

At least two conferences will be necessary. The purpose of the first conference will be to state the specific questions that should be studied, decide on methods, select populations for study, outline experimental design, and create working parties to develop details and budgets. These parties will prepare working papers for the large group prior to the second conference. At the second conference the detailed planning will be completed with the development of an integrated program and a comprehensive budget. Selected foreign scientists should be included in these conferences; their presence is necessary for coordination and collaboration. Representatives of granting agencies should be invited to attend as observers.

METHODOLOGY

Although many investigations now in progress relate to the questions raised by the IBP human adaptability program, few have the scope here envisioned and few have adopted a standard methodology for assessing human adaptability. In this program, new multidisciplinary studies will be carried out. They will assess the sources of variation in human adaptability and determine the adaptive processes by a battery of agreed upon standardized procedures.

Several requirements must be applied to selection of methods for conducting the studies.

First, the methods should provide discriminatory measures of the biological and environmental factors relating to human adaptability.

Second, the methods should be capable of field application on representative stratified samples of the populations selected for study.

Third, the methods should yield a maximum of information with a minimum disturbance of the groups investigated.

It is proposed that appropriate methodologies meeting these requirements be carefully tested and validated in institutions already well equipped and experienced in this work. The detailed findings and recommendations of the study groups will be published for the guidance of IBP and other investigators.

Among the methods that must be standardized in this fashion are those concerned with the evaluation of working capacity; physiological