



EUROPEAN COORDINATION CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND
DOCUMENTATION IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

by

Lucio Garcia del Solar

Joint Inspection Unit

Geneva

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JIU/REP/71/13

GE.72-1890

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I. APPRAISAL

A. Foreword

1. In a report (JIU/REP/71/5) on the activities of the Asian Regional Institute for School Research (ARISBR), background information was given on the Director-General's request for an inspection of certain regional centres and institutes set up and assisted by UNESCO, which, in 1973, after ten years of operations, should cease receiving the Organization's financial assistance as recommended by the twelfth session of the General Conference.
2. Within the JIU's programme in response to the Director-General's request, this Inspector undertook an examination of the EUROPEAN COORDINATION CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION IN SOCIAL SCIENCES.

B. Origin and location

3. Preliminary talks on the creation of the Centre took place among European delegations to the eleventh Session of the General Conference (1960), but it was only at the twelfth session in 1962 that the Director-General was authorized by resolution 3.22 to favour the establishment of such an institute, as a result of a proposal presented by Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, Poland and Yugoslavia. It was agreed that the Centre would function under the responsibility of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) whose Executive Committee formally decided, in April 1963 to create the Centre. At the proposal of the Government of Austria, Vienna was chosen as the host city for the Centre's Headquarters on account of the neutral position of the country and its geographical location between what is broadly considered as Eastern and Western Europe. An agreement signed between the Government of Austria and UNESCO in December of that year made it possible for the Centre to start its activities early in 1964.
4. Comment: The Centre is ideally located to effectively carry out its objectives, both from the geographical and from the political point of view.

C. Objectives

5. As stated in UNESCO's volume on the resolutions of the twelfth session of the General Conference, the Centre was created having in mind the necessity of co-ordinating, through a new organization, multi-disciplinary research efforts in the field of social science performed by competent European institutions, in order to stimulate the development of comparative studies and by such means, to assist in achieving progress in the methodology employed.

6. This scientific objective, clearly defined in the statutes of the Centre, is accompanied by what might be called a political one, not explicitly enunciated 1/ in any document spelling out its functions, but which existed in the minds of those who had the idea of creating it to the extent that it may be considered its fundamental leit-motiv: to organize an institutional "plate-forme" in order to multiply contacts and exchanges of views between social science investigators of European countries having, in the United Nations terminology, different social and economic structures or, in other words, to facilitate mutual understanding between scholars of Eastern and Western Europe in the above-mentioned field. Of course, both objectives are organically linked and in fact represent two aspects of a single process within the centre's activities. The combined scientific and political motivations inherent in the so-called political objective, required a policy of continuous and careful East-West balance in every aspect of the Centre's existence, whether of institutional, administrative, programming and operational nature.

7. Comment: How did the idea of creating a Centre to stimulate comparative research between the Eastern and Western Europe come up ?

8. Promotion of contacts between social science institutions and researchers of Eastern and Western Europe was considered necessary not only as a sophisticated device to prove that problems of isolationism and mutual mistrust in Europe due to special conditions in the continent after the Second World War could be overcome at least in the scientific fields, but also to reduce unbalanced standards in the knowledge of some branches of the social sciences and in the methodology for research. If such imbalance was, and still is, visible among Western European countries with different degrees of development, gaps between modern methodological practices adopted in some countries of the West and those in most of the Eastern European states were evident when the Centre was created. There is no doubt that, thanks to the task performed by the Centre, countries which have had no opportunities to become aware of advancements in social science research methodology succeeded in incorporating new up-to-date techniques in their investigating institutes.

1/ However, the Sixteenth General Conference took note of a draft resolution (16C/DR.191) proposed by the Italian delegation aiming at ensuring the efficient continuation of the Vienna centre beyond 1972 and in which it was stated in a preambular paragraph:
"Considering that the European Centre for Research and Documentation in the social sciences (Vienna) operated by the International Social Council has become a valuable instrument for organizing and developing contacts and exchanges between scholars and research institutions of European centres with different social, economic and political structures.

9. In order to fulfil its political objective effectively, the Centre has always been extremely careful to ensure, in the planning of its administrative structure and in performing its activities, a scrupulous balance between East and West: the Board of Directors has fourteen members including six from Western Europe, seven from socialist states and one from a neutral country; at present, the Chairman comes from the East, the Vice-chairman from the West. The multi-national research teams formed for a project, are generally presided over by two Chairmen, one from each side of Europe, and an effort is made to strike a balance in the number of Eastern and Western European participating institutes.

10. The determination of the Centre to remain completely objective has resulted in a collaboration between Eastern and Western investigators with no clashes and work is normally performed in an atmosphere of increasing trust in spite of their political and ideological differences. This is the greatest achievement of the Centre.

D. Legal status

1. Relation with UNESCO and the International Social Sciences Council

11. Unlike other UNESCO regional centres which were established on the basis of direct arrangements between host countries and the international organization, with no intermediary, the Vienna Centre is a creation resulting from an agreement between UNESCO and a non-governmental organization, the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

12. The ISSC was created in 1952 and has its headquarters in the UNESCO buildings in Paris. It has 38 members belonging to 19 countries of Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, representing 13 disciplines. Generally speaking, the ISSC's activities are oriented mainly in three directions : expansion of the social sciences, strenghtening of the institutional infrastructure of research and development of international scientific co-operation. Its 1971 budget amounted to 195,000 dollars, of which 90,000 dollars were subsidized by UNESCO; of the latter, 40,000 represented its contribution, as approved by UNESCO's General Conference, to the Vienna Centre. The remaining 105,000 dollars are the result of contributions from social science institutes, foundations, sales of publications, research fees, etc.

13. The Vienna Centre depends on the ISSC and acts as an executing organ : the nature and modalities of this dependency are governed by terms established in legal instruments of two types :

- (i) Annual contracts between UNESCO and ISSC. They specify the sum annually allocated to the Centre's activities and ways of payment; according to the contractual provisions, these funds may be used to finance the administrative functioning of the Centre, travel expenses of its personnel and of participants in meetings, fees of specialists and consultants associated with the preparation of such meetings, equipment and documentation expenses, interpretation and other technical services, scholarships. ISSC must submit to

UNESCO reports on the activities and expenses of the Centre, first on a provisional and then on a definitive basis and reimburse non-utilized funds.

- (ii) The statutes of the Centre approved by its Board of Directors in April 1971. Until this date, the Centre was governed on a provisional basis, by the terms of an agreement, under the participation programme, signed in December 1963 between UNESCO and the Government of Austria; this agreement, however, did not include any elaborate details concerning the functions, institutional structure, management, competences of the administrators and technical staff, relations with ISSC, financial means other than those supplied by the Host Government and UNESCO, all of which is covered by the recently approved statutes.

