

ANNEX I

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICS

"Availability of Federal Statistical Materials to Nongovernmental Research Workers: A Statement of Principles" has been transmitted to the Office of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget, by the Advisory Committee on Statistical Policy. This committee was established by the American Statistical Association in 1951, at the request of the Office of Statistical Standards, to advise on broad matters of public policy in the statistical area.

The new statement of principles was adopted by the committee in its meeting on March 19. It had been developed following consideration of the problems involved over a long period of time, and circulation of preliminary drafts for comments from Federal agencies concerned. In transmitting the statement, the committee recommended "that the Office of Statistical Standards continue its study of the problems of making Federal statistical materials available to nongovernmental workers and keep itself informed about the operations of the statistical agencies affecting these problems, in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Principles, so that they may be reviewed from time to time and the Principles revised if necessary."

The text of the statement follows:

"AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL MATERIALS TO NONGOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH WORKERS: A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

"I. Federal statistical and administrative data-collection programs often produce records capable of valuable statistical analysis beyond that which can or should be carried out by the collecting agency or any other agency of the Federal Government. In order that the optimum benefit may be obtained from Federal data-collection activities it should be the policy of the Federal Government to allow and to encourage the further analysis of these materials, under appropriate arrangements, by or on behalf of nongovernmental research workers.

"II. Although some general principles may be offered for the guidance of agencies with such statistical materials in making them available for further processing, each such agency must determine and assume responsibility for its policies and procedures in the light of the nature of its program and data and the demands for its data.

"III. No agency should enter into any arrangement for the supplementary processing of statistical materials, regardless of whether reimbursement is provided, which will interfere with the regular statistical program of the agency.

"IV. In general, requests for further analysis of Government data should be met as fully as possible by making special tabulations to the specifications of outside users.

"1. While a priority should be given to bona fide research uses in the general public interest, special tabulations should be permissible for all legitimate uses, both public and private, including, for example, marketing studies.

"2. The same rules for protecting confidentiality of individual responses must apply to special tabulations as are applied to the regular tabulation program.

"3. The agency should make only such special tabulations as appear to it to be justified in the light of the limitations of the data when the tabulations are to be available for general use or possible publication. Less exacting standards are permissible only when the data are not to be published but used for special analysis by competent analysts fully aware of the limitations.

"4. To the extent that special tabulations are deemed to serve a special, as distinguished from the general public, interest, the full costs shall be charged to the sponsors of the tabulation.

"5. Special tabulations should be in the public domain, available for publication by both the Federal agency and the outside sponsor, except as provided in IV, 3 above.

"V. Research needs which cannot be adequately served by special tabulations can under proper circumstances be met by allowing nongovernmental workers to work with the raw materials, work sheets and other intermediate materials within the agency.

"1. Such an arrangement is appropriate for research projects in the general public interest which would not be carried out without private sponsorship.