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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Sixth Session
Bogota, Colombia

COMMITTEE II

(Economic Development and Technical Assistance)

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Bogotá on Friday,
2 September, 1955, at 3.30 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MULLER	Venezuela
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. GUERRERO	Nicaragua
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. GRAZIANO	Argentina
	Mr. ANTEZANA PAZ	Bolivia
	Mr. CORREIA LIMA	Brazil
	Mr. CORTES MARTINEZ	Colombia
	Mr. HESS	Costa Rica
	Mr. DIAZ MASVIDAL	Cuba

Note: Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the three working languages (Spanish, French or English) and addressed to Mr. Alfonso Santa Cruz, Secretary of the Conference, within 48 hours. The corrections should be accompanied by a note or written on headed notepaper and should give the symbol of the summary record in question, or, better, be made on a mimeographed copy of the record.

PRESENT: (Contd.)

Mr. DAZA	Chile
Mr. PITARQUE	Ecuador
Mr. QUINTEROS	El Salvador
Mr. ROSS	United States of America
Mr. HUDICOURT	Haiti
Mr. BUESO	Honduras
Mr. ZAMORA	Mexico
Mr. GUERRERO	Nicaragua
Mr. NEWTON	Netherlands
Mr. McCULLOUGH	Panama
Mr. SCOTT-FOX	United Kingdom
Mr. BERMUDEZ	Uruguay
Mr. ALAMO BLANCO	Venezuela

Also present:Observers from Member States:

Mr. ALMASY	Czechoslovakia
Mr. KOT	Poland

Observer from a non-Member State:

Mr. FIORIOLI DELLA LENA	Italy
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Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA	International Labour Organization
Mr. AMIOT	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. LARSEN	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. LASSO)	International
Mr. VERA)	Monetary Fund

/Representative of

Representative of an inter-governmental agency:

Mr. AMADOR	Inter-American Economic and Social Council
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Representatives of non-governmental organizations:Category A:

Mr. CARDENAS	International Confede- ration of Free Trade Unions
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Miss KAHN	World Federation of Trade Unions
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Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary
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Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS	Deputy Director, Technical Assistance Administration
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Mr. URQUIDI	Mexico City Office
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Mr. FURTADO	Secretary of the Committee
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Mr. GANZ	
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/INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS

The CHAIRMAN invited the Secretary of the Committee to make an introductory statement on the matters before it.

Mr. FURTADO (Secretary of the Committee) in the course of his general statement, ^(*) drew attention to the three studies issued under the heading of "Analyses and Projections of Economic Development", namely, Introduction to the Technique of Programming (E/CN.12/363), Economic Development of Brazil (E/CN.12/364) and Economic Development of Colombia (E/CN.12/365/Add.1, 2 and 3). Generally speaking, the conclusions of the last two studies were that the rate of future investment must be higher than that of post-war years, if the rate of economic development was to be maintained, and that production must expand more rapidly than consumption.

He also drew the Committee's attention to the following documents of relevance to its work: Foreign Capital in Latin America (E/CN.12/360), Preliminary Report on the Study on Social Conditions of Economic Development (E/CN.12/374), Progress Report on the Manpower Survey in Latin America (E/CN.12/375), Progress Report on the Central American Economic Integration Programme (E/CN.12/366), and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (E/CN.12/371, E/CN.12/372/Add.1, E/CN.12/376).

The CHAIRMAN invited the Deputy Director of the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA), to make an introductory statement.

Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Deputy Director, TAA) said that, as the report on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (E/CN.12/371), prepared by the Technical Assistance Board (TAB), covered the activities of the specialized agencies as well as of TAA, he would not refer in detail to the projects, many of which were outside his province. He wished, however, to draw special attention to the report on Technical Assistance Activities in the ECLA Region (E/CN.12/372/Add.1), and, in particular, to the three main regional activities referred to.

The Economic Development Training Programme, designed to equip economists to deal with the problems of economic development, would be studied in another context.

(*) The text of the statement has been circulated as Information Document No. 23.