14. In part, the lack of specific statutes during eight years may be due to the fact that from the very beginning, because of special conditions in the Austrian legislation as regards international associations explained later, the Centre never lost its provisional nature. I say in part because in spite of the fact that this problem has still not been solved, the statutes have been adopted.

15. The following prerogatives of the ISSC are recognized in the statutes of the Centres :

- i) Its Executive Committee appoints the members of the Board of Directors of the Centre (Art. 6 and 8).
- ii) It establishes criteria for the mandates of the members of the Board of Directors of the Centre (Art. 6).
- iii) It transfers to the Board of Directors general and permanent signatory power in matters relating to the programme of activities of the Centre (Art. 8).
- iv) The Secretary-General of the ISSC proposes the person to be appointed Director of the Centre (Art. 9).
- v) The ISSC exerts financial control over the implementation of the approved budget by the Director of the Centre (Art. 10).
- vi) The Executive Committee of the ISSC studies the report of activities and the financial reports annually submitted by the President of the Board of Directors; it states the financial regularity (Art. 13).
- vii) The signature of the Secretary-General of the ISSC, together with that of the President of the Board of Directors of the Centre, is required for all incidental expenses (Art. 14).
- viii) The Secretary-General of the ISSC participates, ex-officio, in the meetings of the Board of Directors or sends a representative. Whenever necessary, he assists the executive organs of the Centre in the fulfilment of their tasks (Art. 16).

2. Relation with the Host Government

16. Existing legislation in Austria as regards international associations do not contemplate the functioning of international non-governmental institutions; thus, UNESCO, ISSC and the Centre itself were faced, from the very start, with the problem of finding a formula to institutionalize the new body. The agreement signed in 1963 between the Government of Austria and UNESCO mentions that the Centre is, on a "provisional" basis, an organ of the ISSC, but that in the future it could "become an inter-governmental organization whose statutes would be determined by the participating countries"; this formula proved to be helpful for the establishment of the Centre in Vienna. But when the moment came to regularize the situation of the Centre with the Host Government, the idea of its adopting the status of an inter-governmental institution was not accepted by certain European governments; some feared that if Member States were to have official representatives, the scientific - and even the political - objectives of the Centre, would lose spontaneity; others were reluctant to enter into long-term financial commitments.

17. Since the other alternative of the Centre acquiring the status of an international non-governmental organization is dependent upon a decision of the Austrian Parliament on a new law, presented this year, about international associations, the Centre's legal position remains unchanged: the ad-hoc arrangement whereby it is an organ of the ISSC without independent juridical personality will be provisionally retained. In the meantime, the juridical vacuum maintained during eight years between UNESCO, ISSC and the Centre by not establishing any detailed instrument governing the latter's activities, has been filled by the adoption of the statutes.

18. Comment: One of the first things to examine is the nature of the dependence of the Centre upon the ISSC. According to the report of the 16th session of the ISSC's Executive Committee (April 1963), the Centre would have the status of an "external organ of the ISSC"; in turn, Art. 2 of the Centre's statutes defines it as an "autonomous organization of the ISSC". Both definitions appear to be somewhat contradictory; even the latter definition is by itself enunciated in contradictory terms. This wording could allow very flexible interpretations of the degree of dependence of the Centre upon the ISSC. Is this terminology deliberately used to indicate a desire of the Centre to become an entirely independent organization? Maybe this could happen in the future but for the time being the recently adopted statutes include in great detail some fundamental prerogatives of the ISSC on many aspects of the Centre's structure and on its administrative and financial activities (see para. 15); the financial control and auditing practices at the Centre and at the ISSC, satisfy both this organization and UNESCO. This high degree of dependence seems for the time being convenient for two main reasons: (i) the juridical status of the Centre vis à vis the Austrian government has not yet been clarified, and until the amendment to the legislation on international associations is adopted, the Centre must provisionally retain its character of an organ of the ISSC without independent

juridical personality: (ii) as will be seen later, the Centre has but recently consolidated its personality and only since 1968-69 has it become a really successful operation. The long experience of the ISSC in the field of social sciences and its international connections constitute a valuable backing to the Centre; further, the ISSC's control of the Centre's financial activities in addition to that of UNESCO provides Paris with a double guarantee that the best use is made of the funds made available to the Vienna programmes.

19. Another point worth examining is the possibility of duplication between the ISSC and the Centre. Such appears not to be the case: the ISSC is a non-governmental organization to which UNESCO regularly grants an important subsidy and to which it furnishes a technical set-up to implement those social science programmes which the organization cannot afford to take up by itself. The ISSC is more universal in scope than the regional Centre and its objectives are predominantly scientific and pedagogical (to improve the theoretical methods of research and organize courses to form young investigators). The Centre, on the other hand, coordinates comparative research between Eastern and Western institutes, at their request, with a clear accent on the political advantages in bringing investigators of both areas of Europe together, an objective not specifically pursued by the ISSC. Besides, the pattern and methods of work of the ISSC and the Centre are entirely different.

E. Geographical coverage

20. As far as UNESCO is concerned, the Vienna Centre was conceived as a regional project to serve all European countries; such is the scope that may be inferred from the study of the documents which originally gave birth to the Centre. Article 3 of the statutes leaves open, however, a door to an extension of such scope when it states that "the target of the Centre will be to stimulate, mainly in Europe, international comparative research in social sciences".

21. Actually, institutes from the following European countries have participated in projects of the Centre: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Republic of Germany, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USSR and Yugoslavia. In addition the following non-European countries have participated in the Centre's projects: Algeria, Chile, Cuba, India, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Tanzania, Tunisia and the United States of America.

22. Comment: The Centre's activities are mainly intended to cover the European continent. However, it may happen that on account of the nature of certain projects, collaboration with institutes belonging to other geographical areas is desirable and they are invited to participate in the same capacity as the European ones:

for instance such was the case in the project "Capacity of absorption of foreign aid by developing countries and problems on the transfer of technology" in which a number of African and Latin American institutes participated with the European institutes.

23. Collaboration from the United States in the Centre's activities has been valuable owing to the degree of advancement of that country in social science research and the financial support some foundations are starting to grant; up to 1969, six institutes participated in three projects.

24. Participation of the European countries in the Centre's activities has been uneven as is shown in the following table:

	Number of participating institutes 1964-1969	Number of projects 1964-1969
Poland	14	13
Czechoslovakia	13	11
France	12	13
USSR	9	10
Federal Republic of Germany	9	7
Italy	8	8
United Kingdom	7	7
Hungary	7	9
Yugoslavia	7	7
Belgium	6	4
Sweden	5	5
Austria	4	6
Netherlands	4	4
Switzerland	4	4
Bulgaria	4	3
Norway	2	3
Rumania	2	3
Spain	1	2
Democratic Republic of Germany	1	1
Denmark	1	1
Finland	1	1
Greece	1	1
Portugal	1	1

25. No projects have so far been carried out with Albania, Iceland, Ireland, and Luxembourg; the reason given is that social science research is less active in such countries. In fact, this Inspector feels that the personal activity of some scientists close to the Centre has greatly helped the participation of countries and their institutes in its work. It is not by chance that the country from which the President of the Board comes (Poland), since 1964, heads the above list; and among the countries which follow on the list, France until recently had a Director of the Centre, Italy has one now and all of them had, or still have, members on the Board of Directors.

