

2. Data Paper Preparation

The success of the discussions of the topics recommended in the preceding section will depend largely on the degree to which members are informed on the subjects under consideration. The various National Councils have recognized from the beginning the importance of correlating the data paper preparation with the discussion agenda. In view of the fact that the principal areas of discussion for Banff were agreed upon at the close of the Shanghai Conference, this correlation has been made possible to a degree heretofore impossible for Institute conferences. A second condition to the success of the discussion will be the degree to which the preparation of each national group parallels the preparation of all the others. The experience of past conferences has taught the Institute the importance of having its members from each country equipped to discuss the same subjects.

The Secretariat is, therefore, pleased to note (1) that with certain exceptions each National Council is preparing data papers in conformity with the discussion agenda, and (2) that the preparation of each National Council more nearly parallels the preparation of the others than for any previous conference. The Secretariat will communicate with those national groups whose preparation does not yet seem to meet these conditions of successful discussion. The Secretariat, further, urges each National Council to continue having in mind the discussion agenda set forth above in the preparation of its data papers, and particularly to have the data papers completed and ready for distribution well ahead of the Conference.

The Secretariat wishes to note and reinforce another tendency in conference preparation. Heretofore, the Institute has failed to make a clear distinction between data papers and research. The deliberations at Shanghai and subsequent Banff Conference preparations have pointed up this necessary distinction. Data papers should be regarded primarily as a means for educating the respective national groups and for enabling the members to come to the conference already familiar with the main questions to be discussed. The results of previous Institute and other researches should, of course, be used in preparation of data papers, but the data papers should not in themselves be researches. They should be more in the nature of briefs, surveys or summaries.

The research program of the Institute is not limited to the topics suggested by the discussion agenda of any one conference. It is wide and fundamental in scope and often must proceed over a longer period of years than the two year interval between conferences. Certain items in the research program naturally bear on each of the conferences, but certain other items must be considered as outside the area of any given conference.

With respect to the Banff Conference, the following projects of the International Research Committee will be pertinent:

1. Communications in the Pacific - under the supervision of Professor Norman MacKenzie and the editor of Pacific Affairs.
2. Diplomatic Machinery - under the general supervision of the Australian Council.
3. The Coordination of Land Utilization Studies - under Professor Carl Alsberg.
4. The Coordination of Tariff Studies - under the supervision of Professor Philip Wright
5. The Trade Situation in the British Pacific Dominions - under Professor J. Coatman.