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1960 CENSUS OF THE AMERICAS

Note by the secretariat

The Secretary of the Inter-American Statistical Institute has requested the ECLA secretariat to draw the attention of member Governments to the plans which are now being made for a census of the American countries in 1960.

It will be recalled that the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, at its fourth session held at Rio de Janeiro in 1954, adopted resolution 50/54 which recommended that the Governments of member countries should conduct a census every ten years beginning with 1950 and that they should carry out analytical studies relating to the essential characteristics of population, housing and agricultural activities in their respective countries. The Inter-American Statistical Institute was made responsible for the co-ordination and integration of the various national censuses and a special Sub-Committee of the Commission on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) was formed in order to formulate the minimum concepts, definitions and principles to be applied.

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America appreciates the value of information which can be obtained by carefully planned censuses, because its own economic studies are based to a substantial extent on data derived from such sources. Furthermore, the secretariat realizes the usefulness of censuses to member countries themselves, since the wealth of data so obtained is of extreme importance in any programme of economic development.

Hence the secretariat believes that the Commission will agree that the work now being carried out by the special Sub-Committee of COINS is fully deserving of support and that countries should endeavour to co-operate, so far as their resources permit, with the programme for the 1960 census which is now being prepared.

The Committee of the Whole may wish to make a recommendation indicating such support.