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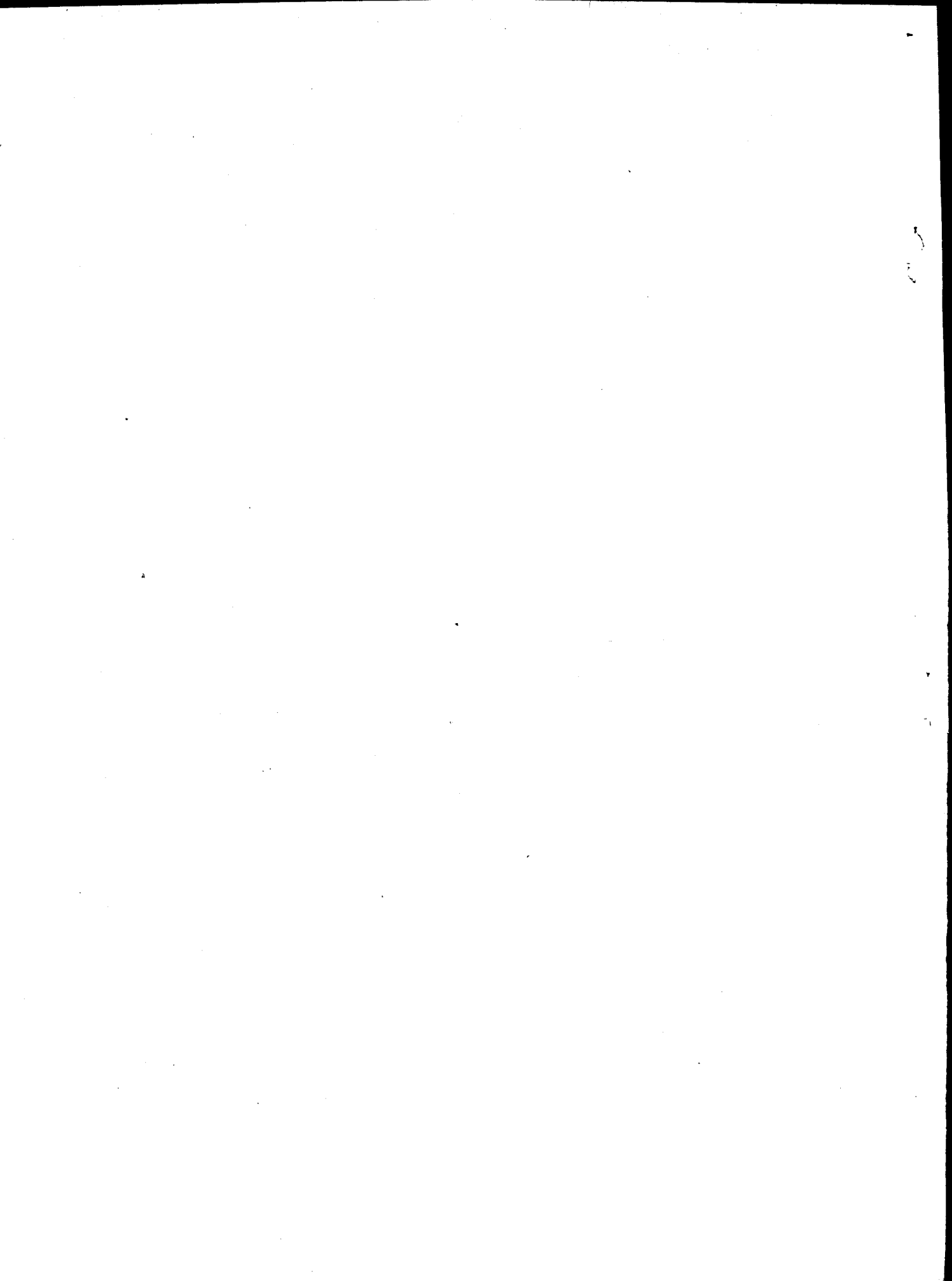
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Fifth Session  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
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REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AT THE  
SECRETARIAT LEVEL BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



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The Committee considered the current work programmes of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Inter-American Economic and Social Council during discussions held at the Hotel Quitandinha on the 11, 12 and 13 April, 1953.

The two Secretariats reviewed various projects that have been completed or were in progress with a view to evaluating the results particularly of those on which they had collaborated. In this connexion they took particularly note of the work done on trade statistics and statistical research, the agricultural credit seminar, unification of tariff nomenclature in Central America, the seminar on national income analysis, the report on "Sugar Taxation in Caribbean and Central American Countries", and economic development. While their joint endeavours in these fields brought good results and while there were no studies or activities in which either of the Secretariats duplicated the work of the other, it was recognized that it had not been possible to initiate cooperative work on certain projects which had been planned at their last meeting. These included particularly the financing of economic development, problems of transportation, and certain aspects of monetary and fiscal problems.