F. Contribution to the maintenance and operation of the Centre

26. Article 12 of the Statutes stipulates that the sources of finance are as follows:

- (a) Aid from UNESCO;
- (b) Financial contributions from the Government of Austria, as host country;
- (c) Financial contributions of other States interested in the work of the Centre;
- (d) Aid and subsidies from foundations, international or national research institutes or from other organizations interested in the research undertaken or desirous of promoting international comparative research in social sciences;
- (e) Financing of the research work by the institutes participating in the projects of the Centre.

27. (a) Aid from UNESCO: First under the Participation Programme and now under the Regular Programme, every General Conference has allocated a sum, through the ISSC, which is utilized to finance the maintenance and activities of the Centre. In addition, contracts are concluded from time to time between UNESCO and ISSC for specific research projects in which the Centre participates as an executing party, and for which fees are paid. The terms for the granting and utilization of UNESCO's subventions are set forth in the above-mentioned (para. 13(i)) contracts signed annually with ISSC and in ad-hoc contracts for specific projects. UNESCO's overall contributions are as follows:

1964	.....	\$	30,000
1965	.....	\$	34,200
1966	.....	\$	31,500
1967	.....	\$	49,200
1968	.....	\$	40,500
1969	.....	\$	45,000
1970	.....	\$	40,000
1971	.....	\$	40,000

\$ 310,400

28. (b) Contribution by the Host Government: Its terms are to be found in the agreement signed in November 1963. It consists of an annual sum for the maintenance and operation of the Centre; unlike other UNESCO operated centres, the Vienna Centre has to pay the rent of its premises. The Government's payments are as follows:

1964	.....	\$	12,000
1965	.....	\$	16,000
1966	.....	\$	16,000
1967	.....	\$	20,000
1968	.....	\$	16,000
1969	.....	\$	16,000
1970	.....	\$	16,000
1971	.....	\$	16,000

\$ 129,800

29. (c) Contribution of other States: Financial assistance supplied by States interested in the Centre's activities cannot be grouped in one category since contributions are granted by various parties within the donor countries for different purposes and in different forms. The main reason for this is that, the Centre not being an inter-governmental organization, a quota system has not been established. Subsidies are therefore granted on a voluntary basis. A rough breakdown of the contributions, in US dollars, follows hereunder:

(i) Regular contributions for general expenses by Western European governments and for various institutions:

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Belgium								1,000
Denmark ^{1/}				1,000		3,350	4,800	4,800
France	20,000	13,344	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,000	13,500
Italy ^{2/}	5,000	5,000	5,000			5,000	15,000	10,000
Netherlands			4,700					
Fed. Rep. Germ.			5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	11,750
	<u>25,000</u>	<u>28,044</u>	<u>31,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>33,350</u>	<u>43,800</u>	<u>41,050</u>	
Total 1964-1971								\$ <u>227,244</u>

(ii) Contributions from the Socialist European States, to be applied only to Centre's activities in Eastern Europe
(Paid locally in non-convertible currencies, calculated in \$ on the basis of the official exchange rate prevailing in each country):

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Czechos. ^{3/}	800				2,000	2,850	2,300	
Hungary ^{3/}	2,000	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,200	5,850	5,350
Poland ^{2/}	1,000	2,500					25,000	25,000
USSR ^{3/}								11,000
Yugoslavia ^{4/}				4,000	4,000	3,350	3,350	3,350
	<u>3,800</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>10,400</u>	<u>36,500</u>	<u>45,200</u>
Total 1964-1971								\$ <u>115,400</u>

^{1/} Government plus Research Council

^{2/} Government plus School of High Studies plus Research Council

^{3/} Academy of Sciences

^{4/} Federal Fund for Research

30. (d) Contributions for specific projects from foundations, universities, etc.:

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Belgium ^{1/}	800							
Denmark ^{2/}					13,500			
Italy ^{3/}			1,046					
Fed. Rep. Ger. ^{4/}				10,000	11,500	17,000		
U.S.A. ^{5/}				5,600	2,900		2,000	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	800		1,046	15,600	27,900	17,000	2,000	
Total 1964-1971								\$ <u>63,346</u>

- 1/ Institut de Sociologie Solvay
- 2/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 3/ UNESCO National Commission
- 4/ Volkswagen Foundation
- 5/ University of Michigan

31. The grand total of contributions irrespective of national sources of finance show (1964-1971):

Western Europe	\$ 281,090
Eastern Europe	\$ 115,400
Austria	\$ 128,000
USA	\$ 10,500
	<hr/>
	\$ 534,990
	<hr/>

32. (e) Contributions to the research work by the participating institutes:

Apart from the direct subsidy granted occasionally to the Centre for the financing of specific projects (see category (d) above) the organization maintains that institutes take charge of all expenses involved in the research work at the national level. In turn, the Centre finances the activities connected to the projects at the international level, such as meetings' costs, travel fares, per diem, printing, etc., although in some cases, participating institutes have taken over some of these expenses.

33. Since all expenses of activities carried out at the national level are financed from the budgets of the participating institutes, with no control by the Centre, it is impossible to furnish accurate figures on the considerable amounts involved.

34. (f) Contribution in the form of payment of salaries of experts attached to the Centre: There are five professionals in the social science field working full time at the Centre as research officers. The salaries of three of them are paid directly by their countries: Italy (Research National Council), Federal Republic of Germany (Government) and the USSR (Academy of Science). The two others are paid from their governments' annual contribution to the Centre: Austria and France (Social charges of the Italian and French experts are also financed through the budget). The possibility of financing the salary of an additional expert through UNESCO's Participation Programme is being considered.

Comments:

35. Point (a), aid from UNESCO: UNESCO's contribution to the Centre from 1964 to 1971, while substantial (\$310,400) has been nearly doubled by the financial support it has received from other sources during the same period (\$534,990). In this sense, the Centre ideally complies with the basic philosophy of the international organization's policy in relation to regional centres and which is clearly explained by the Director General in para.69 of the document containing the "Long-term outline plan for 1971-1976" where he states:

..... "The justification for this measure (setting a limit of ten years for the duration of the financial aid by UNESCO) was that by then experience would have demonstrated the usefulness or uselessness of the centres and that those whose services had proved their value to Member States would have had time to find sufficient support and cooperation in the region to continue their work independently without any subventions for running expenses from the Organization."

