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Committee of the Whole  
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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
COMMISSION IN RELATION TO THE SECOND SESSION  
OF UNCTAD

Under the terms of resolutions 18(IV) of the Trade Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America, and 253(XI), 262 (AC.58) and 264(XII) of the Commission, the secretariat was asked to undertake various activities and studies in connexion with the proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In essence, the secretariat is requested in these resolutions to study various technical problems and procedures for application of the agreements reached at the first session of UNCTAD, and also to accord the Governments of the Latin American countries whatever co-operation they may need, on an individual or collective basis, for the purpose of defining possible lines of joint action in the field of trade policy, especially in relation to the questions to be dealt with at the second session of UNCTAD and at other meetings of a preparatory nature.

As reported in document E/CN.12/AC.61/5 in compliance with these resolutions, studies and background papers were prepared for presentation at the Third and Fourth Meetings at the Expert Level held by the Special Committee on Latin American Co-ordination (CECLA) at Mexico City (July 1966) and Bogotá (September 1967), respectively.

It should also be recalled that for the twelfth session of the Commission (Caracas, May 1967) the secretariat had prepared a document entitled "Latin America and international trade policy" (E/CN.12/773), which served as a basis for the discussion of the second session of UNCTAD on that occasion.

In October 1967 ECLA officials attended the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held at Algiers, in order to co-operate with the Latin American countries represented.

Pursuant to the provisions of resolution 264(XII), document E/CN.12/773 was revised and updated under the title of "Latin America and the second session of UNCTAD" (E/CN.12/803). In the revision process, due account was taken of comments, statements and recommendations formulated at the twelfth session of the Commission, as well as of events in the fields of foreign trade and trade policy during 1967 which were of special concern to the Latin American countries. A provisional text of document E/CN.12/803 was presented at the Meeting of Government Experts of the Developing Countries Members of the Commission (Santiago, Chile, 11-15 December 1967). The final version, which reflected the comments and suggestions put forward by those present at the Meeting were taken up, was transmitted as a secretariat document to the second session of UNCTAD.

Lastly, the Executive Secretary attended the second session of UNCTAD, where he delivered an address on trade and development problems in Latin America, relating them to the agenda for the Conference. Members of the secretariat staff are at present collaborating with the Latin American countries and with the UNCTAD secretariat.

In compliance with the above-mentioned resolution 264(XII), the secretariat proposes to convene a session of the Trade Committee of ECLA in order to analyse and evaluate the results obtained at the second session of UNCTAD and to decide, in the light of that evaluation, on the programme of foreign trade activities that deserve priority.