в Венгрии, но может иметь место и то, — как на это указал первым рабочем заседании Нотстейн, — что взаимоотношения между фертильностью и общественно-экономическими причинами не являются совсем однообразными и зависят от особенностей общественного и экономического развития. Это может объяснить факт, заключающийся в том, что в США по самым последним исследованиям нет сильной корреляции между общественно-мобильностью и фертильностью тогда, когда в Венгрии, кажется, это является одной значительной причиной уменьшения фертильности.

Он был согласен с мнением, согласно которому фертильность в Венгрии и в других среднеевропейских социалистических странах, где она в настоящее время является маленькой, будет со временем возрастать, однако, для этого он считает необходимым проводить активную политику народонаселения.

Ф. В. Нотстейн (США) в своем, заканчивающем обсуждение выступлении подчеркнул то, насколько это совещание было полезным и думает, что его необузданной характер, может быть, даст полезные мысли организаторам мировых конгрессов по вопросам народонаселения.

Из числа причин, вызывающих уменьшение фертильности, он придал особенное значение тому, что семьи теряют часть своих функций. Это находится в тесной связи с экономической активностью женщин. По его мнению, уменьшение указанной активности наверно будет оказывать благоприятное влияние, если уровень благосостояния семей не будет изменяться. Он рассказал о том, что исследование психологических факторов, определяющих фертильность, не привело к большим результатам в ходе проведенных в Принстоне исследований.

Ссылаясь на дискуссию, проведенную во втором совещании по отношению к методологии, он сказал, что по его мнению исследования, основывающиеся на причине проведения переписи населения и статистики по динамике населения имеют свое значение также, как выборочные обследования.

В отношении применимости прогнозов он не такой пессимист, как часть выступавших. По его мнению, от лиц, проводящих предварительную оценку, не следует ждать предсказание будущего, а определение тех ожидаемых рамок, в которых численность населения может быть в будущем.

Наконец, он подчеркнул, что у нас имеется возможность для освобождения человечества от болезней, от угнетающей бедности и от неграмотности. Достижение этой цели в большой мере зависит от того, насколько мы можем ускорить социальное преобразование в недоразвитых странах так, чтобы за уменьшением смертности, вызванным улучшением условий здравоохранения, следовало уменьшение фертильности приблизительно того же размера.

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD WORKING SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC SYMPOSIUM II

In his introductory lecture Dr. Gy. Acsácli surveyed—as a starting point—the historic trends of human reproduction, especially from the point of view of the role played by the biologic and socio-economic factors in determining fertility. The results of palaeodemography show that mortality was very high in the Palaeolith age, almost as high as fertility. Beginning with the Neolith age, however, the cemeteries discovered permit the assumption of a much more favourable mortality. Due to the decrease of mortality the increase of the population quickened, the period of slow dispersion was followed by the period of the increase of the population density and migration. It can be stated with almost full certainty that the rapid increase of the population was not due to the change of fertility but to the decrease of mortality. This, however, was in close connection with the “agricultural revolution” of the Neolith age: with the beginnings of livestock breeding and agriculture, i.e. with economic and social factors. At the same time it is the social and economic changes going together with industrialization that have caused at present a new great decrease of mortality and, as a result, the quickening of the increase of the population. When projecting fertility, we have, therefore, to take account also the socio-economic factors.
In connection with the methods of projecting fertility Dr. Acsádi stated that the widely used and technically faultless component methods can give good results only if the hypotheses used are reliable. He said, it would be desirable to take into account also the impact of the structural changes of the population when projecting fertility on basis of the results of the differential fertility examinations. He also pointed to the great significance of the estimations by cohorts.