36. Points (b) and (c), financial support from sources other than UNESCO: European governments and scientific institutes have granted, and increasingly continue to grant, various kinds of effective financial assistance something which has been impossible to achieve in most of the UNESCO regional centres serving developing states (the Latin American area being perhaps an exception) where the host country and the international organizations alone carry the burden of the maintenance of such institutes.

37. In analyzing figures of contributions, the following conclusions may be drawn:

- (1) Between 1964 and 1971, total contributions to the Centre irrespective of source of finance from Western European countries (Austria excluded) have been 145% higher than those from the Socialist states.

- (ii) However, contributions from the latter tend to increase and for 1970 and 1971, they were only 4% lower than those coming from Western sources (Austria excluded). ^{1/} This result is greatly influenced by the importance of the Polish contributions started in 1970, which in 1971 was 23.75% higher than that of all other socialist states together.
- (iii) The Austrian contribution, during 1964-1971, represents 24.50% of the total funds supplied by all European countries to the Centre.
- (iv) Only six of the fourteen Western European states which have participated in the Centre's activities have granted annual contributions for its regular expenses: the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, France, Italy and the Netherlands, plus special institutes from Denmark and Italy; on the other hand five out of eight of the Eastern European participating governments make a regular annual contribution.

38. The lack of interest on the part of many Western European countries to support financially the regular expenses of the Centre - even from some countries where research in social sciences is highly developed - may be attributable to the fact that they have not altogether understood, or are ill-informed of the special objectives of the Centre and the useful impact in bringing Eastern and Western European investigators together. An effort is being made by the Centre to attract more funds from Western countries and it is anticipated that some Scandinavian States are about to agree to make a substantial regular contribution; Eastern European countries, on the other hand, globally seem to show greater understanding of this mission of the Centre and their support to it is extending and growing.

39. A problem exists with the non-convertibility of the Eastern European financial contributions; these funds cannot be utilized by the Centre for its general expenses; the money has to be invested within the Eastern European area and although the Centre keeps an account - checked by the ISSC - of such funds which are normally deposited in banks of the respective countries, its annual budget cannot reflect - as it does with funds supplied by other sources - how the money is utilized. In fact, the Eastern European contributions are highly useful, since the number of meetings organized by the Centre in that area are increasing year by year; still, their non-convertibility results at times in unused surpluses, as happened recently with the subventions from Yugoslavia, but since contributions per socialist country are uneven, in other cases funds are insufficient to cover the cost of certain activities.

^{1/} Some reservation must however be made as to the accuracy of this comparative exercise due to the non-convertibility of the Eastern European currencies and to criteria as to how to estimate the rate of exchange in relation to the dollar.

40. Point (d), contributions from other organizations, foundations, etc.:

No financial assistance is received by the Centre from international or regional organizations other than UNESCO; collaboration with these is, if any, incidental and sporadic, as for instance ILO's participation in the project "Automation and Industrial Workers". Countries like Greece, Spain, etc., having UNDP's Resident Representatives could make use of this organ's assistance in order to increase their participation in the Centre's activities. European organizations like ECE, OECD, CEECA and the Council of Europe should use the Centre's facilities and request projects for which fees could be paid.

41. On the other hand, aid from private foundations and institutes is obtained for specific projects, an indication of the credit the Centre enjoys; its authorities plan to intensify their efforts to increase this source of aid, and to have included in the agreements a clause whereby a certain percentage of each institute's financial contribution may be used for the regular expenses; negotiations to this end with the University of Pennsylvania are in progress, on the basis of an amount representing 15 to 20%. This is an important development if UNESCO's aid must stop.

42. Point (e), contributions to the research work by the participating institutes: In the Centre's opinion the cost of the research carried out, at the expense of the institutes, in the East, is much lower than that in the West: in other words, for the same amount of money, the participation of a greater number of institutes and more research work on the same joint project is possible in the East; as a result, the greater financial support of the Centre granted by the West pointed out in para. 37 is in part counterbalanced by quantitatively higher research in the Eastern European area.

43. Point (f), contribution in the form of salaries of experts attached to the Centre: Considerable help to the Centre comes from those countries which entirely finance the salaries of their nationals working as coordinating secretaries of the projects and any deviation from this policy may establish precedents which would affect the budget's capacity; support from international organizations should be employed for the projects themselves rather than be used for this purpose, unless it is derived from a source which does not affect contributions to the operations.

G. Organization of the Centre

44. The organs of the Centre are the Board of Directors and the permanent and remunerated staff (Article 5 of the Statutes).

45. Board of Directors: It consists of twelve members appointed by the Executive Board of the ISSC, one member proposed by the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO and the President of the ISSC, ex-officio.

46. Members have to be citizens of European countries representing the main scientific disciplines of social sciences; their presence should also ensure the participation in the activities of the Centre of those European institutions desirous of promoting international comparative research. Special consideration is taken in the selection of the members to maintain a perfect balance between countries of Eastern and Western Europe. They have a term of office of three years and elect their own President and Vice-president from among the members. At present, a Polish scientist is President of the Board, and one from Denmark is Vice-president. The Board meets annually during two days. In order to comply with the geographical balance, the Board is now composed of members from seven Eastern European Socialist countries: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia, while the other members are scientists from Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Denmark, Italy, France and the United Kingdom representing those European countries which have a different political, economic, and social system from the former.

47. The Board approves the budget and the annual programme of activities, and controls its execution. It selects and accepts new projects, approves the reports of its President, that of the Director of the Centre and the financial audits.

48. The President of the Board of Directors performs his functions on a semi-permanent basis; he resides part of his time in Vienna and receives a regular remuneration from the Centre. He must ensure the satisfactory functioning of the organization and he is entitled to make urgent decisions between sessions of the Board to which he is responsible and to which he submits an annual report. He convenes the Board and may take votes by correspondence on certain matters. He appoints the Director of the Centre upon the proposal of the Secretary-General of the ISSC. After consulting the members of the Board, he appoints the members of the scientific and senior administrative staff. Incidental expenses require his signature, together with that of the Secretary-General of the ISSC.

49. The Director of the Centre ensures the implementation of its scientific activities and is in charge of its administration. He prepares the draft budget in collaboration with the President of the Board and is in charge of its implementation under the financial control of the ISSC. He has signatory power and is qualified to represent and engage the Centre in external relations. He is responsible to the Board of Directors, and, in between sessions, to the President.

50. A former member of the scientific staff has been appointed Director. His salary is paid by his country in his capacity of research officer.

51. The staff includes at the upper scientific level the research officers who are, together with the Director of the Centre, in charge of the coordination work. Four scientists from Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the Soviet Union are at present performing these functions, to which a Finnish and eventually a Hungarian expert will be added.

52. The supporting staff (eight persons) includes research and technical secretaries, an interpreter, translators, an accounting clerk and a manual worker. Their salaries are paid from the Centre's budget.

