

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE HON. MINISTER OF COMMONWEALTH
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE AND TOURISM.

Recommendation concerning the international standard-
isation of statistics relating to book production and
periodicals.

The General Conference of UNESCO at its 13th Session held in Paris on 19th November, 1964, adopted a Recommendation concerning the International Standardisation of Statistics relating to book production and periodicals.

Similar Recommendations are adopted by the General Conference for the purpose of formulating the principles and norms for the international regulation of particular matters. Consequently Member States are invited to take whatever legislative or other steps may be required to apply the same principles and norms in their countries.

For this purpose Member States are required to submit such Recommendations to the competent national authority or authorities, which in terms of Article IV, para. 4 of the UNESCO constitution are defined as being those empowered, under the Constitution or the laws of the Member States to enact the laws, issue the regulations or take any other measures necessary to give effect to such Recommendations.

The present Recommendation concerns a matter which is of great importance in the international educational field, though it may appear that from a purely practical national angle it is of rather scarce importance considering that our production of books and periodicals is much behind that of other countries and in fact still in a comparatively rudimentary stage. The notions, principles and definitions enunciated in the Recommendation for the purpose of statistical compilation should however prove acceptable and practicable for our country. Even the suggested adoption, for the purpose of subject classification of book and periodical production statistics, of the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) should not create any problems for our country as it is basically (saving the Brussels modifications) the Dewey Decimal Classification System in use in our Public Libraries.

It may also be mentioned as a matter of interest, that the importance of statistical data and information was brought into relief at a Unesco meeting of Experts on Book Production and Distribution in Asia held in Tokyo in May 1966.

This Recommendation has been submitted to the Crown-Advocate General for his views. He has not expressed the view that any legislation is necessary prior to the Recommendation being acted upon by us.

Hon. Ministers are invited to approve accession to the Recommendation.

31st December, 1968.