undertaken. It is hoped that this meeting will contribute significantly to the efficient participation of the countries of the region in the United Nations round of censuses in 1980.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estimated cost		\$40,670	\$40,670

Annex

The 10 regional population projects described in this annex emanate from the recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultation for the ECWA region, held at Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975. They have not however been included in the revised regional work programme of ECWA for 1976/77 because of limitation of funds. ^{1/} However, once these projects are approved by the Commission, funds will be sought from extrabudgetary sources for their implementation.

The financial requirements stated at the end of each project's description are the best estimates that could be made at this time, and, in most cases, are believed to be fairly reliable. If all 10 projects were to be implemented, the total financial requirements for the next two years would be \$2,636,500. After the two-year period, however, the cost of the continuing projects would amount to approximately \$338,000 a year.

1. Regional vital statistics and civil registration programme (Duration: continuing)

There are at least two main reasons for establishing a national civil registration system: to obtain reliable data on vital events such as births, deaths, and marriages; and to secure information for issuing identity cards or other proofs of citizenship. Both of these reasons are of particular importance to the countries of the ECWA region. Not only a vital statistics generally defective, the large volume of migrants relative to national population in most countries raises significant and urgent questions relating to the right to citizenship. The need for developing and assisting civil registration systems has been repeatedly emphasized in regional conferences and particularly in the Doha/Beirut meeting where several recommendations were formulated on this subject. This need is also evidenced by the increasing number of requests originating from the countries of the region for assistance in this field.

A regional supporting programme should include: (a) a thorough study of existing civil registration systems, their deficiencies and needs and of methods for improving their effectiveness; (b) a training programme for nationals in establishing and managing civil registration systems as well as in undertaking sample surveys for collecting vital statistics; and (c) direct assistance to countries upon their request to establish or strengthen the collection of vital statistics.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$71,000; meetings \$45,000; travel or other \$8,000; total: \$124,000).

^{1/} However, a small part, mostly an initiation of activities, was included in the revised regional work programme for projects 2, 3, 4 and 10.

2. Survey of Palestinians (Duration: two years)

As was mentioned in project 7.2 "Regional Population Surveys" of the revised work programme, comprehensive census-type enumeration of Palestinians was requested by the Doha/Beirut meeting in which the Palestine Liberation Organization actively participated. This survey would give the size, composition and major socio-economic characteristics of the Palestinian population inside and outside the ECWA region. The revised work programme stipulates only an initial step in undertaking this project, namely the convening of a preparatory committee to discuss concepts, definitions and methods of operation. Further meetings of the preparatory committee and the census operations themselves would need to be financed separately and additionally.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$200,000; meetings \$80,000; survey costs \$600,000; travel \$20,000; total: \$900,000).

3. Survey of Arab scholars (Duration: two years)

As was mentioned under project 7.2, the Doha/Beirut meeting recommended that ECWA, in co-operation with the Arab League, UNFPA and specialized agencies, formulate an integrated plan at the Arab level for the purpose of surveying Arab scholars inside and outside the regions in order to determine their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Here again, the request is for a census type enumeration and the work programme stipulates only a first meeting, a preparatory committee to determine concepts, definitions and methods of data collection to be used in this survey. If additional funds are obtained, the survey itself would be undertaken and results would hopefully become available within two years after the funds are obtained.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$94,600; meetings \$36,000; survey costs \$100,000; travel \$20,000; total: \$156,000).

4. Survey of intraregional migration (Duration: two years)

The revised work programme stipulates under project 7.2 that the compilation and analysis of intraregional migration data will be completed in 1976. This exercise should offer, in addition to valuable information on intraregional migration, a framework for undertaking field surveys. The purpose of these surveys would be to deepen knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the migratory movements among Arab countries of the region as well as to standardize and update information on this important subject. The results of these activities should prove to be of considerable usefulness to development planning and programme activities in the various countries.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$134,000; survey costs \$250,000; travel \$10,000; total: \$394,000).

5. Survey of Bedouins (Duration: two years)

The Doha/Beirut meeting, after long discussions on the situation of Bedouins in the region, decided that the most urgent need in this regard is a clear factual understanding of the volume, trends and characteristics of Bedouins. It

recommended, therefore, that "a comprehensive survey be conducted at the regional level and at the level of a group of countries of the region to study the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Bedouins in accordance with the standardized definitions, in order to improve their conditions and better to utilize their capacities". However, the lack of resources did not permit even a beginning of activity in this field. If resources do become available, it is proposed that, after a short initial period, subregional demographic socio-economic surveys of Bedouins be designed and undertaken in co-operation with the affected countries.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$134,000; meetings \$20,000; survey costs \$200,000; travel \$10,000; total: \$364,000).

6. Social, economic and legal conditions affecting migrant workers' movements in the ECWA region (Duration: one year)

At the Doha/Beirut meeting, it was emphasized that intraregional migration, and in general migration from one Arab country to another, is different both economically and culturally, from other international migration movements, as for example from Turkey to Germany or from North Africa to Europe. The meeting recommended that the Arab labour market be considered as one market and "to take the necessary measures to facilitate the movements of individuals and technical and scientific skills from one country of the region to another, to co-ordinate this movement and to take all necessary measures to protect the rights of migrant workers and remove obstacles in the way of family reunions". The present research project is designed to collect and analyse available information on: (a) the legal conditions governing intraregional migration; and (b) the socio-economic problems facing the migrant workers. The results of this research should contribute to the development of policy guidelines which would promote, co-ordinate and rationalize these migratory movements as well as protect the migrant workers and their families.

(One-year requirements: project personnel \$37,500; travel \$2,000; total: \$39,500).

7. Health and socio-economic effects of frequent pregnancies on mother and child (Duration: one year)

While countries of the region do not generally consider their rates of population growth excessive, there is concern that repeated pregnancies may have unfavourable effects on the health of mother and child. Accordingly, the Doha/Beirut meeting recognized "the need to stress the relationship between frequent pregnancies and the health of mother and child and to study this relationship from the standpoint of its socio-economic and cultural implications in society". This research project would utilize existing data on the subject but would use various statistical and demographic techniques, particularly correlation analysis to determine the associative relationships that exist between the relevant variables and to shed light on possible policy measures that the countries concerned may formulate in this regard.

(One-year requirements: project personnel \$37,500; travel \$2,000; total: \$39,500).

8. Population education (Duration: one year)

Both the World Population Conference and the Doha/Beirut meeting laid great emphasis on the need for creating awareness of population questions among general population. It was noted in the discussions that conventional school and university curricula contain little such questions as historical trends of mortality and fertility, present differentials in mortality among different groups in society, the various types of migratory movements (urban-rural, nomadic, refugee, etc.) and their implications to socio-economic development, and the international migration of workers and of skilled persons and professionals. A number of countries outside this region have begun incorporating information about these population issues into their conventional curricula in the fields of history, geography, the social sciences and others. The purpose of this project is to investigate the possibilities and methods for the application of this new concept to the prevailing curricula in the region. For this purpose, a study would be conducted and presented to an international meeting of experts in order to obtain concrete recommendations in this regard.

(One-year requirements: project personnel \$37,500; meetings \$25,000; travel \$2,000; total: \$64,500).

9. Regional training programme (Duration: continuing)

The Doha/Beirut meeting, after emphasizing the need for training in population statistics, demography and population studies, recommended that a regional training programme be set up "in all fields of population under the supervision of ECWA and UNFPA". This programme would take into account the possibility of utilizing existing centres and institutes and would supplement these with new training activities in accordance with the needs of the region. The specific nature of this training programme would be determined after a thorough survey of existing possibilities for training within the region and available fellowships and other kinds of assistance for training outside the region. Nevertheless, it may be already stipulated, on the basis of existing knowledge of gaps and problems associated with training in population in the ECWA region, that the emphasis would have to be placed on graduate-level training in the Arab language and in the context of regional conditions. If a small nucleus of training staff is established, this would have the additional function of serving as a pool for quick response to country needs in population matters as well as to fill the gap at existing universities and training institutions when these are short of instructors. Such a regional programme may well be developed in conjunction with an existing undergraduate programme in one of the countries of the region.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$240,000; fellowships \$100,000; travel, equipment and other \$30,000; total: \$320,000).

10. Population clearing house (Duration: continuing)

The Population Division of ECWA maintains an extensive library on population related matters. This library is rapidly becoming the major source of research material in the region. It is intended that this library be strengthened and that it becomes the central component of a population clearing house as exists already in other economic commissions, most elaborately at ESCAP. The main functions of

this clearing house would be to help researchers in the region, to assist in developing teaching material and reference centres at the universities and training institutions in the region and to act as a bank for the storing and retrieval of research information and results. These functions were considered very important by the Doha/Beirut meeting which recommended the establishment and support of "scientific libraries specialized in statistical and population sciences". While some modest resources are now available to the Population Library of ECWA, additional sources of funds would be sought for the expansion of its content and functions and the establishment of the other clearing house functions.

(Two-year requirements: project personnel \$125,000; equipment and supplies \$30,000; publications and other \$30,000; total: \$185,000).

ADDENDUM TO

B. THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1976-1977
IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

/Proposed action pursuant to paragraphs (3), (6) and (8) of
section III and paragraph 2 (c) of section VI of General
Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII)/

Title of specific activity: Transfer of technology

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description: The heavy dependence of the region on imported technology is expected to be accentuated in the coming years with the disbursement of a significant portion of its recently acquired financial resources on imports with a high technology content. Moreover, the foreign exchange costs involved in technology transfer constitute an additional burden on the limited resources of several countries in the region, notably the lesser developed members, and a serious strain on their balance of payments. At the same time, member countries' efforts to deal with the range of complex issues connected with the transfer of technology process are handicapped by lack of expertise and appropriate policies and institutions.