53. Comments: The ISSC has been very careful in keeping within the Board of Directors a perfect balance between East and West and in choosing eminent personalities in social sciences; as explained before, some of these have greatly influenced the participation of their national institutes in the work of the Centre, something which perhaps makes it advisable, in the future, to include in the Board scientists of countries whose participation it would be convenient to stimulate.

54. From the very beginning, the Board has had the same President. This, which might be considered as contrary to the principle of rotation, has proved to be an important factor in the Centre's success; without his dynamic leadership and his unfailing dedication to the cause of better understanding between Eastern and Western scholars it might have proved much more difficult for the Centre to function effectively; the increased financial and operational participation of the Eastern European countries in the Centre's projects are, in great part, due to his prestige in that area; he is also very much respected in those Western European and American "milieux" in which he and his work have been made known.

55. The Centre is ably managed by its Director, a young Italian expert who used to be a member of the scientific staff. The latter is composed of four experts whose role is of paramount importance; actually it can be said that the performance of the Centre is based on the output of the scientific secretaries. Most of them are very young scientists - a feature which is deliberately pursued by the Centre as a policy matter and which constitutes a commendable stimulation for those who look at the Centre as a progressive enterprise - and very enthusiastically perform their main task as research secretaries of the multinational working groups. Their specific background is taken into consideration when attaching them to specific projects, and their experience of the methods of work of the Centre are extremely useful for the co-directors of the multinational working teams formed to carry out the research projects.

56. Two problems have been observed in relation to the scientific staff: in the first place, geographical balance has not, so far, been as carefully maintained as in other areas; a greater Eastern European participation would be desirable. This situation will improve with the appointment of a Hungarian expert, whose government has applied to UNESCO for aid under the Participation Programme in order to pay his salary.

57. A second problem is the fact that these scientific secretaries seem to be too small in number in relation to the amount of work the Centre has to perform: not only are they in charge of the coordination work within the multinational working groups, but they also have to participate in the preparation, drafting and editing of the Centre's publications; probably a target of eight scientific secretaries would be ideal, considering, in particular, that currently the Centre has at least eight projects under way.

58. Finally, the Centre has a competent group of supporting staff, locally recruited.

H. Programme and operations

59. Article 3 of the Statutes states that the target of the Centre is to stimulate comparative research in social sciences including, in particular, anthropology, demography, economy, ethnology, social psychology, sociology, law and political sciences. In order to fulfil these functions, the Centre has two main activities:

- (1) Coordination of international research, and
- (2) Publications.

60. A third activity contemplated in point (d) of the original contract, between UNESCO and the ISSC - granting of scholarships - was never carried out nor mentioned in the statutes.

61. (1) Coordination of research: This is the main operational activity of the Centre. Once a research topic proposed by scientific institutions or by individual researchers is approved by the Board of Directors, the Secretariat establishes contact with the European social science institutes interested in the specific field, with a view to forming a multinational working group. An average of twelve institutes from different Eastern and Western European countries constitute a group and, most of the time, two directors - one from Eastern and one from Western Europe - are appointed for the project by the President of the Centre's Board of Directors. For coordination purposes, a research officer of the Centre is appointed secretary of the project and he, in close touch with the project directors, maintains contact with the participating institutes about the work, ensures exchanges between them, prepares and organizes working parties, and advises on methods of research.

62. The Centre, from the very beginning, has followed a policy whereby each participating institute in a project must carry out mostly at its own expense the research programme established by the international group; on the other hand, the Centre takes care of the cost of the work of the international group proper. However, material and financial support is often granted by participating institutes for this purpose too. In principle, a project takes four to five years for completion.

63. As an example of a typical project, mention may be made of the research on "Backward areas in industrialized countries" (REG) 1/, directed by a scientist representing the University of Utrecht (Netherlands),

1/ Titles of some other projects: "Time - budgets and industrialisation"; "Juvenile Delinquency and Economic Development"; "Images of the World in the year 2,000"; "Education and Disarmament"; "Localization of new industries"; "The future of rural communities in industrialized societies", etc.

and a scientist representing the Slovakian Academy of Sciences of Bratislava (Czechoslovakia): The Faculty of Law of the Free University (Belgium), the Institute of Industry and Transport Policy (Federal Republic of Germany), the South West Institute of Regional Economics (France), the Economic Institute of the Catholic University of Milan (Italy), the Institute of Geography at the University of Umea (Sweden), the Faculty of Law and Economic Science at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), the Economic Institute of the Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria), the Higher School for Economics (Poland), and the Economic Institute of the Federal Republic of Serbia (Yugoslavia).

64. This project was launched in 1964 and was completed in 1969. Reports on the results of the studies carried out were presented and discussed at meetings which took place in Rome (1966), Mons (1968), Geneva (1969), and Bonn (1970). In addition, two books with the results of the work were published in 1968 and 1971.

65. From 1964 to 1971, twenty-two projects in all were launched; four were abandoned, nine were completed and nine are under way; three more are in preparation and three are awaiting approval.

66. A further specific activity has been added to the programme of the Centre: the organization of a round-table discussion dealing with the problems of the methodology of international comparative research will be held in 1972.

67. (2) Publications: Article 3 of the statutes also states that the Centre will ensure by all appropriate means the publication of works carried out under its patronage, since the final aim of each project is to make known the results of the comparative research. These publications are prepared under the responsibility of the directors of the projects and the research secretaries. In addition, these experts publish articles or papers concerning the projects.

68. Three categories of documents can be identified in this aspect of the Centre's programme:

- (a) Publications showing the results of a completed project issued in French and English. These are financed by the Centre, drafted by the project groups and edited with the cooperation of the scientific staff of the Institute. Until 1971, four books were published: "Juvenile Delinquency in Europe", 189 pages, 1968; "Regional Disequilibria in Europe", 611 pages, 1968; "Foreign Aid to Newly Independent Countries", 184 pages, 1971; and "The Regional Development in Europe", 479 pages, 1971. Six more books are in course of preparation or printing, four of which will be probably published in 1972.

- (b) Various publications: They include European publications receiving some collaboration from the Centre, national publications about some of the Centre's projects, articles in specialized reviews concerning the Centre's research projects (nearly two hundred), reports for world congresses, working parties' papers for projects' groups.
- (c) General information booklets and documents about the Centre.

69. Comments: A discussion takes place in relation to the approach of the Centre to its methods of work; should the Centre concentrate exclusively on promoting research by European and other social science institutes, coordinating their investigations and publishing the results of each project, or should it also engage in research activities?

