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GENERAL

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Fourth session
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Item 6 of the agenda

PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN TRADE

Free Zone of Colón, Republic of Panama

Resolution Approved 14 June 1951

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA,

CONSIDERING the usefulness of free customs zones as a means of facilitating the interchange of goods within the Latin American area as well as between the Latin American countries and countries outside that area; and

CONSIDERING the practical problems arising from the need for the construction of installations in free customs zones that have already been created or may be created in the future by Latin American republics; and

CONSIDERING the request expressed to the Commission by the government of the Republic of Panama for assistance in connexion with the problems of bringing into maximum operation the Free Zone of Colón, Republic of Panama, created in 1948; and

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CONSIDERING the contribution that could be made by the maximum operation of the aforementioned Free Zone toward the lowering of maritime freight rates with a view to reducing the price of the articles that are handled by that zone;

RECOMMENDS that the Executive Secretary make within the means at his disposal a preliminary inquiry into the problems of bringing about the maximum utilization of the facilities of the Free Zone of Colón, Republic of Panama, in order to determine the kind of studies necessary to evaluate the economic effects of the operation of that zone, with special emphasis on its relationship to the high level of maritime freight rates applicable to Panama; and that he report to the government of Panama on the most practical means of carrying out such studies, bearing in mind the possibility of securing the assistance of United Nations and other agencies that might be concerned with this problem.