The purpose of this activity is to study national practices, policies and institutional arrangements relating to transfer of technology, taking into consideration the international setting in this field and measures to improve it in the interest of developing countries. The identification of problem areas and short-comings, and the provision of background information and documentation, resulting from the surveys will form the basis for action at the national, regional and international levels, including legislation, provision of advisory services and technical assistance, training of personnel and institution building, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the transfer process and strengthening member countries' technological capabilities so as to reduce their dependence on imported technology.

In conducting these studies, close co-operation will be sought with UNCTAD, World Intellectual Property Organization and other competent international and regional bodies.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional man-months		12	12
General Service man-months		12	12
Travel	\$4,000	-	\$4,000

V. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SECOND SESSION

A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

1. The period under review is marked by the very sad and unfortunate events in Lebanon with their adverse effects particularly felt throughout the ECWA region. For the Commission, the result has been frequent disruption in its work programme. The difficulties encountered in the recruitment of staff, for the various substantive programmes, have interposed further impediments in the implementation of the Commission's work programmes for 1975 and 1976. It is, therefore, hoped that the achievements of the Commission, during the period concerned, will be viewed within the context of these and other prevailing constraints.
2. The following is a brief account of the major activities of the Divisions/ Units of ECWA carried out under the various substantive programmes and/or programme components of the Commission since its last session.

1. Development Planning Division

3. During the period under review, the activities of the Development Planning Division, as envisaged under the detailed 1975 work programme and the programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977, were directed towards assisting regional and national efforts in the fields of general economic and social planning and policy (encompassing development planning, projections and policies, development finance and administration, and labour and employment 1/) and international trade and development. The following is an account of the major activities carried out under the various substantive programmes of the Division.
4. Under the Development Planning, Projections and Policies Programme, the Division initiated work for the preparation of country profiles in development planning, including the evaluation of the state of plan formulation and implementation in ECWA member countries. Work was also initiated on the development of a conceptual framework for project evaluation for use in assessing development opportunities in Western Asia.
5. At the request of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic, an officer from the Development Planning Programme visited the country where he lectured on the financial aspects of project evaluation in connexion with the "Training Seminar on Project Identification, Evaluation and Implementation" organized by the Central Planning Organization, and discussed with the Yemeni officials matters pertaining to development planning and follow-up action. He also visited Democratic Yemen and had discussions with the competent authorities on sectoral plans and project implementation.
6. Assistance was also provided under the Development Planning Programme, at the

1/ The Statistics Programme ceased to be part of the Development Planning Division, with the establishment on 8 September 1975, of a Statistical Unit under the supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary.

request of the Jordanian Government, in connexion with the "Euro-Arab Dialogue". This included the preparation of a comprehensive report and the elaboration of proposals on the scope of assistance to be extended to the Arab party to the Dialogue.

7. Work was initiated under the Development Finance and Administration Programme to ascertain and establish "public finance profiles" for ECWA member countries. This exercise entails examination of the budgetary, accounting and revenue systems, their classification, scope and operational procedures, including budget plan harmonization, and the pertinent laws, regulations and implementation procedures. Preparatory work has also been undertaken for the implementation of the Division's 1976-1977 work programme in this field, namely, the project "Evaluation of Government budgetary systems and practices in member countries of ECWA and the need for a methodological framework as a guide to reform".

8. In the area of development administration, assistance and support were given to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in the formulation of a draft project document for the establishment of a "Regional Centre for Training in the Use of Computers and Computer-based Management Techniques for Development in Western Asia". In this connexion, the Officer of the Programme represented ECWA in separate meetings held with UNDP headquarters and the Division of Public Administration and Finance of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, both in New York, and with ILO headquarters, in Geneva, to co-ordinate efforts. Under this programme, the Division fielded, in co-operation with ILO, a joint ECWA/ILO Survey Mission on the Use of Computers and Computer-based Management Techniques, which covered Jordan, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic. The purpose of the Mission was to examine, *inter alia*: (a) the need for national policy relating to the application of computer technology for development; (b) assess present and future needs for computer usage in various sectors as related to priority areas envisaged in national development programmes; (c) conduct an inventory of available electronic data processing equipment and related manpower at present and project future needs in these areas; and (d) determine present and future training needs and examine the adequacy of facilities available at national and regional institutions and to assess needs at these levels. The findings of the Survey Mission are expected to be reflected in the final version of the proposed project document of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

9. Under the Labour, Management and Employment Programme for the Division, work continued on the "brain-drain" study. ^{1/} The original scope of this study has been extended to include all the Arab countries and, as far as possible, the compilation of a roster of all Arab talents residing outside the Arab world. Activities carried out under this project so far include (a) preparation of a detailed outline and its communication to interested regional and international institutions; (b) visits to Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Yemen Arab Republic to collect information and to discuss the issues involved; and (c) the recruitment of a consultant to assist in the implementation of the project and the drafting of the study.

10. The labour programme was responsible, within ECWA, for the preparation and servicing of the Joint ECWA/ILO Seminar on "Manpower and Employment Planning in the Arab Countries" which was held in Beirut from 12 to 24 May 1975. The programme

^{1/} A progress report on the state of this study is submitted, as a background document under this item of the provisional agenda of ECWA's third session.

made an effective contribution to the preparation of the final report of the Seminar, and, together with ILO officials, prepared the draft "Plan of Action" which was adopted by the Meeting. As a follow-up to the Seminar, several meetings were held between ILO and ECWA officials, including a visit to Geneva by an officer from the Programme, to elaborate a common work programme for the implementation of the agreed "Plan of Action". The Programme also participated with ILO in the preparation of summaries, substantive editing and translation of selected papers from the documentation before the Seminar for inclusion, together with the "Report" and the "Plan of Action", in a publication on the Seminar in both Arabic and English.

11. The labour programme participated in the organization of the ECA/ECWA Regional Meeting held in Tunis from 30 April to 3 May 1976, in preparation for the World Employment Conference, and prepared a paper on employment problems in the ECWA region.

12. Under the International Trade and Development Programme, a document entitled "Foreign Trade and Payments Statistics in Countries of Western Asia" was prepared. This document provides basic trade and payments series for the countries of the region, covering the 1960s and the early years of the 1970s. The series provide a picture of the trend in aggregate trade, the geographical and commodity distribution of trade, intraregional trade flows and the payment and reserves position of member countries.

13. Work has been initiated for the implementation of the Division's 1976-1977 work programme in the area of trade. Preparatory work for the study on the "liberalization of non-tariff barriers" affecting exports from the region included the drawing-up of a list of products of current or potential export interest to member countries, and the compilation and tabulation of detailed statistics on the value and direction of trade in manufactured and semi-manufactured products, including processed and semi-processed agricultural products from the region.

14. An officer from the International Trade and Development Programme represented ECWA at the "Regional Seminar on Major Issues Relating to Trade and Development within the Context of a New International Economic Order" (Djakarta, January 1976), intended for senior government officials involved in their Governments' follow-up on recommendations emanating from the seventh special session of the General Assembly in the field of trade and development. The officer also attended the first part of the Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Group of 77, held at the level of senior officials (Djakarta, January 1976) in preparation for the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (Manila, January/February 1976) which had before it the whole range of issues before the fourth session of UNCTAD (Nairobi, May 1976).

15. At the divisional level, involving inputs from several programmes, the following main activities were carried out:

16. As per ECWA's commitment to accord a special attention in its work to the problems of the least developed member countries, a mission 1/ headed by the Chief of the Development Planning Division visited Democratic Yemen in order to discuss

1/ More details on the activities of the mission are given under the report on follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission (item 5-b of the provisional agenda of ECWA's third session).

the Government's request for short-term advisory services in the area of project identification in the various sectors of the economy. As a result of intensive discussions with the competent authorities, government requests for expertise emerged in the following problem areas; (a) marketing of fish, (b) manpower planning, (c) economic and financial analysis in the textile industry, (d) demand projection and product mix in textiles, (e) the administration and operation of bus services, (f) financial planning, (g) storage and use of refined petroleum products, (i) establishment of a geological centre, and (j) drying and smoking of fish. ECWA has already prepared the necessary job descriptions and has initiated extensive correspondence with many areas, particularly with the United Nations agencies and organizations concerned, seeking their assistance in locating the requested experts and possibly in some financial sharing. The same mission proceeded to the Yemen Arab Republic in order to discuss with the authorities concerned their request in the area of ECWA assistance in the implementation of their development planning designed to assist the Government in the preparation of their 1976/1977-1980/1981 Plan. The mission also visited a number of ministries in Sanaa and discussed with them their needs for advisory services in various fields of economic development.

17. The Division made an effective contribution towards identifying ways and means by which ECWA could assist the Lebanese Government in its reconstruction efforts.

18. Work was completed for the preparation of the 1975 publication of ECWA entitled "Selected Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia, 1975". Work in this connexion included selection, finalization and substantive editing of studies, as well as preparation of the annex, "Sectoral Developments and Development Indicators". This publication contains three studies which were prepared and/or substantively edited and finalized by the Development Planning Division. These are:

- (a) "The National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic";
- (b) "Manpower and Employment Planning in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic";
- (c) "The Petroleum-Exporting Countries and the Evolving International Monetary System: with Special Reference to the ECWA Region".

In connexion with the annex, the Division was responsible for the compilation and analysis of indicators in the fields of international trade and public finance, compilation of national income figures and wholesale and retail price indices, as well as for the substantive editing, verification and subsequent consolidation of similar contributions made by the other Divisions of ECWA in their respective fields.

19. The substantive editing and finalization of the consultancy studies on "The Petroleum-Exporting Countries and the Evolving International Monetary System: with Special Reference to the ECWA Region", and "Inter-Arab Transit Trade: Problems and Prospects" were undertaken in the Division.

- The first study reviews the major developments in the exchange rate and the international monetary system since the dollar crisis in August 1971 and examines some of the subsequent moves made towards the reform of the system. It delineates and analyses the implications, for the ECWA region, of the recent developments in the oil industry. The analysis, in particular, concentrates on the 1973/1974 oil

price increases and their corresponding impact on the financial resources of the petroleum exporting countries in general and of the ECWA region in particular; the balance of payments implications (both short and medium-term effects); the problems arising in connexion with investment and portfolio management; and the role of the petroleum exporting countries in the reform of the international monetary system.