70. This important question has been the subject of many exchanges of views during meetings of the Board of Directors of the Centre, and an answer to it may be attempted in recognizing that the primary motivations which gave birth to the Centre were inspired by a geo-political problem, although because of its nature, mention of it has not been explicitly made in the legal instruments regulating the institute's existence. Therefore, it seems logical that the technical activities chosen by the Centre in order to favour the accomplishment of the combined scientific and political objectives differ from those carried out in institutes having traditionally scientific goals; in this case, the institutes act as laboratories where pure research takes place in order to improve and make known different aspects of the social sciences and even if they are collectively engaged in research aiming at a comparative exercise, it has never been attempted to specifically serve the cause of an exchange of contacts and knowledge between scientists of what is commonly known as Eastern and Western Europe. This feature makes the Centre unique and, consequently, its activities must be such as to concentrate all its energy and human resources on injecting the maximum impetus in to its delicate - yet very rewarding - mission.

71. Besides, the task of selecting topics of research, choosing institutes to form multinational working groups, organizing and coordinating their research, controlling its execution and summing it up in publications could not be successfully carried out by the present staff of five or six scientists if in addition to the above specific functions, they would have to sit and do research themselves. Still, sources in favour of not changing the Centre's approach to its work such as UNESCO and the ISSC, feel that some more intensive bibliographical activities should be carried out.

72. As to execution of the programme, it can be said that the operational part dedicated to promote and coordinate multinational research projects carried out by European and, occasionally, non-European institutes, satisfies UNESCO, the ISSC and many scientific sources consulted. As a result, the Centre has collaborated, from 1964, with 160 research institutes belonging to 32 countries of which 23 are European. More than 1,000 experts have participated in about 80 working meetings.

73. The principle of placing each project under the direction of two scientists - one from the East one from the West - has been respected with the exception of a few cases (IM 1, BT, IM 2, AUTOM). Projects take from two (AIDE 1, IM 2) to eight years to be completed (DEL) depending on their nature. Some observations were made within the Board on the excessive length of time some projects take; this could be attributable, in part, both to the lack of sufficient scientific personnel in the Centre and to an over-ambitious policy in the early stages, underestimating the time the numerous institutes working on a project would take in completing their common research. Getting many parties to agree is no easy enterprise; besides it takes at least one year to prepare the research plan and possibly if the Centre were not pushing behind the projects carried out at the same time in institutes scattered in different cities of Eastern and Western Europe, it would take much longer to complete them; on the other hand, the fact that the research work is financed by the institutes themselves makes it sometimes delicate to press for greater speed.

74. Five projects were started in 1964, four in 1965, six in 1966, none in 1967, two in 1968, one in 1969, one in 1970, three in 1971, and three are planned for 1972; five of the projects started between 1964 and 1968 are not yet completed and four have been cancelled. This situation has led the Centre to think in terms of rationalizing the number of projects which at present overwhelm the scientific secretaries and cause concern to some members of the Board of Directors. The latter also complain about the lack of information on the progress of the projects' work, on the grounds that if they had more knowledge about developments, they could help, through their contacts, in expediting them.

75. The programme of the Centre does not contemplate the convening of periodic round-tables or conferences which normally should be more pertinently taken up by other social science organizations; however, the round-table it specifically convoked for 1972 in Budapest should result in a useful evaluation of its past and present activities.

76. As far as the publications programme is concerned, the title of the Centre obviously gives a misleading interpretation: it is not a documentation centre; its activity in this respect is limited to publishing in books the results of the research projects, to sending articles to specialized publications and to produce, sporadically, other papers mentioned in para. 68(b). No bibliographical work takes place, and very valuable records and working papers of meetings which could be of great interest to researchers are not subject of systematic diffusion.

77. Although the number of contributions to specialized publications is important and their quality as well as that of the books so far published is considered good, the output of the latter is modest in relation to the number of projects that have been completed: out of nine completed projects between 1963 and 1971, four books (two on one project) have been published.

78. This low output is mainly due to the fact that, as has been explained above, projects take an average of four to five years to be completed; the project groups must carry out the main task of preparing the publications and in spite of the efforts of the scientific coordinating secretaries, the job of getting the representatives of institutes situated in different countries to put the results of their research activities on paper takes time. Besides, no substantial publications' policy can be seriously worked out without additional personnel specialized in documentation.

79. Finally, as regards point (d) of the original contract between UNESCO and the ISSC, it is normal that the Centre should abstain from a programme of granting scholarships for investigators, since it does not carry out pure research activities, but this provision of the original contract between UNESCO and the ISSC could be taken into account in case there would be difficulties in having governments finance the appointment of additional scientific secretaries for the Centre, or in order to form young sociologists for such jobs.

I. Diffusion of the Centre's Work

80. The nature of the Centre's functions, the limitations of its budget and the workload of its staff, have not allowed for specific information activities. As a result, the Centre, as such, is not as widely known in universities and social science institutes across Europe as its work would deserve; especially, the highly constructive results on a better understanding between Eastern and Western investigators, while known to UNESCO, the ISSC and to those institutes which have participated in the Centre's projects, seem as yet to escape the regular student of social sciences from some Western European universities where this discipline is highly developed and from many international organizations which could make valuable use of its facilities. Even at the Vienna University and in other local competent institutions, there is little knowledge about the Centre.

81. The Centre's administrators have been giving some thought to the possibility of opening, in certain European capitals, units or branches, in order to activate the processing of projects; and it is felt that such a development would also give the institute further opportunities to make itself known.

82. Comment: The idea of opening branches seems somewhat inopportune to this Inspector. The budget of the Centre could not afford to finance them and other eventual contributing sources would have to divert important sums for such purpose which could be more usefully employed in research projects. Maybe the idea could work in Eastern Europe, where surpluses of funds are at times accumulated because of the non-convertibility of currencies; but unfortunately, it is in some countries of Western Europe that publicity for the Centre should be improved.

83. Probably, one of the reasons for a lack of information about the Centre is the very small number of publications that have so far been issued since it is in the books showing the results of the research work that its performance can be appreciated; there is no doubt that the situation will greatly improve as soon as all the projects of the Centre have their corresponding books, and they are widely circulated. Still, progress will not be total until such time as conditions allow for the establishment of a real publications' programme.

84. UNESCO, the ISSC and the Centre itself should also intensify their contacts with other international organizations and in particular, with European agencies to which the Centre's projects may render important services.

85. Finally, the Centre should make intensive use of the facilities offered to it by the ISSC in its magazine "Information on Social Sciences", published every two months; comments and articles about the projects in operation should regularly be sent to it.

J. Opinions on the Centre

86. The Austrian Government was consulted in the person of the Head of the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was quite specific in commending the Centre with whose activities he was familiar and stressed that his government intended to continue the financial support and even to increase it.

87. On the question of the legal status of the Centre, he also gave a positive answer, stating that the Government, through the Parliament, is supporting an amendment to the present legislation about international associations which will allow the Centre to regularize its situation in Austria.

88. This Inspector paid a visit to the Secretary of the National Commission, who said that this body had practically no contact with the Centre and for this reason he could give no information about its work.

