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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
COMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Sixth Session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at ECLA Headquarters, Santiago, Chile,
on Monday, 7 April 1958, at 10.10 a.m.

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- Election of officers
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- Statement by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Raúl Prebisch
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Corrections to this provisional summary record should be submitted in Spanish and English within twenty-four hours of its distribution to Mr. A. Santa Cruz, Secretary of the Commission, preferably on a copy of the record itself, for incorporation in the final summary record.

PRESENT:

<u>Acting Chairman:</u>	Mr. A. SEPULVEDA	Chile
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. L. CORREA PRIETO	Chile
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. L. TORRES	Colombia
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. NOGUES	Argentina
	Mr. CASTRILLO	Bolivia
	Mr. GURGEL VALENTE	Brazil
	Mr. HERRERA LANE	Chile
	Mr. BONITTO	Colombia
	Mr. GOICOECHEA QUIROS	Costa Rica
	Mr. LINARES	Guba
	Mr. BAEHR	Dominican Republic
	Mr. LINDO	El Salvador
	Mr. de BOISSESON	France
	Mr. UNDA MURILLO	Guatemala
	Mr. ANTOINE	Haiti
	Mr. COELLO	Honduras
	Mr. DAUBANTON	Netherlands
	Mr. NAVAS BARRETO	Nicaragua
	Mr. COUCHONAL	Paraguay
	Mr. WAGNER de REYNA	Peru
	Sir Charles EMPSON	United Kingdom
	Mr. RANDALL	United States of America
	Mr. DOMINGUEZ GOMEZ	Uruguay
<u>Also present:</u>	Mr. ROJAS	Venezuela

Representatives of States Members of the United Nations, non-members of the Commission, attending in a consultative capacity:

Mr. RUDA	Czechoslovakia
Mr. VICZENIK	Hungary
Mr. MANCINI	Italy
Mr. KUNIHIRO	Japan
Mr. SAN SEBASTIAN	Spain

/Representative of

Representative of a State, not a Member
of the United Nations, attending in a
consultative capacity:

Mr. ENGELS

Federal Republic of
Germany

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ILLANES EDWARDS

International Labour
Organisation (ILO)

Mr. SACO

Food and Agricultural
Organization of the
United Nations (FAO)

Mr. SCHROEDER

World Meteorological
Organization (WMO)

Representatives of inter-governmental
organizations:

Mr. TAYLOR

Inter-American Economic
and Social Council
(IA-ECOSOC)

Mr. LASOCKI

Inter-governmental
Committee for European
Migration (ICEM)

Representatives of non-governmental
organizations:

Category A:

Mr. ECHENIQUE MARTINEZ

International Confedera-
tion of Free Trade Unions

Mr. GOLDSACK DONOSO

International Federation
of Christian Trade Unions

Miss QUINTANA

International Federation
of Women Lawyers

Mr. SOTO VERGARA

World Federation of
Trade Unions

Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH

Executive Secretary

Mr. SWENSON

Deputy Director

Md. SANTA CRUZ

Secretary of the
Commission

Mr. LEUSCHNER

Mr. OSORIO-TAFALL

Technical Assistance
Administration (TAA)

OPENING ADDRESSES

The ACTING CHAIRMAN, Mr Alberto Sepúlveda Contreras, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, declared the session open and made an inaugural statement in which he referred to the work achieved by the Economic Commission for Latin America during its ten years of existence and that which it was now beginning. He stressed the importance and timeliness of the latter and concluded by wishing the Committee of the Whole success in its deliberations (see information document No. 2).

Mr. GOICOCHEA QUIROS (Costa Rica), on behalf of the delegations, thanked the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs for his statement and ended his praise of ECLA for the work it had achieved in promoting the economic well-being of the less developed countries and in contributing to the establishment of a community spirit in Latin America mainly through its studies on industrialization and the common market. As representative of Costa Rica and speaking on behalf of the Central American delegations, he stressed the excellent work done by ECLA in connexion with the economic integration of their respective countries.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. BAEHR (Dominican Republic) proposed as Chairman Mr. Correa Prieto, Chilean Minister of Economic Affairs.

Mr. CORREA PRIETO (Chile) was elected unanimously.

Mr. UNDA MURILLO (Guatemala) nominated as First Vice-Chairman

Mr. Coello (Honduras).

Mr. COELLO (Honduras) was elected unanimously.

Mr. COELLO (Honduras) proposed Mr. Rojas (Venezuela) as Second Vice-Chairman.