- The second study examines the legal and infrastructure set-up servicing the flow of transit trade in the region, and the cost of conducting transit trade and the inefficiencies involved in current practices, with a view to determining the problems and obstacles which have been impeding a more efficient flow, and suggesting measures susceptible to improving the situation.

20. The Division prepared the medium-term plan for 1978-1981 under its four substantive fields i.e. development planning, projections and policies; development finance and administration; labour management and employment; and international trade and development.

21. During the period reviewed, a variety of contributions were made in support of United Nations technical co-operation activities and advisory services to Governments in the fields of development planning, finance and administration, international trade and labour and employment. In particular, the International Trade and Development Programme of the Division continued to serve as the focal point within ECWA in as far as the operations of the regional project on "Multilateral Trade Negotiations" were concerned. In this respect, efforts were concentrated mainly on establishing the project and creating the necessary conditions for its effective operation, mainly through the provision of substantive support and the selection of candidates to staff the project. The Division, in collaboration with UNCTAD and UNDP, finalized arrangements for the extension of the regional project by another year, until the end of 1976. Substantive support to the activities of the regional training programme in public finance and administration and other ongoing UNDP projects operating in the field of finance and administration at the country and regional levels were also provided under the Development Finance and Administration Programme.

22. In addition to briefing of United Nations experts assigned to the countries of the region and providing substantive support to their efforts and review of their reports and preparing substantive comments on UNDP projects in the region, the Development Planning Division devoted considerable time to preparations for and active participation in a number of meetings and seminars in addition to those mentioned above as follows:

- ACC Functional Inter-Agency Group Meeting on Employment (Geneva, August 1975);
- Second Arab Conference on Manpower Development in Industry (Baghdad, November/December 1975);
- First International Islamic Economic Conference (Mecca, February 1976);
- Fifth Conference of the Arab Labour Organization (Alexandria, March 1976);
- The Annual Meeting of the Committee for Development Planning (New York, April 1976).

23. At the request of Governments, the Regional Adviser in Trade Promotion carried out several missions in the region. In Democratic Yemen, assistance was given in connexion with finding export outlets and marketing of fish products abroad. In Iraq, assistance was provided in connexion with the 1977-1981 country programme in the field of foreign trade and export promotion, the organization of the Market Research Department of the State export organization and the assessment of export potential and market surveys for selected products. In Jordan, assistance was provided to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the reorganization of its Export Promotion Service and in the organization of the Jordan Trade Centres Department and the work programme and activities of commercial representatives abroad. In Lebanon, assistance was extended to the Ministry of Economy in the organization of its foreign trade department, the establishment of foreign trade statistics and information units, and in undertaking market studies on exportable products. In Oman and Qatar, assistance was given to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, respectively, in setting up, organizing and operating Foreign Trade Departments. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Regional Adviser's activities included assistance in recruiting a consultant in fairs and expositions, the establishment of a public Export Promotion Organization, undertaking market studies on products of particular interest to the country, training officials in export promotion techniques and in the application of the Generalized System of Preferences. In the Yemen Arab Republic, assistance was extended to the Yemen Salt Mining Corporation in relation to marketing of salt where a project for undertaking a field survey of potential markets in Europe, Japan and the United States was prepared.

2. Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division

24. The activities of the Commission under the Agriculture Programme mainly focus on five major areas of concentration which provide the benchmark for the 1978-1981 medium-term programme. These areas are: sector review and monitoring; direct planning assistance and training; regional agricultural adjustment and integration; promotion of multinational investment in agriculture; and food security.

25. In connexion with the project, entitled "Incentives for Accelerating Cereal and Livestock Production: a short-term approach to the solution of food deficit", a study was completed. The scope and orientation of the study undertaken were modified to meet specific conditions in the ECWA region. The study covers six important agricultural producing countries and include five important food commodities: wheat, rice, sugar, vegetable oils, and red meat. Part I of the study comprises the quantitative framework. First, it ascertains the present food position in the six selected countries and gives an order of magnitude reflecting the scope of the food problem. It then assesses government 1975-1980 medium-term plans for the expansion of food production. This serves as a basis for projecting the 1980 food deficits. Part II of the study concerns short-term possibilities of increasing food production. Attention is focused on particular policy measures which show promise for an immediate impact. Thus, apart from new policy orientation and pressure mechanisms, new strategies are proposed to combat farmers' aversion to risk, the use of intermediate and modern technologies, and for price adjustments to correct market imperfections.

26. A short study was undertaken in connexion with "Integrated Rural Development", a project envisaged under the 1975 work programme of the Commission. The initial

work in this area involved a comparative analysis of the organization and planning of programmes in integrated rural development in selected agricultural projects in Jordan, Syria and Yemen Arab Republic. Particular attention has been focused on the need for effective machinery to co-ordinate the sectoral activities of national departments with those at the project level. A second stage in this area involves the formulation of a comprehensive integrated rural development project for the Tohama Authority in Yemen. Work in this connexion is jointly undertaken with the FAO Near East Regional Office.

27. At the request of the Jordan Valley Commission, the Division carried out a comprehensive multistage study of the East Jordan Irrigation Project. The first stage is a financial analysis of the East Jordan Valley agricultural development plan 1976-1982. Particular attention is given to farm business enterprise analysis involving crop profitability and project effects on farm income. The second stage is an economic analysis of the project's returnability. This involves estimation of project costs and benefits and assessment of project's profitability in the light of its present worth and internal rate of return. The third stage of the study is devoted to technical and economic issues relating to the largest component of the project, namely, the Maqrin Dam. A major objective of the Jordan Valley project is to integrate all available water flows for a rational and unified system operation. Accordingly, the analysis of the Maqrin Dam is carried a step further to cover the entire irrigation system. This serves to provide a useful measure of the benefits accruing to the economy in terms of reduced costs through integrated system operation.

28. The Division co-operated with the Kuwait Institute for Social and Economic Development in organizing and implementing the Agricultural Planning Course held in Amman, Jordan, during the period 16 November to 12 December 1975. The course syllabus was given a new practical orientation stressing the preparation and implementation of agricultural development plans. The Division provided a significant share of the required staff input and funded the FAO staff participation from headquarters and the Near East Regional Office. The course included participants from Iraq, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to participants from other Arab countries.

29. The Division initiated work towards developing a framework for sector review and monitoring. The purpose of the framework is to systematize and computerize the agricultural review and monitoring activity for all countries in the ECWA region. It is hoped that the compilation of the data base will be finalized in mid-1976. It will then be put on the FAO Interlink Computer System for data processing and computation of the relevant indicators and parameters.

30. A report, on developments in the field of agriculture during the period 1973-1974 in the region, was prepared. It included the development of elaborate indicators covering various aspects of agricultural development in several countries of the region. The report will be included in the annex of the annual ECWA publication, "Selected Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia".

31. The Division participated in the interagency (WFP/FAO/ILO/ECWA) Interim-Evaluation Mission of WFP-Assisted Project SYR 2018, Development of Fodder Production and Livestock Production in the Syrian Arab Republic. The objective of the mission was to review and evaluate the progress achieved by the project

after two years of operation, and, if necessary, to make recommendations for corrective action. The ECWA input consisted of substantive contribution in the evaluation of the economic aspects of the various project components. During the period under review the Division also participated in the following meetings and seminars:

- (i) Ford Foundation Workshop on Linear Programming. (Beirut, August-September 1975); the Workshop which was held at the School of Agricultural Sciences of the American University of Beirut, was intended to train participants from the Arab countries in the use of linear programming techniques in agricultural resource planning and policy making. It included participants from Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. As a follow-up to the Workshop, the Division set up a crop-by-crop data base for the application of an LP model in the Bekaa' region of Lebanon;
- (ii) The FAO/SIDA Seminar on Agriculture Sector Analysis. (Cairo, October 1975); the Division submitted a paper on "Some Behavioral and Organizational Aspects of Agriculture Sector Analysis"; and
- (iii) The FAO Seminar on Agricultural Aspects of Regional Economic Integration (Rome, September 1975).

3. Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division

32. In the period under review, work under the industry programme of the Commission proceeded in the implementation of the projects included in the 1975 work programme and the follow-up to previously initiated activities.

33. As a follow-up action to the joint ECWA/UNIDO meeting on the food processing industry in the ECWA region, held in Beirut in March 1975 under the project entitled "Development of Selected Branches of the Food Processing Industry in the Countries of the ECWA Region", a number of priority areas for technical assistance to participating countries were identified with the help of the international consultants who participated in the meeting. This in turn led to the formulation of project proposals on a country basis which are being followed up with UNIDO by the Governments concerned. Certain proposals of a regional institutional nature which also emanated from the meeting are being considered by ECWA for possible follow-up with the national and regional bodies concerned.

34. The implementation of the project entitled "Development of the Fertilizer Industry", is proceeding according to schedule as revised and agreed upon between ECWA, UNIDO and IDCAS. Following the approval by the Commission of the 1975 work programme, ECWA concluded an agreement for a joint work-plan for the project with UNIDO and IDCAS in order to co-ordinate the activities of these two organizations with that of ECWA in this field. Phase one of the work plan, consisting of a comprehensive survey of the fertilizer industry in the Arab countries by three teams of experts representing the three organizations, was completed on schedule. The project is now in its second phase with the international consultants engaged in the study of the survey and the formulation of an over-all development plan for industry in the Arab countries. The third phase, expected to take place later this year, consists of an intergovernmental meeting jointly sponsored by the three organizations to consider the over-all development plan.