89. Comment: It seems somewhat unusual that a UNESCO subsidized institution should have no contact with the National Commission. To this Inspector this is another proof of something that is noted in many UNESCO member states: National Commissions, conceived when the International organization was created, twenty-five years ago, as advisory bodies to act as liaison agents with Governments, have in many cases ceased to play an effective role once UNESCO became operational, and the contact is more often established directly with the sources of the real authority within the governmental structures.

90. This does not mean that the Centre should ignore the existence of the Austrian UNESCO National Commission and overlook the usefulness of communicating, say, with the Vienna University (see para. 80), a tendency which seems to spring out of a commendably dynamic international vocation, but which should not be exclusive of other interests.

II. CONCLUSIONS

91. "Ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war" ... "For these reasons, the States Parties to this Constitution ... are agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other's lives ..." (Excerpts from the Preamble to the UNESCO Constitution, London, 1945).

92. The "European Co-ordination Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences" is a small but noble enterprise which has effectively honoured some of the principles on which UNESCO bases its role in favour of international co-operation. Its objective of stimulating the contact and the exchange of knowledge between social sciences scholars and institutes of the European states with different economic, social and political structures, has been accomplished with remarkable success. Projects jointly planned and executed by scrupulously balanced groups composed of Eastern and Western European investigators, were and are carried out with no problems of an ideological or political nature.

93. In pursuance of these combined scientific and political aims, the Centre promotes international research in social sciences comparative methodology between European and, sometimes, non-European institutes, co-ordinates their work and publishes their results, but to fulfil all these constructive objectives, the Centre had to overcome many handicaps.

94. The lack of experience at the early stages of the Centre's existence, the financial limitations in contrast to an over estimation of the work it could undertake, the small number of scientific staff members, resulted in a somewhat slow implementation of certain projects and in the cancellation of others; in addition modest financial help to the Centre came only from a handful of countries of Eastern and Western Europe mainly from those to which members of the Board of Directors belonged.

95. The situation has greatly improved in the past three or four years; countries are steadily increasing their financial support and more are granting assistance; all institutes working on projects finance the cost of their research activities, a development proving both their sense of international co-operation and the reputation that the work of the Centre has achieved. As a result activities of the Centre are spreading more evenly over the region and selective criteria are now applied to the programme in order to start fewer projects every year. Qualitatively, the output is now positive; some valuable projects have been completed and their results are starting to be circulated.

96. In evaluating the Centre's performance, it should also be kept in mind that not everything the Centre does is reflected in print; through the presence of its staff in working meetings, visits to institutes, etc. there is a constant transmission of its vocation on East-West understanding, something which acts as a powerful incentive on the European institutes mobilized by the Centre to work on specific research projects. Another rather anonymous achievement is the opportunity the Centre has given to scholars of countries where social science research was less developed to improve their knowledge and to adopt up to date techniques in practice in countries like France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, etc.

97. Human resources of the Centre are of a high standard at every level. The Board of Directors includes eminent scientists, the technical staff is composed of outstanding young experts and the supporting personnel has very capable people in every specific function. However, there is a handicap in the insufficient number of technical personnel thus placing on the Centre a heavy workload which affects the follow-up work on projects under way and does not allow the staff to concentrate sufficiently on certain activities that fall behind such as the publication programme.

98. To close, this Inspector wishes to commend the healthy atmosphere of collaboration shown between the directing officials and the personnel and was especially impressed by the devotion shown by the President of the Board, the Director and the scientific staff members to the fulfilment of the Centre's objectives, especially in regard to East-West collaboration.

III. THE FUTURE

A. Position of UNESCO's General Conference

99. Conclusions reached in this study show that the Vienna Centre fully satisfies what this Inspector feels to be the basic expectations envisaged for UNESCO's policy of promoting the establishment of regional centres and institutes around the world in order to implement different aspects of its programmes; these expectations were that, once they proved to be a successful operation, the Centres would receive enough support from Member States of the region to continue their activities without UNESCO's direct assistance for their maintenance, thus allowing the funds involved to be invested in new urgent projects. Actually total annual contributions from other sources are now more than double the UNESCO contribution without counting the cost of research work and collateral expenses incurred by institutes engaged in projects and which are not reflected in the Centre's budget. Furthermore, the Centre's authorities, anticipating the termination of UNESCO's subsidy have made certain budgetary reserves and have intensified their negotiations with Governments and private institutions in order to receive additional funds (the Federal Republic of Germany is increasing its contribution by 12%); in turn, the host government is willing to increase its regular quota and some Scandinavian countries have expressed their readiness to furnish an important annual subsidy for running expenses.

100. The ten-year limit for the Vienna Centre expires on December 31st, 1972, and this is a clear case where the regular contribution for maintenance of its activities must stop; however, this does not mean that UNESCO must dissociate itself completely from any form of follow-up to the activities of a Centre which has proved useful to the region. In fact, the decision taken by the General Conference at its twelfth session (1962) on the ten-year limit, provided that: ... "(b) Their independence (of the centres) would not mean terminating UNESCO's co-operation, or even certain forms of assistance on its part under the regular budget or through UNDP."

101. In the Draft Programme and Budget for 1971-1972, the Director General, while making the annual customary budgetary provisions to cover that period, announced that the assistance to the Centre would not be continued beyond 1972 (16 C/5, para. 901); when this item was considered during the sixteenth session of the General Conference, sixteen delegations supported a draft resolution presented by the delegation of Italy asking the Director General and Member States concerned to study ways and means of strengthening co-operation with the Vienna Centre to help ensure the effective continuation of the latter beyond 1972. The Austrian delegation anticipated its future support on the basis of three conditions; (a) consensus of the countries concerned as to future material assistance; (b) adaption of the Centre's legal status in conformity with Austrian legislation; and (c) continuing moral support from UNESCO. The representative

of the Director General at the meeting gave his assurance that UNESCO would meet the third condition and if the quality of the Centre's work remained high, contracts from UNESCO might be expected. Honouring this position, para.3095 of the "Approved Programme and Budget for 1971-1972" states that "The possibility of maintaining collaboration with the Centre thereafter (beyond 1972) will be explored."

102. Some ideas as to how UNESCO and other international bodies might collaborate with the Centre are suggested hereunder.

B. Ideas on future assistance

103. This Inspector foresees the following possibilities of support to the Centre once the regular subsidy for its maintenance is terminated on December 31, 1972:

- (a) As to the moral support promised by UNESCO it could take the form of using its authority and connections with Member States in seeking their assistance - financial and operational - to the Centre, especially in those cases in both Eastern and Western European States where the latter's activities have been minimal or non-existent. This action should also take place vis-à-vis international organizations and private foundations and institutes. The ISSC co-operation, for the same purpose, could be valuable.
- (b) Contracts could be established, on specific projects, through the ISSC, between UNESCO and the Centre, similar to those negotiated in the past, which could be financed either from the organization's regular programme, if they are approved by the seventeenth session of the General Conference this year. For instance projects on environmental management (for which the Centre's group on the economical and social costs of urban growth might provide a base for work); on comparative methodologies in the social sciences (for which the Centre's group on comparative methodology is undertaking a round table next August in Budapest with support from UNESCO) and population and family planning (for which the Centre has recently set up a new group).
- (c) UNESCO could obtain for the Centre special assistance from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) should the above-mentioned group on population and research be eligible for such aid; some aspects of the work in a future UNESCO project with UNFPA could be the object of a sub-contract with Vienna.

