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**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON CARTOGRAPHY  
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,  
on Tuesday, 22 March 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

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- (b) Review of the communications submitted by international governmental and non-governmental organizations the work of which is connected with cartography (Cartography/W.4).

Chairman: Mr. R.H. RANDALL

Consulting Experts:

Mr. R.L.L. BROWN  
Mr. C. LEITE DE CASTRO  
Mr. W. SCHERMERHORN  
Mr. R. VERLAINE

Expert from Government of Brazil:

Mr. A.H. de MATTOS

Representatives from Specialized Agencies:

Mr. S.V. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)  
Mr. E.R.L. PEAKE (International Civil Aviation Organization)  
Mr. G.E. HILL (World Health Organization)

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Representatives from Inter-governmental organizations:

Mr. C.L. NICHOLS	(International Hydrographic Bureau)
Mr. S. W. BOGGS	} (Pan-American Institute of Geography and History)
Mr. A. SIMONPIETRI	

Representatives from International Non-governmental organizations:

Mr. H.W. HEMPLE	(International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, International Council of Scientific Unions, Inter- national Federation of Surveyors)
Mr. O.S. READING	(International Society of Photogrammetry)
Mr. M.S. WRIGHT	(American Congress on Surveying and Mapping) (Inter-American)

Secretariat:

Mr. G. DURAN	(Department of Social Affairs)
Mr. W.J. BRUCE	(Department of Economic Affairs, Statistical Office)
Mr. T.L. TCHANG	Secretary of the Committee



CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- (a) REVIEW OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY VARIOUS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES  
ON THEIR NEEDS, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES (Cartography/W.2  
and W.2 Add.1 Cartography/W.5) (discussion continued).

Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BRUCE (Secretariat)  
outlined the activities of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

Mr. Bruce said that the main objective of the Statistical Office  
was the collection and dissemination by means of publications of statistics  
on such subjects of international interest, not already covered by  
Specialized Agencies, as population, national income, production, housing  
and delinquency. In the course of that work, constant efforts were being  
made to improve the comparability of such statistics. The Statistical  
Office was also intended to provide the Councils, Regional Commissions  
and other organs of the United Nations and its Secretariat with such  
data and charts as they might require. It had been found that graphic  
illustrations rendered statistics more comprehensible and effective.

Administratively, the Statistical Office was placed under the  
direction of Mr. Owen, Assistant Secretary General in Charge of the  
Department of Economic Affairs, though its character as a central service  
was emphasized. The structure of its staff of 70-80 persons was  
deliberately kept elastic, so that the Office could accommodate itself  
to the fluctuating and seasonal demands made upon it. A special  
section was maintained to serve as the Secretariat to the Statistical  
Commission, which was an international body made up of 12 members  
selected for their expert ability by the Secretary-General and appointed  
by the Economic and Social Council. Another section of the Statistical  
Office was devoted to research for the improvement of comparability, and  
others were particularly concerned with the publication of the Monthly  
Statistical Bulletin and the Demographic Year Book. But all sections  
were fluid, and personnel could be transferred from one to another.

In reply to a question, Mr. Bruce stated that the Statistical  
Office had been set up in July 1946 with an initial authorization for a



staff of 45; two years later it had reached its present numbers which remained fairly constant.

Among the junior staff were a few trainees from Member Governments who were attached for one or two years to learn all aspects of international statistical work. In anticipation of the 1950 census in the Americas, the Food and Agricultural Organization, in association with the Statistical Office, had set up a 2-3 months' training course in Mexico City, which had provided special instruction for some 60 prospective directors of the census. The scheme had been successful and would probably be used as a model for others of the same type.

Mr. Bruce said that there had been two international meetings concerned with statistics. One, an informal meeting, had been convened in Geneva in 1948 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Representatives from the statistical departments of many European Governments had met there to co-ordinate the demand and supply of statistics required by various international organizations in connexion with European post-war reconstruction. The other, known as the World Statistical Congress of 1947, had been convened in Washington by the Secretary-General, and had been designed to take advantage of the fact that some seven international scientific organizations with a common interest in statistics were holding meetings in Washington at about the same time. For each of these meetings, the United Nations had provided the background documentation and the conference services, but not expenses for those who had attended.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Bruce for the assistance he had given the Committee.

Mr. BRUCE withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the term 'cartography', which had originally meant the compilation of maps, had now come to embrace a very wide field, which was reviewed in the working paper Cartography/W.3. It was within the framework outlined by that working paper that he proposed further discussion should be directed.

Cartographic Services of the United Nations Secretariat (Cartography/W.5)

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. DURAN (Secretariat) read



out the working paper Cartography/W.5, which reviewed the activities and future needs of the United Nations Secretariat as a whole in the field of cartography.

In reply to a question, Mr. Duran explained that the United Nations Secretariat was responsible for the registration of treaties, which might entail the reproduction of boundary maps. He added that the heaviest demand for maps and charts would probably arise in connexion with item C 4 of the working paper Cartography/W.5, namely, technical assistance for economic development.

Mr. SCHIRMERHORN, referring to the difficulty experienced by the Secretariat in obtaining up-to-date maps from Member Governments, expressed the opinion that when the value of an adequate cartographic service had been made evident, Member Governments would be more ready to co-operate wholeheartedly in supplying maps and information.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the paramount interest in cartography must always be that of the user or "consumer". Some organizations had apparently thought that the Committee of Experts wished to know what cartographic services the organizations were themselves providing, whereas the Committee was more anxious to determine their overall needs, and then to recommend how those needs were to be met.