35. Work commenced on the project entitled "Regional Co-operation in Industrial Training" and is continuing. The unexpected slippage behind the original schedule for the completion of this project, for reasons indicated above, has been compensated by expanding its original scope by including inputs from UNIDO and IDCAS. The work-plan for the project as conceived by ECWA includes the following three phases:

- (i) A field survey of industrial training facilities and training needs in the countries of the ECWA region;
- (ii) The formulation of a regional plan of action for the co-ordination of training utilizing local facilities in the ECWA countries; and,
- (iii) The convening of a meeting of government representatives and experts for the consideration of the proposed regional plan of action.

36. Given the interest and work programmes of UNIDO and IDCAS in this field, ECWA sought and obtained the co-operation of these two organizations and the co-ordination of their activities with its own. As a result the scope of the project will in a second stage be expanded to include all the Arab countries through inputs from UNIDO and IDCAS agreed upon between them and ECWA.

37. As part of ECWA's implementation of the project, a questionnaire was prepared and a field survey by ECWA, based on this questionnaire, has so far been conducted in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic. Arrangements are being worked out to survey the remaining countries in the ECWA region.

38. At the request of the Governments of Democratic Yemen, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic, advisory services in the field of industry were extended to these Governments. Short-term missions, ranging in duration from one week to two months were undertaken in these countries for the evaluation of vegetable oil processing projects, assessment of food industries, formulation of petroleum derivatives projects, i.e., carbon black, petroleum coke, industrial gases and others.

39. The regional adviser in industry also participated as a lecturer in a training course in Sana'a on the formulation, evaluation and implementation of industrial projects for the technical staff of various ministries in the Yemen Arab Republic and assumed, on an interim basis, the responsibility of managing the Industrial Promotion and Advisory Unit, a UNIDO project in Yemen.

40. During the period under review, the Division participated in the International Conference on Petrochemicals, held in Iraq, and in the Second Petrochemical Meeting for Arab States, held in Abu Dhabi.

4. Natural Resources and Science and Technology Division

41. The Division initiated preparatory work under the Energy Component of the Natural Resources Programme, which became effectively operational in the second half of 1975. The preparatory work consisted of compiling an energy bibliography and cardex and developing sets of regional tables covering various aspects of petroleum statistics for the period 1960-1974, such as reserves, production,

revenues, prices, refining capacity, etc. The Division also prepared the analytical section and the corresponding statistical tables for inclusion in the annex, "Sectoral Development and Development Indicators", to the 1975 edition of ECWA's annual publication entitled "Selected Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia".

42. Work commenced on the implementation of the project entitled "Strategy for Action on Alternative Uses of Oil", included in ECWA's work programme for 1975. In view of the unexpected delays in recruitment, it is now expected that the project will be completed in 1976.

43. The Division initiated work on the implementation of the two projects included in ECWA's Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977, namely, "Basic Energy Statistics and Review of Developments in the Energy and Oil Sector" in the region, and "Medium and Long-term Supply and Demand Projections for Energy".

44. Draft laws on oil and other mineral explorations in the Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic were prepared through consultancy services and submitted to the Governments of the two countries.

45. Under the Energy Component, the Division actively participated in the United Nations Meeting on Co-operation Among Developing Countries in Petroleum (Geneva, November 1975). A short paper entitled "Petroleum Co-operation in the activities of ECWA and in the ECWA Region" was submitted to the meeting by ECWA's representative. The Division carried out intensive consultations with the secretariats of OAPEC, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), with a view to exploring the possibilities of co-operation between these organizations and ECWA in the field of energy.

46. Under the Mineral Resources Component of the Natural Resources Programme of the Division, work was initiated for the preparation of the country profiles in this field. This entailed fielding missions to Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and the Yemen Arab Republic. In addition to the collection of information on various aspects of mineral resources in the countries of the region, investigations were also made into the need for the creation of a regional mineral resources development council, as specified in the Commission's Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977. As the over-all reaction of member Governments towards the establishment of such a council was favourable, the Division will prepare a draft status of the council and submit it to the Governments for their consideration.

47. Efforts towards the implementation of the project entitled "Regional co-operation in the development of mineral resources" consisted mainly of surveying the situation pertaining to mineral resources development in member countries of the region, collecting information and studying the possibilities of establishing a regional mineral resources development institute.

48. Work commenced on the implementation of the project entitled "Survey of the situation pertaining to the development of mineral resources" and a preliminary report will be submitted to member countries of the region in the second quarter of 1976, as specified in the programme of work and priorities of the Commission for 1976-1977.

49. At the request of the Government of the Democratic Yemen, the Division is currently involved in the preparation of a draft project document for the establishment of a centre for training in geological works and petroleum and mineral exploration.

50. Under the Water Resources Component of the Natural Resources Programme, the Division initiated work towards the implementation of the project entitled "Development of Water Resources" which essentially calls for an appraisal of existing water supplies and assessment of future demand (by the year 2000) in member countries of the region. Work entailed field surveys carried out in all member countries of the region, except the Sultanate of Oman.

51. The Division has been actively involved in work for the Regional Meeting to be held later in 1976 in preparation for the United Nations Water Conference to be held in Argentina in 1977. A note verbale (in Arabic) containing the outline of the proposed country reports was prepared and sent to member countries for their consideration.

52. The Division under the water resources component participated in the following meetings:

- (i) Meeting in connexion with the Control of Oil Pollution in the Mediterranean, convened by ION-UNESCO in co-operation with WHO and UNEP (Malta, September 1975);
- (ii) UNEP meeting on the need to establish an oil combating centre aimed at dealing with the massive oil spills in the Mediterranean (Malta, September 1975);
- (iii) The special session of the Committee on Natural Resources (New York, February 1976). The participants served as the preparatory committee for the United Nations Water Conference.

53. The activities of the Division under the Science and Technology Programme, as envisaged in the detailed 1975 work programme of the Commission, are centred around:

- Preparations for the Seminar on Co-operative Research and Technology Projects in the ECWA region;

- ECWA's participation in the Conference of Ministers of Arab States responsible for Science and Technology; and,

- Strengthening of regional integration in the field of science and technology.

54. With respect to the Seminar on Co-operative Research and Technology Projects in the ECWA region, which is scheduled for the third quarter of 1976 and expected to bring together 30-40 experts in a number of fields considered to have priority importance to the region, a number of topics related to national policy and planning, transport, energy and agricultural technology and information technology are envisaged. Expert participants will provide inputs on these topics around the central theme of regional co-operation and co-operative efforts. In order to

assist the Commission in the technical preparations for the Seminar, the secretariat will engage a senior consultant. In addition to the provision of expert reports, the secretariat is preparing a substantive report on the status of science and technology in the ECWA region. The report will serve as an overview and background document for the meeting and will particularly be dealing with science and technology parameters, the status of research and technology in selected areas of development and regional co-operative efforts and requirements in the field of science and technology. Country visits were made for the purpose of collecting the necessary information, a preliminary assessment of research and development in the ECWA region and the establishment of links with relevant science and technology institutions in the region. Visits to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic were made in December 1975. The remaining countries of the ECWA region were visited during the first quarter of 1976.

55. The Conference of Ministers of Arab States responsible for Science and Technology is the last in the series of regional conferences on science and technology organized by UNESCO in co-operation with ALESCO and ECWA. It will be held in Morocco in August 1976 and will have the following as its main theme:

- Science and Technology Policies in the Arab States;
 - Projects of regional co-operation in scientific and technological research;
- and,
- Measures to be taken for following up the decisions of the Conference.

56. With respect to activities related to strengthening regional integration, ECWA participated in the twenty-first session of the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST), held in Geneva from 17 to 25 November 1975. For the first time since its existence, this Committee, which advises the Economic and Social Council on all matters pertaining to science and technology, includes well-known personalities from the ECWA region, namely from Iraq and Lebanon. Members from the region have formed the so-called ACAST-ECWA regional group to promote regional co-operation in the field of science and technology. ECWA will function as the secretariat to the group. The first and constituting meeting of the regional group took place during the twenty-first session of ACAST in Geneva on 21 November and was attended by ECWA. The work programme proposed by the group and subsequently adopted by ACAST consists of:

- Evaluation of ongoing United Nations activities in the field of science and technology in the ECWA region;
- Suggestions on co-ordination and co-operation on the application of science and technology to development;
- New initiatives in the field of the application of science and technology to development in the ECWA region; and
- Contribution of the ECWA region to scientific and technological progress in other States.

It is envisaged that the first substantive meeting of the group will be held shortly in Beirut or elsewhere in the region.

5. Population Division

57. The work programme of ECWA in the population field for 1976/77 was completely revised, at the request of the Second Session of ECWA, to take into account the recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultations for the ECWA region, which was held in Doha/Qatar and concluded in Beirut/Lebanon on 2 May 1975. The revision also took into account the results of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly. The 1975 work programme of ECWA in the field of population was, inasmuch as possible, also adjusted accordingly.

58. The demographic socio-economic survey of five cities in Oman proceeded generally according to schedule. The enumeration took place with the direct assistance of ECWA in the period between 10 April and 26 May 1975 and the completed forms were brought to Beirut early thereafter. Since commercial processing facilities in Beirut were closed, arrangements were made with the Department of Statistics of the Government of Jordan to do the processing at their Computer Centre which is assisted by the United Nations. The processing was completed in February 1976. Two trainees from Oman are participating in the analysis of the results.

59. A good deal of effort was spent during the year on the compilation and analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data for the countries of the region. The first demographic socio-economic data sheets for the 12 countries of the ECWA region containing information on about some 40 variables, were completed in draft form and distributed to the Statistical Departments of the respective countries for their comments. The final draft of these data sheets will be published in the Population Bulletin of ECWA and disseminated in other suitable forms. Furthermore, work is presently in progress on the preparation of demographic socio-economic country profiles for each of the 12 countries of ECWA in which relevant statistical information will be given as well as a general view of ongoing policies in the field of population.

60. The study on Children and Youth in the Syrian Arab Republic, which was partly financed by UNICEF, was completed in December 1975. This study, of some 140 typewritten pages in Arabic and an annex of some 30 statistical tables, contains up-to-date information on the demographic socio-economic situation of Syria with special reference to questions of children and youth.

