

24. A further factor affecting paper-supplies is the increased manufacture of dissolving grades of pulp, mainly for the production of textile fibres. Although this diversion affects only a small proportion of the total production of chemical pulp at present, it tends to reduce the amounts available for the production of paper and paperboard whenever it occurs without the corresponding expansion of pulp-producing capacity as is true in some of the older pulp-producing areas.

TABLE I—PRELIMINARY WORLD PULP BALANCE*
(In 1,000 metric tons)

Region.	1937.		1948.		1949.		1950.		1955.	
	Consumption.	Production.	Consumption.	Production.	Requirements.	Production.	Requirements.	Production.	Requirements.	Production.
Europe ..	10,000	12,445	6,700	7,900	8,050	8,750	9,080	9,370	11,430	10,900
U.S.S.R. (for export) ..	..	..	..	40	..	50	..	75	..	200
Near East ..	15	5	15	10	20	15	20	15	25	30
North America ..	12,055	10,950	19,255	19,045	18,930	18,485	20,290	19,800	23,705	23,475
Latin America ..	245	25	470	190	540	295	570	315	700	440
Africa ..	..	..	15	15	15	15	15	15	35	30
Asia ..	1,525	1,190	520	505	630	545	715	660	925	865
Oceania ..	50	..	165	120	160	110	220	140	410	320
World ..	23,890	24,615	27,145	27,780	28,345	28,265	30,910	30,395	37,230	36,260

Apparent surplus (+) or deficit (—)

Region.	1937.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1955.
Europe	+ 2,445	+ 1,200	+ 700	+ 290	— 530
U.S.S.R.	..	+ 40	+ 50	+ 75	+ 200
Near East	— 10	— 5	— 5	— 5	+ 5
North America ..	— 1,105	— 210	— 445	— 490	— 230
Latin America ..	— 220	— 280	— 245	— 255	— 260
Africa	..	..	..	..	— 5
Asia	— 335	— 15	— 85	— 55	— 60
Oceania	— 50	— 45	— 50	— 80	— 90
World	+ 725	+ 635	— 80	— 515	— 970

* The forward estimates are based upon varying hypothetical assumptions as to prevailing economic conditions in the various countries of the world.

B. Short-term Situation

25. The figures appearing in Table I with regard to 1949 and 1950 are, on the whole, more reliable estimates than those shown for 1955. Yet even in interpreting these figures it should be remembered that they constitute maximum estimates which are both possible and desirable, but which might be substantially modified in the light of general economic conditions. Moreover, the fulfilment of these estimates must come in most countries from the action of individual producers and pulp-consuming industries, over which the Governments represented at this Conference exercise no direct control.

26. The world pulp-production in 1948 was some 3,000,000 tons higher than in 1937, the best pre-war year. Statistics assembled by the Conference indicated that this output was slightly in excess of current consumption. Although the apparent world surplus was less than 3 per cent. of production and may be due to statistical inaccuracies, it tends to explain the recent decline in prices, accumulation of stocks, and the difficulties encountered by producers in disposing of their pulp.