The Central American Economic Integration Programme was an excellent and concrete example of integration of the activities of the specialized agencies and those of the Commission, working through its Committee on Economic Co-operation. Among the most important projects in the programme were the Advanced School of Public Administration, which had been in operation one and a half years, and the Central American Technological Research Institute. Both were models of their kind and received the fullest support of the Governments of the region. In fact, the financial participation of Governments was greater than that of the United Nations.

The Advanced School of Public Administration provided higher training for public servants of the rank of director and above whose work was closely concerned with economic development, health and labour problems.

The Technological Research Institute was the first of its kind organized by the United Nations family and, catering as it did to a number of countries and with economic integration in mind, was on a much wider scale than the Technological Institute established in Ceylon.

Another project, in Brazil, the School of Public Administration established under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Getulio Vargas Foundation, was operating successfully and at its last semester had had 43 students from 15 Latin American countries.

The joint Indian Mission, which was operating a project in Northern Peru, two in Bolivia, in the neighbourhood of Lake Titicaca and Santa Cruz, and one in Ecuador was a very important regional venture that might affect millions of people, who often, were cut off not only from civilization but from the possibility of assistance from their own national authorities.

Seven fellows from Latin American countries would be attending a course on Technical Services to Small Industries organized at the Copenhagen Technological Institute.

There were a few problems on which both the representatives of the specialized agencies and he himself would welcome comments and suggestions.

In pursuance of Council resolution 542 (XVIII) BII, programming had for some time been in the hands of governments. TAA had found the procedure an extremely complicated one, involving an unwieldy system of consultation

/between agencies,

between agencies, governments and their competent departments. He would gladly bring any proposals for simplifying the procedure before the next session of TAB.

Suggestions would also be most welcome on ways of linking the programme and machinery for training in public administration more intimately with economic development programmes.

Further more, since opportunities of consulting Governments were comparatively rare, he hoped that delegations would make comments and suggestions on the substance of technical assistance programmes, indicating the results obtained and the future courses of action.

Finally, he ventured to suggest, in connexion with his previous remarks regarding the prospect of increased funds and hence of an expansion of activities, that delegations urge their Governments to raise their contributions to technical assistance funds. Any such gesture from recipient countries, however slight its effect on the total sum available, would undoubtedly make the Governments of the major contributors more favourably inclined towards similar action.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee's work be dealt with under five broad headings: technique of programming (which could include the Brazilian and Colombian studies and the Central American Integration Programme), foreign investment, technical assistance, social conditions, and manpower. In order to take advantage of the presence of the Deputy Director of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, he proposed that Technical Assistance be discussed first.

It was so agreed.

Mr. ANTEZANA PAZ (Bolivia) commented briefly on two points in the statement by Mr. Martinez Cabañes which had reference to Bolivia, namely the Schools of Public Administration and the technical assistance given to Bolivia.

In Bolivia, as in many other Latin American countries, public administration had until recent times suffered from an inveterate vice in that the appointment

/of public

of public officials was regarded as a political matter. Every change of Government meant the award of the higher administrative posts as "plums" to members of the victorious party and a brand new administration from top to bottom. People with no conception of administrative affairs were put into positions of responsibility, with disastrous results. Bolivia in particular had suffered much harm in that way, and had come to realize that an efficient civil administration must be divorced from party politics. Efforts were now being made to build up a civil service such as existed in the more advanced countries, where public administration was regarded as a career service, and civil servants, from the highest to the lowest grades, were selected on the basis of competitive examinations and efficiency tests. Only thus could a national economy develop smoothly without being constantly hampered by the lack of competent officials.

With regard to technical assistance, the experts loaned to the Bolivian Government, under the United States Point Four Programme, as well as the United Nations Technical Assistance Programmes, were performing a most valuable service, and the arrangement was highly satisfactory. Such services, which implied no diminution of sovereignty, constituted technical assistance of the highest order.

After a short procedural discussion, it was agreed that further statements on technical assistance should be deferred until the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.