61. Work in the field of law and population resulted mainly in a study on the legal status of Moslem women, which will be presented to a forthcoming regional meeting on the status of women and published separately. This study gives factual information about laws and regulations governing matters affecting the status of women in the 12 countries of ECWA and is an expansion of an earlier study which was presented to the World Population Conference in 1974.

62. The Seminar on Techniques of Collecting, Evaluating and Estimating Demographic Parameters which was scheduled to be held in Beirut in December 1975 was held in Amman, Jordan from 27 to 31 January 1976. The seminar served to exchange information among the region's Heads of Statistics Departments and Census Operations on difficulties encountered in their respective countries and their possible solutions as well as the exchange of information between them and some leading international experts on methods of data analysis and estimation of population and related parameters from defective data. The report of this seminar

containing the recommendations of the group, together with the technical papers prepared by ECWA and the consultants is being published in a separate volume and disseminated inside and outside the region.

63. Issues No. 8 and 9 of the Population Bulletin were published and distributed. It will be recalled that since 1974 the Population Bulletin is issued in Arabic as well as in English.

64. A number of short-term missions were undertaken by the Regional Adviser and other staff dealing with population matters for purposes of assisting countries of the region either in the implementation of country projects or in formulating projects in the population field including projects to be financed by UNFPA.

6. Transport, Communication and Tourism Division

65. Work under this programme of the Commission continued on a consultants' survey report on the transport situation in the region. The report was finalized and sent to member countries for their comments.

66. The Division also completed a study on "Regional Co-operation in the Promotion of Tourism", covering Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. It examines the possibilities of promoting co-operation in tourism among these countries.

67. During the period under review, advisory services in various aspects of transport were made available to the following ECWA member countries and regional organizations:

(i) At the request of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, the Regional Adviser in Transport visited Muscat, in April 1975, to assist the authorities in:

- the evaluation of a consultants' report on the development of transport and communications;
- the preparation of a plan for a network of roads and to define areas where technical assistance could be obtained from the United Nations sources to achieve the Governments' plans in this field; and
- the preparation of a training programme for nationals in the fields of transport and communications.

The report of the Regional Adviser was sent to the Government of Oman in June 1975.

(ii) At the request of the Government of Jordan, the Regional Adviser in Transport visited Amman, from 22 to 29 August 1975, to assist the municipality of Amman in solving problems concerning:

- population growth and the development of road networks; and,

- improvement of the administrative machinery for road construction and maintenance.

The report of the Regional Adviser was sent to the Government in December 1975.

- (iii) The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic requested the services of the Regional Adviser in connexion with "The Prospects of the Development of Railway Traffic in 1976 and its Implications for the Organization and Operation of the Syrian Railway System (CFS)". The Regional Adviser visited Damascus and Aleppo, from 9 to 30 November 1975, and a report was sent to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in December 1975.
- (iv) The Secretariat of the Council of Arab Economic Unit (CAEU) requested ECWA's assistance in the preparation of a paper on the "Improvement of Transport among all Arab Countries". In this connexion the Regional Adviser visited Cairo, from 20 June to 2 July 1975, and, following an examination of the issues involved, submitted an interim report to the Secretary-General of CAEU. The final report was submitted in February 1976.

68. In connexion with the implementation of the Commission's 1976-1977 programme of work and priorities in the field of transport, communications and tourism, the Chief of the Division, accompanied by the Regional Adviser in Transport, and the Expert in Ports and Shipping, visited Kuwait, in February 1976, and held discussions with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The discussion centred around finding ways and means of co-operating in the implementation of the following projects envisaged in the 1976-1977 Programme of Work and Priorities of the Commission:

- "Development of Integrated Transport and Communications Network in the ECWA Region";
- "Development of Shipping Services and Port Facilities";
- "Development and Co-ordination of Air Transport"; and
- "Development of Telecommunications Services".

The above subjects form part of AFESD/UNDP Project REM/74/011/A/01/46, entitled "Programme for identification and preparation of inter-country investment projects and related feasibility studies". Preliminary understanding was reached in the methodology to be adopted in the division of labour. Further discussions will be carried out in order to reach agreement on the utilization of resources and co-ordination of efforts between the Arab Funds and ECWA.

69. The Division participated in the Interagency Meeting on Tourism, held in Geneva in December 1975, to review the ongoing programmes in the field of tourism with a view to co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations in this field with those of the World Tourism Organization.

7. Social Development and Human Settlement Division

70. Under the Social Development Programme, the Division completed a general survey report of the situation of youth in the ECWA region, entitled "Situation of Youth in the ECWA Region". An intensive case study of the participation of youth in development was carried out in Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. The case study involved collaboration with UNICEF and resulted in two reports, entitled "The Needs of Youth in the Yemen Arab Republic" and "The Needs of Youth in Democratic Yemen". The aim of these studies is to assist the Governments in planning and implementing programmes for youth. Advisory services on youth matters were provided to the Governments of Jordan, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. The Division also made preparations for the Second Arab States Conference on Children and Youth in National Planning and Development to be held in Cairo in December 1976. This Conference is being organized jointly by UNICEF, ECWA and the Arab League. It was originally to have been held in November 1975, but events in Lebanon necessitated postponement.

71. In the field of women's affairs, the Division completed a research study, initiated a data bank, and made preparations for a regional seminar on the integration of women in development. The research study is entitled "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Home-Based Employment Programmes for Lebanese Rural Women". It is a follow-up to last year's case study of "Institutions and Organizations Concerned with the Participation of Lebanese Rural Women in Development". The Division has started the systematic collection of quantitative data (data bank) depicting women's social, legal, educational and employment status in the region. The data bank will monitor progress achieved in the participation of Arab women in socio-economic development. The preparation of individual summary tables, depicting both a regional and a time-series comparison of indicators on the educational and employment status of Arab women is an ongoing activity. A list was prepared on ILO conventions on women ratified by Arab countries. The Division is currently preparing a study on the educational and employment status of Arab women in the region. The Division participated in eight meetings of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group for International Women's Year, aimed at bringing together United Nations agencies in the Middle East a limited number of other organizations having regional programmes for women. Staff members of the Division attended a UNICEF Meeting on the Role of Women's Organizations in Nutrition Education Programmes held in Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic from 23 to 31 August 1975. The Division also prepared ECWA's statement for the World Conference of International Women's Year held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. A regional seminar, as a follow-up to the Mexico Conference, is planned for 1976.

72. In the field of integrated rural development, a study entitled "Rural Industrialization Trends and Prospects in Countries of the ECWA Region" was completed. The study analyses the problems as well as the effects of rural industrialization on development and proposes some policy guidelines, with particular reference to the social aspects. The Division was also involved in conducting, jointly with the Division of Information of FAO, two training and orientation seminars in the field of rural development communication. The workshops were held in Baghdad, Iraq, from 16 March to 3 April 1975 and from 16 October to 13 November 1975. These two workshops, which were attended mainly by agricultural extension workers, are prerequisites for the establishment of a

Rural Development Support Communication Centre by the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. In co-operation with the joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division, a mission to survey needs and possibilities of integrated rural development was carried out at the request of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic. The mission, of one month duration, concentrated on the Wadi Zabid Project.

73. In the field of developmental social welfare, the Division completed a report on social conditions in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. Advisory services were offered in co-operation with UNICEF to relief organizations during the Lebanese crisis.

74. Under the Human Settlements Programme, the Division completed a report on "Social Aspects of Housing in the ECWA Region" which was presented to the United Nations Inter-Regional Seminar on the Social Aspects of Housing, in Holte, Denmark, 14-27 September 1975. A report entitled "Survey of the Main Issues of Human Settlements in the ECWA Region" was also prepared for the Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements. A study on rent control policies and practices in the ECWA region was also completed. A study on building costs in the region is under way.

75. The Division continued its activities in preparing for HABITAT: the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 1976. The Regional Preparatory Conference on Human Settlements for Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia was held in Teheran, Iran, from 14 to 19 June 1975. This Conference was organized by ECWA, ESCAP and the Habitat secretariat in New York. The Regional Conference marked the first time that the countries of the ECWA region had met to discuss problems of human settlements. The Division continued to collect information and data for the preparation of papers on "Settlement Design and Distribution of Settlements in New Lands" and a "Survey of Housing Conditions in the ECWA Region". In co-operation with UNEP, the Division prepared a project regarding improved housing and environment in uncontrolled urban settlements in Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. In this regard, a sample social survey of the slum dwellers in the First Governorate of Democratic Yemen was carried out and a report completed.

76. At the request of the Governments of Lebanon and the Yemen Arab Republic, the Division provided advisory services and technical assistance in the field of housing aimed at strengthening the Housing Ministry in Lebanon and the Housing Department in the Yemen Arab Republic. The Ministry of Housing in Lebanon was also assisted in carrying out housing projects. Upon the request of the Secretary-General of Habitat, the Division has assisted in the organization of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. Officers of the Division travelled to most of the ECWA countries in order to assist in the preparation of this Conference.

77. The Division participated in an Inter-Agency Meeting on Housing and Urbanization held in Geneva, from 8 to 10 October 1975; the 9th Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, from 17 to 24 October 1975; and, an Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlement Technology held in Nairobi, from 2 to February 1976.

8. Statistics Unit

78. The Statistics Unit became operational on 8 September 1975 and is charged with the implementation of the Statistics Programme of the Commission. The Unit's activities in this field are largely centred around:

- the development of national and regional statistics;
- the preparation of an Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World; and,
- the study of the comparative costs of living in the ECWA countries.

79. With regard to the development of national and regional statistics, the Unit initiated work on the application of the Arabic System of National Accounts which is based on the United Nations System of National Accounts, to the National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic. In collaboration with the Central Planning Organization in Sana'a, the Unit completed the National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic and were issued in both Arabic and English.