- (d) UNESCO's Participation Programme could be used, if governments agree to present requests, to provide additional young scientific staff members in cases where their countries do not take up the payment of their salaries. Under the same programme, scholarships could be granted for newly graduated professionals who may act as future scientific secretaries of the multi-national working groups formed for the Centre's projects.
- (e) UNESCO and/or the ISSC could give some assistance - financial equipment, facilities, know-how - for the organization of the Centre's sponsored round-tables.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Termination of UNESCO's assistance to the Centre

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the General Conference at its Twelfth Session and with the conclusions reached in this report:

Recommendation 1:

UNESCO's assistance to the European Co-ordination Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences granted either directly or through the International Social Science Council, should come to an end on 31 December 1972 (paras. 99-102).

Future collaboration with the Centre

Taking into account the request made by European delegations during the Sixteenth Session of the General Conference, the position taken by the Government of the host country and the conclusions reached in this report, future international support could be envisaged for the Centre on the basis of the following recommendations:

Recommendation 2:

Negotiations with the Host Government in order to regularize the Centre's legal status should be intensified (paras. 14; 16-18).

Recommendation 3:

All countries of the European continent, regardless of their degree of development in Social Science research, should be encouraged to participate in the Centre's programmes (paras. 22-25).

Recommendation 4:

UNESCO and the ISSC should use their authority and their connections with European and non-European governments in seeking additional assistance - financial and operational - for the Centre (paras. 34; 36-39; 43; 101-103(a)).

Recommendation 5:

More active participation in the programmes of the Centre by many countries of the area identified in this report as Western Europe is desirable; at the same time, attempts should be made by the Centre to stimulate more evenly matched contributions by Eastern European countries (paras. 24-25; 29-31; 36-39).

Recommendation 6:

The Centre should endeavour to obtain agreement by the European countries contributing to its regular maintenance expenses, that such payments are effected through a fixed annual quota, thus enabling the Centre to make budgetary provisions on a firm basis (para. 29).

Recommendation 7:

UNESCO should do its utmost to persuade other international organizations, in particular European ones, to increase their co-operation in projects in which they might have a direct interest; collaboration through contracts on a fee basis, would be valuable (para. 40).

Recommendation 8:

UNESCO and the ISSC should use their influence to obtain further financial and operational assistance from private foundations and institutes (paras. 30; 41).

Recommendation 9:

Contracts should be drawn up between UNESCO and the Centre through the ISSC for specific projects implementing some of the former's programmes in social sciences. Financial assistance for these projects could be given either from UNESCO's regular budget, from the UNDP and/or the UNFPA (paras. 13(i); 103 (b) and (c)).

Recommendation 10:

When negotiating agreements on specific projects, the Centre, with ISSC support, should endeavour to include a standard clause whereby Governments, foundations and other participating institutes would permit a certain percentage of their financial contribution to be utilized for the Centre's regular expenses (para. 41).

Recommendation 11:

European Governments whose nationals are appointed scientific secretaries in the Centre should make an effort to pay their salaries; if, exceptionally, this were not possible, UNESCO's Participation Programme could be used for such a purpose (paras. 43; 103 (d)).

Recommendation 12:

UNESCO's Participation Programme should also be used for granting research scholarships to young social science graduates to act as assistants to the scientific secretaries of the Centre (paras. 79; 103 (d)).

Recommendation 13:

Within the framework of UNESCO's social science programmes, UNESCO should give assistance, with ISSC's co-operation, in the form of finance, equipment, facilities, know-how for the organization of periodic round tables (paras. 75; 103 (e)).

Recommendation 14:

Governments and/or institutes working on a project should be invited to assist in the financing of the corresponding publication either through direct subvention or by having the book printed by one of the participating institutes, if they have the necessary facilities (paras. 76-78).

Recommendation 15:

The Host Government should be contacted in order to request the supply, free from expenses, of appropriate premises, maybe in the building which is planned for lodging various international organizations (para. 28).

V. SUGGESTIONS

While studying the Centre's activities this Inspector observed certain areas in which it may be useful to put forward a few ideas, which, together with the unfailing dedication of its administrators, may improve its performance. These are:

(a) The centre should continue to consider its fundamental mission as that of a co-ordinating unit, stimulating and organizing international comparative research by European social science institutes, without engaging itself in research activities (paras. 69-71).

(b) In the selection of new members of the Board of Directors, scientists from countries having had little participation in the Centre's activities should be kept in mind (paras. 25; 53; 94).

(c) Members of the Board of Directors should be kept informed of developments on projects (para. 74).

(d) An effort should be made to attach to the budgetary document presented annually to the Board of Directors, a page giving in the greatest possible detail data on expenses incurred in non-convertible currencies (paras. 29(ii); 39).

(e) Ways and means should be sought to increase the utilization of the non-convertible currencies such as, for instance, using Eastern European countries' airlines to transport Western scientists to meetings in Budapest, Prague, etc. (para. 39).

(f) The number of scientific secretaries should be increased to a minimum of eight, and the balance between Eastern and Western Europe should be maintained (paras. 51; 55-57; 71; 74; 78; 94; 97).

(g) It would be convenient for the salaries of all scientific secretaries to be paid, as in the case of the German and Soviet experts, directly by their countries, in order that contributions to the budget may be reserved entirely for the regular expenses of the Centre; similar criteria should be applied to the payment of the social charges of all scientific secretaries (paras. 34; 43).

(h) The policy of restraint in incorporating new projects in the Centre's programme should be maintained (paras. 65; 74; 95).

(i) The Centre should organize, maybe every six years, round-tables to discuss and evaluate the results of its activities (paras. 75; 103(e)).

(j) The following measures could be studied to improve the publications' programme and expedite the issuance of books containing the results of the research projects (paras. 76-78):

(i) Either a documentalist could be incorporated to the staff or Eastern European funds could be used to have documentation work done in the Socialist countries under contract arrangements;

(ii) Activities as documentation tracing and retrieval, issuance of documents containing selective bibliographies on research, wide distribution of meetings' working papers and records, should be carried out as part of the regular annual programme of the Centre.

(k) The Centre should improve its information activities to make itself better known in as many European and overseas social science institutions as possible; a wide distribution of its publications and collaborating with the ISSC review may prove helpful in attaining such a goal (paras. 80; 83-85).

(l) The idea of opening branches of the Centre in European capitals should be taken into consideration only at a later date (paras. 81-82).