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AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Draft resolution approved by the Ad Hoc Committee
on Economic Development

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA,

HAVING CONSIDERED the section of the Economic Survey of
Latin America 1950 (E/CN.12/217) dealing with agriculture;

CONSIDERING that during the agricultural year 1949-1950 the
per capita quantum of production of the region's principal crops
was only 87 per cent of the pre-war levels and that the ratio
between the total area harvested and the population does not show
any improvement in the majority of countries;

CONSIDERING that although some progress in agricultural
production over the pre-war period can be noted, this progress is
still very slow because greater attention was paid during the war
and is still being paid to other sectors of the economy;

CONSIDERING that it is important that the agricultural
development of the region should be stimulated by devoting the

/greatest possible
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greatest possible attention to such development and by making available modern technical skills in order to obviate any lack of balance with the growing industrialization to be observed in Latin America.

CONSIDERING that industrial development tends to increase the urban population which, since it earns more, increases the pressure of demand, and that this demand, if it is not satisfied by greater production, not only causes a rise in prices -- as has occurred in many countries -- but also creates an atmosphere in which social disturbances might arise;

CONSIDERING that standards for general application cannot be recommended because the factors affecting agricultural and stock raising development are varied and differ from one country to another, in accordance with their specific regional characteristics.

CONSIDERING that it is a primary and immediately essential obligation to supply the people with food; and

CONSIDERING that the governments of member states should pay more attention to agricultural problems and to all those factors which exercise a direct and decisive influence upon the improvement of agriculture;

1. TAKES NOTE of the section of the Economic Survey of Latin America 1950 (E/CN.12/217) dealing with agriculture;
2. RECOMMENDS that member governments should take the following measures in the technical field, inter alia:
 - (a) Perfect the methods of professional training of agronomists,
/who are responsible

- who are responsible for applying technical knowledge to farming;
- (b) Make a soil survey of the country in order to obtain full knowledge of its soils and thus to be in a position to determine their usefulness in accordance with their principal characteristics, without which programmes of improvement, studies of production targets and similar subjects are unreliable;
 - (c) Co-operate with existing or projected experimental stations;
 - (d) Expand and improve state agricultural extension services;
 - (e) Create soil and water conservation services;
 - (f) Expand entomological and botanical plant treatment services and enact plant health legislation the administration of which shall be effective and, if desirable, drastic in the general interest of the country;
 - (g) Encourage farm mechanization;
 - (h) Spread knowledge of the correct use of fertilizers and to study the best methods of enabling the farmer to obtain them as cheaply as possible;
 - (i) Enact legislation to protect the farmer by ensuring that the fertilizers or preparations he acquires in fact contain the guaranteed minimum content of nutritive elements and that their price is in conformity with the accepted values of plant foods;
 - (j) Stimulate irrigation and communications; and
 - (k) Give technical and economic assistance to stock raising generally.

3. RECOMMENDS to the Governments of member states that they should

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study the serious problem of tenancy, with a view to obtaining a better utilization of land, bearing in mind resolution 401 (V) of the General Assembly adopted at its 312th plenary session of 20 November, 1950.

4. URGES the Governments of member states to regulate trading in products of agriculture and stock raising, and their distribution, in order to eliminate those intermediaries which serve no social purpose other than that of increasing the price of those products.

5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the FAO to grant to governments of member states adequate technical assistance for the integrated development of agriculture in the fulfilment of the relevant portions of the foregoing resolutions.

6. RECOMMENDS to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development that it should pay effective and timely attention to agricultural development projects.