With respect to current and future work programme it was felt that discussions at this stage would have to be of a preliminary nature since the ECLA work programme for 1954 would be considered and approved by the Fifth Session. It was agreed that another meeting should be held soon after the

Fifth Session in order to coordinate the programmes in light of the decisions taken by ECLA as well as by the IA-ECOSOC.

a) National Income Seminar and Inter-American Research Centre

The Organization of American States under its Programme of Technical Assistance and in collaboration with the Government of Chile has established a Statistical Research Centre in Santiago. The work of the Centre was initiated in January 1953 with the holding of a seminar on national income analysis. A member of the ECLA Secretariat presented a technical paper for this seminar and participated in the discussions. The ECLA Secretariat is lending assistance to the Centre in the form of statistical data and other materials used by the participants. ECLA is represented on the advisory board of the Centre; it is planned that ECLA staff members will give lectures at the Centre on the relation of national income analysis to economic development.

b) Standardization of Tariff Nomenclature

At the Tegucigalpa meeting of the Central American Ministers of Economy the ECLA Secretariat was requested to assist a special Sub-Committee in drawing up a common tariff nomenclature for the Central American countries. The Inter-American Statistical Institute, the technical staff of which is part of the Secretariat of IA-ECOSOC, agreed to provide an expert to work with an expert from ECLA and one from the United Nations Statistical Office on this project. The work of the Sub-Committee which was initiated in early November 1952 was completed in March 1953. The report of the Sub-Committee proposes a uniform Central American customs nomenclature which follows the same grouping of items as is contained in the UN Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

/The Committee

The Committee on Coordination agreed that in view of the excellent results of the work in Central America they should be prepared to collaborate further in any assistance that may be requested by the Central American governments in putting the proposed customs nomenclature into effect and also in helping other Latin American countries which might request such assistance.

c) Improvement of Trade Statistics

The Committee took note of the meeting on trade statistics held in the first week of March 1953 at the UN Headquarters in New York, which was attended by staff members from ECLA, the UN Statistical Office and the Inter-American Statistical Institute. The purpose of this meeting was to consider ways in which the collection, use and publication of Latin American trade statistics could be improved and coordinated by the interested agencies.

It was felt that in order to achieve greater statistical uniformity and to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, the UN Statistical Office, IASI and ECLA should devise improved means of exchanging statistical information. This, it was decided, could best be done if:

- 1) The UN Statistical Office would include in its Fortnightly Reports some detailed information regarding projects completed and in progress. An extract from this report could then be sent to IASI.
- 2) ECLA and IASI could each month list work in progress or completed and forward this information together with other relevant details to each other and the Statistical Office.
- 3) Further meetings could be held from time to time to discuss and plan coordinated programmes of work in the field of trade statistics.

d) Housing and construction

Since LA-ECOSOC has had a broad programme in this field ECLA has not

taken any action with respect to housing and building. However, the Housing and Town and Country Planning Section of the Division of Social Activities in the UN Department of Social Affairs, in its cooperation with the Housing Section of Pan American Union, is representing ECLA and is acting on ECLA's behalf. In particular, the ECLA Secretariat expressed interest in a study which might be undertaken by the IA-ECOSOC Secretariat on the financing of housing and construction materials; and agreed to consider the possibility of lending assistance to IA-ECOSOC in carrying out this project. It is understood that the Housing and Town and Country Planning Section of the United Nations Department of Social Affairs would also participate in this project. This matter will be further considered at the next meeting of the Committee when it should be possible to make a definite decision on the extent of ECLA's participation.

e) Problems of transportation

The IA-ECOSOC Secretariat pointed out that although their organization does not have any work project on transportation problems in Central America they have followed with interest the work of the ECLA/TIA Technical Mission which has been making a study of transport systems and problems in Central America in connexion with the economic integration programme. The IA-ECOSOC Secretariat expects to participate in the meeting of experts to be held beginning June 8, 1953, in San José, Costa Rica, which will use the report of the technical mission as a basis for its study and discussions.

f) Agricultural Credit Seminar

Although no further action is contemplated with respect to this project, the Committee reviewed briefly the results of the Agricultural Credit

/Seminar held

Seminar held in Guatemala, 15 September - 15 October, which was sponsored jointly by FAO, ECLA and the Government of Guatemala with the collaboration of the IA-ECCSOC.

g) Monetary and Fiscal Problems

The IA-ECOSOC Secretariat advised that a study had been completed on "Economic Development and Monetary Stability", and suggested that this report might be a useful document for the monetary and fiscal policy seminar to be held in 1954. It was also suggested that as the preparatory work of this seminar progressed the IA-ECOSOC might prepare another study on this subject and participate actively in the discussions of the seminar. The Secretariat will keep each other informed and plan their work in order to avoid any duplication and to supplement each other's work in this field.

h) Future Studies on Commodity Taxation

The report on "Sugar Taxation in Caribbean and Central American Countries" prepared jointly by ECLA and IA-ECOSOC and published recently by the Pan-American Union, was discussed both from the viewpoint of its substance and the desirability of extending this type of study to other commodities and while it was agreed that these studies should be carried further, no decision was made due to the fact that neither Secretariat was yet in a position to know what resources are available.

i) Resolution of the IA-ECOSOC on the effect of existing labour conditions on the economies of the Latin American countries

This resolution which was originally adopted by the II Extraordinary Meeting of the IA-ECOSOC provided that information on wages, work conditions, social insurance and other facts concerning labour conditions in Latin American

/countries,

countries, should be collected by a questionnaire to Member Governments.

This resolution which had as its purpose the study of the effect of existing conditions of labour on economic development in Latin America, was originally drafted in such general terms that it was extremely difficult to collect the information needed for the investigation. At its Third Extraordinary Meeting, IA-ECOSOC revised its previous resolution simplifying it in such a way that it could facilitate its implementation. In view of this, the ECLA Secretariat has expressed its willingness to cooperate actively on this project.