80. The Unit is presently conducting a survey of the current practices in ECWA countries regarding the compilation of national accounts data, i.e. accounting systems and estimation methods. Work in this area is progressing and has, so far, covered five countries, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Yemen Arab Republic. The survey is expected to cover all the countries by the end of 1976, and a report, entitled "National Accounts Statistics in the ECWA Countries", will constitute a background paper for the "Working group on production accounts, commodity balances and input-output analysis at current and constant prices" which will be held in Beirut in 1977.

81. The Unit has initiated work on the assessment of current practices in collecting statistics on prices and compiling index numbers. Contacts have been established with the National Statistics Departments of member countries in order to standardize the method of gathering prices and to study the available collected prices and price indices and the actual compiling procedures. So far, eight countries of the region have been covered. The assessment of gathering the representative series of price indicators is based on the following criteria:

- procedures of selection of respondents from the business establishments: choice of the establishment of sample;
- procedures of selection of commodities: choice of commodities samples;
- frequency of collection;
- procedures used for maintaining the representativeness of indicators;
- procedure of adjusting series for differences in quality;
- the available price index numbers formulae.

A paper is expected to be issued on this subject in September 1976.

82. Preparations for the Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World started late in 1975. It is intended to publish annually two volumes of the Abstract. The first volume will be a statistical country profile and the second volume will

be a sector profile. Since all Arab countries, some of which are members of ECA, will be included, ECWA plans to organize a system of co-ordination between the two Commissions. In the meantime, work is under way for the preparation of a provisional draft of the Abstract, using statistical data available to ECWA up till 31 March 1976, to be presented to the Commission as well as the National Statistics Departments for comments and suggestions. During the forthcoming mission to Kuwait, the Arab Fund will be contacted for discussions on the economic and social indicators to be incorporated in the Statistical Abstract. During the period July through October, the presentation will be modified, more recent figures will be added and the finalized first issue of Volume 1 of the Abstract will be published. Volume 2 will follow at a later stage.

83. It should be pointed out that this activity is financed in part by regular ECWA budget and in part by extrabudgetary resources from the Arab Fund. Since this activity is of a continuing nature, adequate resources will have to be made available to ensure its continuity.

84. Work has commenced on the "Study of the Comparative Costs of Living in the ECWA Countries" and is proceeding according to schedule. The purpose of the study is to compare the gross domestic products and their common unit values and the purchasing power of currencies in the ECWA countries. The study has been closely co-ordinated with the International Comparison Project which is being carried out by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, World Bank and the University of Pennsylvania with the possible involvement of the Regional Institute for Research and Training in Statistics for the Near East, in Baghdad.

85. The current United Nations International Comparison Project started its first stage with 1967 data covering seven countries of the world: Columbia, Hungary, India, Japan, Kenya, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. At its second stage, in 1970, the project increased the number of countries to 10 by adding France, Federal Republic of Germany and Italy. The project is now proceeding to a third stage and extending its geographical coverage by adding more countries to the study. The Syrian Arab Republic has been chosen to be among the selected group of countries for this study. The Statistics Unit maintains close contacts with the United Nations Statistical Office and the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Syrian Arab Republic in order to ensure involvement in the third stage of the project and awareness of the details of its implementation.

86. At the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, regional advisory services were made available to the Central Bureau of Statistics to assist in finalizing the Syrian System of National Accounts which was completely derived from the United Nations System of National Accounts. The system was applied to the 1972 national accounts data and the results were published in the 1975 Statistical Abstract of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Unit also applied the new system to a series of national accounts covering the period 1956-1972. The results have been submitted to the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics.

87. The Unit actively participated in the "Interregional Seminar on a Revised System of National Accounts for the Developing Countries", held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 8 to 19 December 1975. In this connexion, and at the request of the United Nations Statistical Office, the Unit prepared the following two papers:

- Country Experience in Using the Revised System of National Accounts: practices, difficulties and problems and solutions in the use of concepts, definitions, classifications, etc.
- Selected aspects of the revised System of National Accounts: practices, difficulties and solutions in the case of agriculture, industry, distributive trades and services, household and non-marketed production, public sector, external transactions, gross capital formation, etc.

9. Documentation Centre

88. Work commenced in the implementation of the project on the establishment of a Documentation Centre and is proceeding according to schedule. The plan of operation consists of three phases. Phase one comprises a survey which is being conducted in all the Arab countries in co-operation with ECA, AFESD and KFAED. The purpose of the survey is to:

(a) identify, evaluate and enumerate the existing library, documentation and information centres and other research organizations in the economic and social field;

(b) survey the number and type of users, infrastructure, holdings, personnel and related services, functions and future plans of these organizations in order to fill the gaps by including the needed services under the work plan of the documentation centre; and,

(c) identify the producers of the literature in the socio-economic fields, particularly those producers who operate within the government framework.

89. The survey mission, comprising two consultants, has already covered Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and the Yemen Arab Republic. The Arab countries of North Africa will be surveyed later after an agreement is reached with ECA.

10. Technical Co-operation Unit

90. During the period under review, the Unit continued to provide technical assistance and supporting services to the five ongoing UNDP national and regional projects decentralized to ECWA, namely the Arab Institute for Economic and Social Planning in Kuwait; the regional training programme in Public Finance and Administration; Assistance in Development Planning and Execution (Baghdad); the Planning Institute for Economic and Social Development (Damascus); and, the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Beirut). The Unit participated in the UNDP Evaluation Mission involving the Arab Institute for Economic and Social Planning and also represented ECWA at the last meeting of the Institute's Board of Trustees.

91. In connexion with regional advisory services, the Unit rendered the necessary administrative and supporting services with a view to enabling the regional advisers attached to the various substantive programmes to effectively serve the countries of the region in their respective fields, i.e., social development, social development aspects of population policies, transport and communications, industrial development, trade promotion, and population statistics.

11. Information Services

92. During the period under review, ECWA Information Services intensified efforts through press, radio and television network to achieve a wider dissemination, within the region, of information on the activities of the Commission and on those carried out at the international level concerning such issues as the International Women's Year, Human Rights Day, Habitat, the New Economic Order, Development and International Economic Co-operation and others.

93. In order to promptly and adequately serve all member States of the Commission, the Information Services concentrated efforts on ascertaining the needs and facilities of each member State through direct contacts with the information ministries and persons active in the media. Necessary working arrangements have been made with national news agencies of each country in order to ensure speedy dispatch of information pertaining to the country concerned. Radio and TV networks in the region have been approached with a view to facilitating their use of ECWA related items. Specific proposals are being prepared to this effect in co-ordination with the Office of Public Information of the United Nations.

B. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS
SECOND SESSION

At its second session the Commission adopted a number of resolutions the provisions of some of which call for action by the secretariat. This document depicts, in brief, the necessary follow-up action(s) taken, so far, towards the implementation of these provisions.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 8 (II):

The Annual Statistical Abstract

Preparatory work on the Annual Statistical Abstract commenced late in 1975 with the development of a work plan. The Abstract will cover all Arab countries and will consist of two volumes. The first volume will comprise country statistical profiles and the second will deal with sectoral statistics. Work is under way for the preparation of a provisional draft of the first volume, using statistical data available to ECWA up till 31 March 1976. The draft will be sent to national statistics organizations for their comments. This will be followed by field missions to all the countries concerned. This will also include discussions with the Arab Fund on the economic and social indicators which will be incorporated in the Abstract. Arrangements are being made with the Economic Commission for Africa to extend the coverage of the Abstract to also include the Arab countries of Africa. During the period June-October, the draft of the first volume will be modified and the final version published.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 9 (II):

Co-operation with regional institutions

Pursuant to the operative paragraph of the resolution the Commission accomplished the following:

(a) Discussions were held with ALO on formalizing a co-operation arrangement. Following the examination of the text of an agreement drawn up in the light of observations made by the competent United Nations authorities in New York, agreement was reached on the final version of the text which will fall within the framework of the general agreement existing between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. This would be in the form of a memorandum which would also apply to similar arrangements envisaged on the modalities of co-operation between ECWA and other subsidiary organizations of the League of Arab States.

(b) Discussions with CAEU continued and two draft proposals on modalities of such co-operation prepared by CAEU were discussed, and a meeting is scheduled to take place shortly after the session to formalize the modality of such co-operation.

(c) Discussions on co-operation with IDCAS continued, and arrangements for co-operation between ECWA and IDCAS were reached for implementing a joint project on the fertilizer industry in the Arab countries. A draft proposal for the over-all co-operation between ECWA and IDCAS was prepared and a meeting was held in Cairo between the two organizations to finalize the proposal.

(d) Contacts were established with OAPEC to discuss possibilities of co-operation in the energy field. It was decided, at this stage, to co-operate with OAPEC on a project by project basis, and ECWA has already worked out with OAPEC the modality of co-operation in implementing two of ECWA's 1976/1977 projects in the field of energy, which will enable ECWA and OAPEC to avoid duplication and to achieve complementarity.

(e) As for co-operation with the Arab Funds, ECWA is already implementing the three projects partly financed by the Arab Funds, namely, (1) the Documentation Centre, (2) the Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World, and (3) the Brain Drain.

In addition, a meeting was held in Abu Dhabi in February 1976 between ECWA and four Arab Funds; namely, AFESD, KFAED, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Saudi Fund for Economic Development. Since the Saudi Fund attended such a meeting for the first time, it was decided to confine that meeting to an exchange information on present Work Programmes and activities of ECWA and the four Funds in order to review the implementation of the projects already partly financed by the Arab Funds, and to arrange for another meeting to be held some time after the current session of the Commission to discuss possible further co-operation between ECWA and the Funds in specific areas or projects.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 11 (II):

Voluntary Fund

The resolution authorizes the Chairman of the second session and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to hold urgent consultations with member States with a view to exploring the best and speediest ways of establishing an additional fund financed from voluntary contributions for the extrabudgetary financing of the Commission's work programmes and for meeting requests by member States for studies and advisory services.