Professor F. Benkő (Venezuela) raised the problem whether the increase of the population number parallel with the transition from the Palaeolith into the Neolith age had been really due solely to social and economic factors. In his opinion this was not the case. The last human species, known from the Palaeolith age, the early man of Cro-Magnon, disappeared in the Neolith age and was followed by a human species of a much lower stature. At the same time man changed his residence and lived no longer in caves. What was the reason of this change? The last glacial period came to an end. The new climatic conditions made it possible for man to live in buildings created by himself and to till the soil. Thus the changes were made possible by natural factors, independently of the will of men. By all this, however, Professor Benkő would not pronounce the general priority of the natural and biological factors against the socio-economic factors.

Referring to the discussion concerned with the biological problems of fertility, Professor K. H. Mehlan (GDR) stated that in former times the fertility period of women, i.e. the period between the age of 15 and 50 years had not been fully utilized as many women had died earlier. At the same time, in order to secure the reproduction of mankind the full utilization of the fertility of females had been needed. As against this today the full fertility period of the majority of women can be utilized. This, however, is not necessary because of the enormous improvement of mortality. We have not succeeded so far in finding a fully effective method, accepted also by the women, to control fertility. It is the indispensable right of the women to determine the number of their children and to fix the date of their pregnancies. Therefore the legal practice of the socialist countries which permits induced abortion if the woman cannot prevent her undesired pregnancy by means of the methods of contraception, is correct. From the sanitary point of view legal abortion is better than illegal abortion. He expressed the hope that medical science would develop such contraceptives in the near future as secure for women to control their fertility in an efficacious way without using abortion.

In connection with the problem of the social factors determining fertility, Mr. M. Kirk (England) asked if these factors exercise their influence in a different way in countries with different social system. In England, the decreasing tendency of fertility between 1880 and 1930 could be attributed quite clearly to economic reasons: the middle class, then the working class, following the former’s example, applied birth control in order to increase the living standard of the family. Today, however, fertility is again higher in England which can be attributed to the fact that the most essential material problems of the young married couples are settled. As a result, the young married couples plan to have two, three, four children. Mr. Kirk asked if these factors exercise a similar influence also in countries with a socialist socio-economic system.

In the opinion of T. Frejka (Czechoslovakia) there is no essential difference in the motivation of family planning in the broad sense between countries with different economic and social system. He thinks that in this respect the overestimation of the differences between the capitalist and socialist system is incorrect though he is fully aware that this is still a highly contested question and there are, of course, many differences in the economic, social, sanitary and educational systems. For this very reason, relating to the future development of fertility he holds the opinion that parallel with the economic development fertility will increase anew in the socialist countries, too, just as it has increased in the capitalist countries since World War II.

Mr. E. v. Hofsten (Sweden) agreed with Frejka in that despite the fundamental structural changes, the differences between the socialist and capitalist societies in the motivation of fertility were not so essential. The differences may be, however, very significant between the individual countries, for instance, according to the circumstances under which the families with many children live. For this very reason international comparative examinations might be very interesting. A good example for such examinations is the paper of Dr. E. Szabady and K. Tekse about the fertility of the countries of Eastern Europe. It would be very useful if all European countries published regularly their age-specific fertility rates and also their data about the fertility of the cohorts.
Dr. J. Tamásy (Hungary) emphasized that decisions upon fertility are made within families. Thus, as against the traditional way of looking at things of demography, recently the new view begins to develop according to which the family should be regarded as the basic unit of the population processes in demography. In biological respect fertility depends not only upon the fertility of the women but also of the man. The economic and social factors, too, exercise their influence through the family and their impact varies according to the composition of the family, the persons living in the family etc. Despite this fact, unfortunately, no separate section dealt with those problems at the World Conference in Belgrade, though the problems were touched upon in almost all sections.

Mr. VI. Roubicek pointed to the fact that when examining the economic factors determining fertility it is incorrect to take as a basis simply the income received at the time of the survey, as in that case families with a highly different social and economic background would be included in the same group. It is more correct to examine the number of children on basis of the cumulated income of the family, i.e. on basis of the income received by all earners of the family since the foundation of the family, taking into account, of course, also the age.