Mr. ROJAS (Venezuela) was elected unanimously.

Mr. GOICOCHEA QUIROS (Costa Rica) nominated Mr. Torres, Special Representative of Colombia, as Rapporteur.

Mr. TORRES (Colombia) was elected unanimously.

Mr. CORREA PRIETO (Chile) took the chair and thanked the Committee for having elected him and thus giving him an opportunity of collaborating actively in the Committee's work. With reference to ECLA's activities,

/he stressed

he stressed how much the Latin American countries owed to the United Nations whose studies were of inestimable value for Governments.

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (E/CN.12/AC.40/2 and Corr. 1)

Mr. HERRERA LANE (Chile) congratulated the Executive Secretary on his statement and on the progress of the work. Among the recent achievement of ECLA the studies on the regional market deserved special emphasis. Indeed as a result of them, what in November 1956 had been no more than an ambitious idea was now beginning to take practical shape. The most notable landmarks in the progress made were the conclusions reached by the experts with regard to the scope of the regional market, its financing and the place to be occupied within it by private enterprise. In the field of the regional market, the resolution adopted by the Economic Conference of Buenos Aires, recognizing the work of ECLA and expressing hopes for its continuation, was of particular importance.

He then stressed the significance of the technical aid given to Governments by ECLA and other international bodies, noting the advantages of its decentralization and the importance of programming by sectors. On both those points the Chilean delegation would submit proposals.

His Government had been very concerned about two matters: the adverse effects of fluctuations in primary commodity prices on the international market and the financing of the economic development. The adverse effects were felt mainly in countries producing primary commodities and in those engaged in efforts to stabilize and improve their exchange situation, as was the case with Chile. To offset them there was no better solution than international economic co-operation. In that respect, he drew attention to resolution 129 (VII) and stressed the need for implementing it.

Finally, he emphasized that, in accordance with the most recent international resolutions, such as those adopted by the Economic Conference of Buenos Aires, the sources of public financing should be considerably enlarged either within the framework of the United Nations or through the establishment of special funds for that purpose.

Mr. ROJAS (Venezuela), after thanking the Committee for having elected him Vice-Chairman and conveying the good wishes of the Government and people of Venezuela to the Government and people of Chile, stressed the

/importance of

importance of the work achieved by ECLA for the benefit of the Latin American community. For its part, the Government of Venezuela firmly supported the secretariat's activities and emphasized its desire to cooperate with it. His country needed the support and advice of ECLA in the task of studying and solving the problems of its economic development. Venezuela was a land generously endowed with natural resources but it needed a strong, healthy and vigorous current of immigration, foreign capital to create new sources of activity and wealth, and technical assistance from United Nations bodies to supplement the work of its own technicians. The studies which the secretariat was carrying out in certain countries should be extended to all those which requested them because they were essential for economic planning and because the secretariat had unrivalled technical facilities for conducting them and for making comparative estimates of the degree of economic development attained in the countries of the region.

As regards the ECLA/TAA economic development training programme, he expressed his gratitude for the intensive course which had been held in Caracas from 16 September to 4 December 1957 and which was expected to yield excellent results. His delegation was also gratified by the moves which had been made towards the establishment of the Latin American regional market and would support activities designed to promote that aim. The manner in which resolution 99 (VI) relating to the study of water resources and their utilization was being implemented was very satisfactory. His delegation was also interested in the study of the low rate of development of livestock production in Latin America, which formed part of the joint ECLA/FAO programme.

Mr. RANDALL (United States) thanked the Executive Secretary for the information he had given on the work accomplished by the ECLA secretariat and expressed satisfaction with it. However, he felt some concern at the delay which still occurred in the appearance of regular publications such as the annual Economic Survey and the Economic Bulletin. The result was that it was impossible to study them before sessions.

Mr. LINDO (El Salvador) said that the secretariat's work within the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee was of decisive importance

/for promoting

for promoting the economic integration of the Central American countries. Not only was their economic development being fostered but a genuine spirit of regional harmony was being created.

Mr. ECHENIQUE (International Confederation of Free Trade Union) expressed his organization's interest in the work done by the Secretariat especially with reference to economic integration since it tended to promote the social equilibrium which was so necessary in Latin America. Without entering into the detailed working of the economic integration project, he stressed that, if it were to bear fruit, the work of technicians and economists from ECLA, the Governments and organizations representing private enterprise in the economic field should be supplemented by the direct and permanent collaboration of the workers through the medium of representatives designated by inter-American trade union organizations.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.