In pursuance of the above provision, the secretariat of the Commission, in conjunction with the Chairman of the second session, contacted the member States and the Chairman of the session and the Executive Secretary, subsequently, paid a visit to Iraq and Kuwait. The Executive Secretary also visited Bahrain and Jordan. The secretariat has received replies from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and will, in due course, establish a date for a visit by the Chairman of the session and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to these countries.

The outcome of the consultations held, so far, with member States is as follows:

The Government of Iraq contributed the amount of \$300,000 to the voluntary fund, which is now called the ECWA Regional Development Fund. Arrangements were made with the United Nations Headquarters for the disbursement of the sum and amounts have already been distributed among the substantive programmes of the Commission which needed extrabudgetary financing.

The Governments of Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait expressed their willingness to contribute to the voluntary fund, however, the amount was not specified.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 12 (II):

The Palestine Liberation Organization

Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the resolution have already been implemented, and PLO requests in as far as operative paragraph 2 is concerned, were met in as far as the Commission's resources made it possible to do so.

As to operative paragraph 3 on preparing a report on the requirements for the conduct of the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia, the secretariat has prepared a detailed outline and methodology of this study, as well as the estimates of resources required to implement it according to the proposed outline. The outline and methodology is presented to this session of the Commission under the annex to the document E/ECWA/32/Add.1 for approval, so that ECWA can proceed with undertaking this study.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 13 (II):

Statistics

Paragraph 2 of the resolution "invites the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to expand statistical activities, including the possible establishment of a separate statistics division".

Pursuant to the above provision, the Executive Secretary of ECWA initiated action aimed at strengthening the Statistics programme-component of the Commission which until June 1975 was manned by one regional adviser. Following an assessment of its resource requirements, additional Professional and General Service posts were allocated to the programme-component under the regular budget. Arrangements were also made with the Arab Funds for extrabudgetary resources in order to ensure the implementation of specific activities and projects not covered under the regular budget.

Based on the above considerations and in the light of the increasing role of statistical activities in the work programme of the Commission, the Executive Secretary recommended to Headquarters the upgrading of the component into a fully fledged substantive programme and the establishment of a Statistics Unit within the organizational structure of the secretariat.

Following the approval by Headquarters of the Executive Secretary's recommendation, a separate Statistics Unit was created, on 8 September 1975, within the organizational structure of the secretariat operating under the direct supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary.

The recruitment of a regional adviser in Statistics is under way in order to meet the urgent requests of the Governments of member States in this field.

Efforts will continue to further strengthen the programme for the next biennium work programme (E/ECWA/31, p. 223).

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 14 (II):

Regional co-operation

Pursuant to the operative paragraph of the resolution, the Executive Secretary of ECWA has taken the initiative and contacted the Executive Secretary of ECA to implement this resolution. Ideas were exchanged between the two Executive Secretaries on possible areas of co-operation. The Executive Secretary of ECA has already agreed, in principle, on ECWA's extending the coverage of its three projects, i.e., the Documentation Centre, the Brain-Drain, and the Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World, to also cover the other Arab countries outside the ECWA region and which are served by ECA. However, a meeting which was scheduled to take place two months ago to finalize the modalities of such co-operation in these and other projects was postponed many times due to the recent events in Lebanon and the preoccupations of the Executive Secretary with his responsibilities in Beirut. The secretariat hopes to be able to hold this meeting shortly after the session of the Commission.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 16 (II):

A Programme of Action in Favour of the Least Developed Countries

1. Operative paragraph 2 of resolution 16 (II):

"Urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to provide additional services and activities to promote the economic and social development process in those countries."

2. Of the 12 ECWA member States, only the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic are considered to be least developed countries by the United Nations system.

3. Pursuant to resolution 16 (II), ECWA has intensified its activities in favour of the two least developed member countries in the areas of advisory services, training, research and studies, and related activities. Priority continued to be given in the utilization of the services of the Regional Advisers attached to ECWA to the least developed member countries. At the same time, efforts were made to involve ECWA's regular staff more closely with the development problems of these countries through more frequent missions and extended stays.

Advisory services

4. ECWA mounted a mission, headed by the Chief of the Development Planning Division, which visited Aden to discuss the request of the Government of Democratic Yemen for advice in the area of project identification in the various sectors of the economy.

5. The mission met with the Head of the State, the Prime Minister and the Acting Minister of Planning who discussed the economic and social problems of the country, indicated the specific problem areas, and emphasized the priorities of

the Government in their solution. The mission also had intensive meetings with the senior staff of the Ministry of Planning, the Authority for Minerals and Oil, the Public Corporation for Fish Wealth and the Ministry of Industry.

6. In the light of these discussions, the Government of Democratic Yemen requested expertise in the following areas, presented in a descending order of government priority:

- (a) Marketing of fish: (i) to study and advise on ways and means of strengthening the Marketing Division of the General Organization of Fish Resources and propose objective guidelines for its operations; (ii) to train the employees of the Marketing Division of the Organization in the most effective marketing methods of fish, whether as a raw material or as a final product, to local and foreign markets; and, (iii) to advise the employees of the Marketing Division of the Organization on ways and means of contacting external markets, analysing prices and related information on international markets for fish, and preparing relevant projections.
- (b) Manpower planning: (i) to prepare a programme for a comprehensive survey of job opportunities which are likely to become available as a result of the implementation of the 1974/75-1978/79 Plan; (ii) to prepare a programme designed to measure the supply of manpower, in the same period, bearing in mind the quantitative and qualitative aspects of labour and other relevant details; (iii) to design a way to link the educational and training policies of the State with the real needs of the country for manpower, in line with the development objectives of the Plan; and, (iv) to propose ways and means of organizing the Manpower Planning Department in the Ministry of Planning, designed to meet the requirements for an effective and continuous evaluation.
- (c-1) Economic and financial analysis in the textile industry: (i) to assess the findings of the feasibility study undertaken and its underlying economic justifications; and, (ii) to prepare an economic and financial study as a basis for an investment decision by the Government of Democratic Yemen and/or other investors (public and private).
- (c-2) Demand projection and product mix in textiles: (i) to study domestic demand and export prospects for different varieties of cotton and/or cotton mixed with synthetic fibre textiles; and, (ii) to determine the production capacity and the product mix of the integrated cotton textile mill.
- (d) The administration and operation of bus services: (i) to study and formulate recommendations and proposals for the most efficient organization and deployment by the General Authority for Land Transport of bus services; (ii) to study the financial and accounting practices and procedures applied currently by the General Authority for Land Transport in operating bus and truck services in internal transport of passengers and goods, with a view to elaborating recommendations on ways and means for introducing more efficient financial and accounting management systems; and, (iii) to assist the General Authority for Land Transport in formulating guidelines and broad options for its future activities.

- (e) Financial planning: (i) to prepare proposals designed to establish the appropriate division of labour between the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Finance (including the Treasury), and the banking system for all matters pertaining to financial planning, with a clear indication of the duties and responsibilities of each in the performance of their respective functions; and, (ii) to study and recommend measures for the establishment and implementation of appropriate credit policies designed to increase domestic savings.
- (f) Storage and use of refined petroleum products: (i) to assess the value of old and operating storage facilities for refined petroleum products in Aden; (ii) to conduct a comprehensive survey of these storage facilities, with recommendations for possible renewals; and, (iii) to propose alterations or replacement of parts designed to raise the efficiency of operating these establishments.
- (g) Establishment of a geological centre: (i) to assist the Authority for Petroleum and Minerals in formulating a project for the establishment of a Centre for training in geological works and petroleum and minerals exploration, including training programmes, staff and equipment requirements; and, (ii) to assist the Authority for Petroleum and Minerals in formulating a request (project document) seeking UNDP or other participants in financing the project, particularly the cost of equipment and provision of staff.
- (h) Drying, salting and smoking of fish: (i) to study and submit recommendations on the drying, salting and smoking processes of fish; (ii) to study and guide the responsible officials on the application of the most economical method of drying, salting and smoking processes; and, (iii) to develop alternative methods of drying, salting and smoking processes and methods, bearing in mind their economic returns and nutritive values.
- (i) In addition, it was agreed that, provided it did not conflict with the financial availability from ECWA regarding the preceding requests, the Government of Democratic Yemen also wanted urgently to have the services of an economist/planner who would: (i) study the Planning Ministry's machinery and its adequacy; (ii) the Ministry's internal and external co-ordination functions; (iii) review candidate projects for possible inclusion in the current Plan; and, (iv) study the possibility of establishing a project evaluation unit within the Ministry.

7. The same mission proceeded to the Yemen Arab Republic in order to discuss with the authorities concerned their request in the area of ECWA assistance in the implementation of their Development Planning Project designed to assist the Government in the preparation of their 1976/77-1980/81 Plan. The mission also visited a number of Ministries in Sana'a and discussed with them their needs for advisory services in various fields of economic development.

8. ECWA has already prepared the necessary job descriptions and has initiated extensive correspondence with many areas, particularly with the United Nations agencies and organizations concerned, seeking their assistance in locating the

requested experts and possibly in some financial sharing. Despite serious recruitment problems, ECWA hopes to send to Aden many of the requested experts in the coming few months.