According to Professor I. Stefanov (Bulgaria) the pessimism on the possibilities of projection and on its accuracy of one part of the contributors is not justified. Also the demographic phenomena follow scientific regularities, thus, parallel with the progress of science, we shall be able to project them better and better.

Mr. E. Bourgeois-Pichat (France) raised the problem if the world is not basically undetermined. He thinks that together with man also liberty came in the world; mankind has the liberty to develop itself at will. Therefore we are all responsible for mankind. Today we have the possibility to put an end to this development which started several thousand million years ago and has reached its acme in mankind. It is the very problem of our epoch to bring about such new cultural beings who are able to overcome the dangers jeopardizing the survival of mankind.

E. Pallós (Hungary) called attention to an especially difficult problem of population projection, i.e. to the consideration of migration. When projecting the country’s population, in general, internal migration is not taken into account. This, however, includes a great possibility of error, because if, for instance, due to migration the proportion of the urban and rural population changes, the average fertility of the country may change only due to this, provided that the population migrating into towns takes over the fertility habits of the towns. Therefore, also such projections were carried out in Hungary as took into account regionally different fertility and mortality levels and registered continuously the population number by region.

Also Mrs. M. Sente (Yugoslavia) emphasized that regionally different hypotheses ought to be drawn up on the development of fertility; especially the distinction between regions with high and low fertility is important. In Yugoslavia, for instance, the birth rate of the individual regions varies between 15 and 40%. Reliable projections can be made only by duly taking into account the interregional differences properly.

In his summarizing contribution Dr. R. Andorka (Hungary) emphasized that the projection of fertility is of especially great importance in the countries with a centrally planned economy because the drawing up of perspective economic plans should be based on demographic projection. It is a great difficulty, however, that we do not yet know properly the impact of the social, economic, biological, psychologic factors on the development of fertility. This is justified by the contributions made.

He gave a short reply to the question as to what differences are between the demographic regularities of countries with different economic and social system. In his opinion the theoretical model of the effect-mechanism of the causes determining fertility is identical in all systems, the impact of the individual factors, however, may be very different. Thus there is no doubt that the rapid economic and social development in connection with the social transformation has influenced the development of fertility in Hungary. It may also occur that — as it was stated by Notestein at the first session — the connection between fertility and the socio-economic causes are not quite unambiguous and are also subject to the characteristics of the social and economic development. This is the explanation of the fact that according to the latest investigations there is no close correlation between mobility and fertility in the United States, at the same time this seems to be one of the essential causes of the decrease of fertility in Hungary.
He agreed with the view that fertility would grow in the future both in Hungary and in the other Central European countries in which it is low at present, this however, requires the carrying out of an active population policy.

In his concluding contribution Professor F. W. Notestein (United States) emphasized how useful the meeting was and in his opinion the informal character of the meeting might give useful ideas also to the organizers of the world population conferences. From among the factors influencing the decrease of fertility he attributes special importance to the fact the family loses parts of its functions. This is in close connection with the economic activity of females. In his opinion the decrease of the latter leads with full certainty to the decrease of fertility, if the welfare level of the families does not change. Further he told that the investigation of the psychological factors determining fertility were not too fruitful in the investigations carried out in Princeton.

Referring to the methodological discussions of the second session he stated that investigations based on population censuses or on vital statistics have just as much importance as the field surveys have.

As to the question of the fitness for use of projections he is not so pessimistic as a part of the contributors. In his opinion the persons making projections are expected to determine only the frames within which the population number may move in the future and not to tell the future number exactly.

Finally, he emphasized that today we have the possibility to liberate mankind from diseases, poverty and illiteracy. The achievement of this goal depends greatly on how far we can quicken the social transformation in the underdeveloped countries so that the decrease of mortality caused by the improvement of the sanitary conditions be followed by a nearly similar decrease in fertility.