Statement by Dr. CONSTANTIN IONESCU, Director-General of the Central Statistical Board in Concluding the Proceedings of the International Session on Electronic Data Processing

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as chairman of the present meeting, which your consideration for my country as well as your personal favour bestowed on my person, I avail myself of the privilege of pronouncing the concluding speech at the end of a fruitful activity.

The proceedings have yielded — I am sure you are all sharing the same belief — a net positive result. It has been a very useful opportunity for a mutual exchange of opinions in a field of such outstanding significance for our countries as the statistical information system, the modern methods of programming, conveying and storing information, the improvement of electronic data processing. Thanks to the professional qualifications of all persons participating in this meeting and to the noble passion they all showed in discussing and solving some major problems of undisputable concern for all our countries, for contemporary society and, above all, thanks to the admirable international co-operation spirit which has guided us all along this session, we have succeeded during a comparatively short span of time to obtain remarkable results.

I would like to be allowed to use the metaphorical meaning of a term we have frequently heard during our sessions and to assert that the quantity of information conveyed by each information carrier — in our case, by each member of the audience — has been maximal and optimal, in addition benefiting of the considerable advantage of being supplied with highest possible benevolence and competence.

Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to congratulate you for these achievements, a materialization of your efforts, and to express my wholehearted thanks for your contribution to promoting the international co-operation spirit in a problem of such substantial significance.

The report on our activity has faithfully recorded all that has been achieved during these days, exempting me from the liability of making an exhaustive inventory of problems discussed and of suggested solutions. It is, however, essential to emphasize some of these problems — by far not reaching the entire scope of our efforts. Significant progress was recorded in improving electronic data processing, their automatized logical control, valuable suggestions have been made concerning the possibility of simultaneously processing

the census data with those supplied by current statistics, with a view to improve computer capacity utilization through multiprogramming, as well as in the problem of such high present interest and complexity, as modern information systems, the "data bank", the problem of developing an international language, and so forth.

By recalling very shortly these problems, I would like to bring forward the fact that their approach in the above mentioned co-operation spirit opens promising vistas for the future discussions and for the elaboration of appropriate solutions.

The successful development of this meeting has been greatly secured by the competent activity of the two vice-chairmen — Messrs. Thorby and Walczak — to whom I am deeply indebted, all the more that they have taken over a great part of my personal tasks, and for which I extend my sincere gratitude.

On my personal behalf as well as on your own, I should like to express our wholehearted gratitude to Mr. Davies, for the assistance he has granted in view of the session's taking place in good conditions, for the efficient and competent aid granted by the United Nations Organization to our meeting.

Permit me to emphasize the particularly useful work done by translators and by the secretariat, who have thus secured good conditions for this session.

As chairman of this meeting, as well as a host, I should be exceedingly pleased to be sure that your stay in our country has not only been useful, but also agreeable, as was our most sincere intention.