9. Under the United Nations Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration in Beirut (PROPFAD) for which ECWA is the executing agency, and upon government request, advisory services were extended to both Democratic Yemen and Yemen. A consultant in auditing and fiscal control visited Sana'a to help in the establishment of the Central Agency for Fiscal Control and Auditing. Similarly, a consultant in customs administration visited Aden where he assisted in customs evaluation procedures, itemizing customs tariffs and the preparation of a draft customs law.
10. The Regional Adviser in the Formulation of Industrial Projects assisted the Government of Democratic Yemen in reviewing prospects for a number of food industries, in analysing certain problems related to the vegetable oil industry, and in advising on effective implementation procedures and corrective measures to improve some of the techniques in use. The Regional Adviser also assumed, upon the request of UNIDO, the responsibility of a team leader for the Industrial Promotion Advisory Unit in Sana'a for one month, during which he followed up a number of ongoing projects - such as the industrial survey and the institutional framework of the Department of Industry - and assisted in evaluating candidates and expediting the process of recruitment for the expert posts in the Unit.
11. The Regional Adviser in Population Statistics visited Democratic Yemen to assess the needs of the country in the population field and assist in the formulation of country projects for UNFPA financing.
12. The ECWA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division participated, with the FAO Regional Office, in a mission concerning integrated rural development in Democratic Yemen and Yemen. A similar joint mission was mounted to Yemen for the formulation of an integrated rural development project in the Tohama region.
13. Under the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division, consultancy services were provided to both Democratic Yemen and Yemen for the preparation of draft laws on the exploitation of oil and mineral resources. The consultants also assisted Yemen in evaluating a number of oil contracts proposed by certain oil companies.
14. Copies of the draft consultancy study on "The Situation of Transport and Communications in the Region of ECWA" were circulated by the Transport Communications and Tourism Division to the Governments of Democratic Yemen and Yemen for their comments.
15. The Social Development and Human Settlement Division participated in a joint UNEP/UNHHSF/ECWA mission to identify projects for urban improvement in Democratic Yemen and Yemen. As a result of this mission, the Division prepared a Project document for "A Pilot Project for the Environmental Upgrading of Uncontrolled Urban Settlements in Democratic Yemen". The Division has also been involved in a joint ECWA/UNICEF project on youth, which has entailed extensive field work in the two countries to assess ongoing programmes and identify needs in the area of youth. A draft of the study as been completed.

16. Under the Population Division assistance was provided to Yemen in the formulation of a country project, namely, a socio-demographic survey of Taiz and Hodaida, which was submitted to UNFPA for financing and for which ECWA is expected to be designated as executing agency.

17. An officer from the Development Planning Division visited Democratic Yemen and held discussions with the competent authorities on issues of sectoral planning and project implementation.

18. Advisory services in statistics in the area of national accounting culminated in a joint Yemen/ECWA publication entitled "The National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic", in both Arabic and English.

Training

19. PROPFAD co-operated with the International Monetary Fund mission to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Administration Institute in Sana'a in arranging a training programme in Sana'a for 46 trainees from the supervisory level, mainly in the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Planning. Courses were given on government accounting, taxation, government stores, government purchases, business accounting and customs taxes and legislation.

20. Under the theme of "the Public Sector", PROPFAD organized for the Government of Democratic Yemen a training programme for 33 trainees from the supervisory level. Courses were given on the public sector principles and problems, government accounting, business accounting and types of taxes on the public sector.

21. PROPFAD also arranged for a training programme in Damascus designed for senior finance officers from Democratic Yemen, Yemen and Oman. The courses covered introduction to public finance, government budgeting, government accounting, public revenues, taxation, tax administration, business accounting, public utilities and enterprises, public debt, principles of economic development, and principles of planning. In addition, the programme included field visits to different financial institutions in the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. The Regional Adviser in the Formulation of Industrial Projects and an officer from the Development Planning Division participated as lecturers in the "Training Seminar on Project Identification, Evaluation and Implementation" which was organized by the Central Planning Organization in Yemen.

Research and studies

23. Special attention is paid to the particular problems and needs of the two least developed members in ECWA's research and studies programmes as is reflected in the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977 and its draft medium-term plan for 1978-1981.

Economic Commission for Western Asia, resolution 19 (II):

The Standing Committee

Under operative paragraph (1), the resolution calls for the establishment of a standing committee composed of representatives of all States members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, with the primary function of considering requests received by the secretariat to participate in the sessions of the Commission or to attend meetings, seminars and workshops organized by the secretariat in connexion with the Commission's functions and to make appropriate recommendations to the Commission in respect of those requests.

Operative paragraph (2) of the resolution calls for an annual regular meeting of the Committee prior to the regular session of the Commission, to be devoted to the tasks mentioned under 1 above.

On the basis of the above provisions of the resolution, the secretariat has invited member States to nominate their representatives on the above-mentioned Committee. As of the date of the preparation of this report, only six States had responded to this invitation, and, accordingly, the Committee did not meet as its membership was incomplete. The secretariat of the Commission wishes to draw attention to the fact that the convening of the Committee and the commencement of its work depends on the nomination of its remaining members by member States. In order to enable the Committee to perform its functions with the desired alacrity, especially when an issue poses urgent questions, member States may find it appropriate to have as their representatives on the Committee members of their diplomatic missions located in the country hosting the Headquarters of the Commission or at the next nearest place.

C. OTHER ACTIVITIES

(A brief report)

During the period under review, a number of activities, which were not envisaged in the work programme of the Commission, were carried out by the secretariat. This involved a reallocation of the limited resources at the disposal of the secretariat supplemented, where possible, from extrabudgetary resources. Although progress in this connexion has been reported under the activities of the respective substantive Divisions/Units of the secretariat in document E/ECWA/30, the following is a brief reference to some of these activities:

- (1) At the request of the Jordanian Government, assistance was provided in connexion with the "Euro-Arab dialogue". This included the preparation of a comprehensive report and the elaboration of proposals on the scope of assistance to be extended to the Arab party to the dialogue. The report and proposals are submitted to the Commission as a background document (E/ECWA/35/Add.1).
- (2) At the request of the Jordan Valley Commission, a comprehensive multistage study of East Jordan Irrigation Project was carried out. The first stage is a financial analysis of the East Jordan Valley agricultural development plan 1976-1982. Particular attention is given to farm business enterprise analysis involving crop profitability and project effects on farm income. The second stage is an economic analysis of the project's returnability. This involves estimation of project costs and benefits and assessment of project's profitability in the light of its present worth and internal rate of return. The third stage of the study is devoted to technical and economic issues relating to the largest component of the project, namely, the Maqarin Dam. A major objective of the Jordan Valley project is to integrate all available water flows for a rational and unified system operation. Accordingly, the analysis of the Maqarin Dam is carried a step further to cover the entire irrigation system. This serves to provide a useful measure of the benefits accruing to the economy in terms of reduced costs through integrated system operation. A complete report on the study is being finalized for presentation to the Commission.
- (3) ECWA arranged for a meeting in Damascus for the purpose of defining and co-ordinating the assistance to the Euphrates project to be offered by the various United Nations agencies concerned. The meeting took place in December 1975 and was attended by government officials from the Ministry of the Euphrates as well as representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and ECWA. The meeting discussed the extent and type of assistance that each United Nations agency could provide to the Euphrates project. In so far as ECWA is concerned, assistance has been and will continue to be provided in the form of advisory services which will be made available at the request of the Syrian Government. The ECWA inputs have assisted the authorities concerned in the various social, economic and agricultural policy decisions.
- (4) An ECWA Mission visited Aden to discuss with the Government of Democratic Yemen their request for short-term advisory services for project identification in the various sectors of the economy. As a result of the various discussions held, the PDRY Government requested expertise in

a number of problem areas having priority in their development efforts. Necessary action has already been taken by ECWA to grant the Government request, and it is expected that the required expert services will be made available in the coming few months.

The same Mission proceeded to the Yemen Arab Republic in order to discuss with the authorities concerned their request for ECWA assistance in the implementation of their Development Planning Project designed to assist the Government in the preparation of their 1976/77-1980/81 plan.

- (5) At the request of the Governments of Democratic Yemen and Yemen, consultancy services were provided by ECWA for the preparation of draft laws on oil and other mineral explorations in the two countries.
- (6) In reply to a request for advisory services from CAEU, ECWA provided assistance in the preparation of a paper on the "Improvement of Transport among all Arab countries". A report covering the issues involved was submitted to the CAEU.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

1. The Economic Commission for Western Asia considered the draft of its third annual report to the Economic and Social Council at its eighth meeting held on 15 May 1976.
2. Before adopting the report, the Commission decided to suspend the meeting for five minutes as an expression of solidarity with the Arab people of Palestine on the occasion of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the usurpation of their homeland.
3. Upon the resumption of the meeting the Commission adopted its report as amended during the discussion.

ANNEX

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION
AT ITS THIRD SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/ECWA/29 and Rev.1	Provisional agenda
E/ECWA/29/Rev.2	Agenda
E/ECWA/29/Rev.1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ECWA/29/Rev.1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated revised agenda
E/ECWA/30	Progress report on the implementation of the work programme
E/ECWA/30/Add.1	"The brain drain problem: causes, consequences and remedies"
E/ECWA/31	Draft medium-term plan for 1978-1981
E/ECWA/31/Corr.1	Corrigendum (English only)
E/ECWA/31/Rev.1	Revised draft medium-term plan 1978-1981 of the population programme
E/ECWA/31/Add.1	Amendments to the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1976-1977
E/ECWA/32	Follow-up action on the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its second session, in May 1975
E/ECWA/32/Add.1	The economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia
E/ECWA/33	Site of the headquarters of the Commission
E/ECWA/34	Invitations to States Members of the United Nations to participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission
E/ECWA/35	Other activities (a brief report)
E/ECWA/35/Add.1	The Euro-Arab dialogue
E/ECWA/L.24	Site of the headquarters of the Commission
E/ECWA/L.24/Add.1	Site of the headquarters of the Commission

SymbolTitle

E/ECWA/L.25	Site of the headquarters of the Commission
E/ECWA/L.26-L.39	Draft resolutions
E/ECWA/L.40	Draft report to Economic and Social Council
E/ECWA/INF.9	Notes for the information of participants
E/ECWA/INF.9/Add.1	Notes for the information of participants
E/ECWA/INF.10	List of documents
E/ECWA/INF.10/Add.1	List of documents
E/ECWA/INF.11	Provisional list of participants
E/ECWA/INF.11/Rev.1	Revised provisional list of participants
E/ECWA/INF.11/Rev.2	List of participants