He thanked Mr. Duran for his information and help.

#### International Civil Aviation Organization.

Mr. PEAKE (International Civil Aviation Organization) reviewed briefly the general structure and organization of the ICAO, as outlined in its memorandum on the position of ICAO in the field of international cartography (W.2). The main body of the organization was the Council, which was composed of members of twenty-three contracting States, elected every three years. From the Council depended the principal committees, such as the Air Transport Committee and the Air Navigation Committee to which were appended a number of technical sub-commissions serviced by the Secretariat. Regional organizations of the ICAO had been set up in five areas of the world.



The cartographic activities of ICAO were developed through the Aeronautical Charts Division of the Air Navigation Commission. One of the most important tasks of the organization was the production of standards and recommended practices for aeronautical charts which were published as annexes to the Convention in Civil Aviation. The MAP Section of the Secretariat produced charts and for the ICAO manuals and procedures for air navigation, and maintained a chart library. The maps produced by that section employed the approved symbols developed by the MAP Division of the ICAO. The work of the MAP Section was handled by a staff of ten located at the Montreal headquarters.

The organization felt a need for basic information on geography and it was the hope of the ICAO that the findings of the committee would promote the production of better basic maps. Mr. Peake said that he would inform the committee of the areas which the ICAO considered weak. The ICAO also felt it would be desirable to co-ordinate and supplement available information on place names.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that the question of place names was within the purview of the committee. Although the Statistical Commission had done an excellent job in nomenclature, the committee should assist in solving problems of orthography and rules of transliteration.

With reference to the co-ordination of the geodetic frame-work of neighboring states mentioned in the report of the ICAO (W.2) Mr. Peake explained that such co-ordination was necessary for air navigation because of the fact that beacons were in the great circle. Unless the geodetic frame-work was expressed in the same terms of navigating co-ordinates, it would be difficult to obtain fixes. Basically, the treatment of the question would have to be international.

In reply to a remark by Mr. BROWN (Consulting Expert), Mr. Peake stated that for purposes of air navigation, astro fixes were not sufficient.

Mr. SCHERMERHORN (Consulting Expert) mentioned recent efforts which had been made to recompute the triangulation of Western Europe. The results had not been particularly satisfactory. That task was an enormous one and Mr. Schermerhorn felt that it was clearly



within the province of an international body such as the United Nations to promote the accurate co-ordination of the geodetic frame-work of nations, and encourage the use of the same systems of co-ordinates.

Mr. VERLAINE (Consulting Expert) said that Belgium had closely studied the question of triangulation and agreement on certain points had been reached between that country and Italy, France and Spain. The problem had not, however, been completely solved.

In reply to a question from Mr. HEMPLE (International Council of Scientific Unions, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) Mr. PEAKE (International Civil Aviation Organization) stated that every contracting state accepted and used the ICAO standards. Reliability diagrams regarding the World Aeronautical Chart ICAO were supplied by member nations.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of the ICAO for his informative survey of the structure and functions of the ICAO.

#### UNESCO

Mr. ARNALDO (UNESCO) stated that the UNESCO was not now engaged in any considerable production of maps and therefore expected to make extensive use of the services of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in that field. The needs of UNESCO would be confined in the main to special purpose maps of the Class III type as defined in Modern Cartographic Methods. (Cartography - W.3)

UNESCO would suggest the establishment of a permanent ad hoc co-ordinating committee to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of cartography.

Although science and scientific research came within its purview, UNESCO had not yet prepared definite programmes in those fields, as it was being re-organized under its new Director General. No cartographic services were being projected, but UNESCO intended to carry on certain cartographic activities in connexion with programmes already in operation. For the future, UNESCO would chart its course on



the basis of the findings of the committee. Mr. Arnaldo wished to assure the committee, however, that UNESCO had an active interest in training scientific experts and supported a programme of grants-in-aid to scholars for that purpose.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of UNESCO for his helpful summary of the needs and activities of UNESCO in the field of cartography.

ITEM 3 (c) REVIEW OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THE WORK OF WHICH IS CONNECTED WITH CARTOGRAPHY (Cartography 14).

Mr. NICHOLS (International Hydrographic Bureau) referred to the summary of the work of the International Hydrographic Bureau which he had distributed to the committee. He stated that the IHB had been the co-ordinating body of the hydrographic offices of the world since 1921, working with various international organizations in the solution of common problems.

The Bureau had been most successful in its work, as was illustrated by the full attendance of its members at its Fifth Conference held in Monaco in 1947. The most important maritime nations of the world were members of the organization. Several nations were at that time considering joining the Bureau or renewing their membership which had lapsed during the war. The IHB was an active, growing co-ordinating agency that had the full support of the hydrographers of its member States as well as that of many non-member States.

At the Fifth International Hydrographic Conference the possible relationship of the IHB with the United Nations had been fully discussed. At that Conference it had been repeatedly emphasized that while it was desired to establish the most cordial relationship with the United Nations, the delegates were of the opinion that the IHB should remain an independent office, and a resolution to that effect had been passed by the Conference.



The CHAIRMAN expressed the committee's appreciation for the clear statement of the organization and work of the IHB which had been made by its representative. He then thanked the Secretariat for the facilities it had put at the disposal of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.