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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Eighth Session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at ECLA Headquarters, Santiago, Chile
on Wednesday, 14 February 1962, at 10.40 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Opening addresses

PRESENT:

Acting Chairman:	Mr. MARTINEZ SOTOMAYOR	Chile
Members:	Mr. SOLARI	Argentina
	Mr. GALARZA	Bolivia
	Mr. RAMOS DE ALENÇAR	Brazil
	Mr. TREMBLAY	Canada
	Mr. ESCOBAR	Chile
	Mr. NARANJO VILLEGAS	Colombia
	Mr. BOLAÑOS	Costa Rica
	Mr. MARTINEZ MORAZA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. BORRERO	Ecuador
	Mr. PALOMO	El Salvador
	Mr. LISETTE	France
	Mr. ALVAREZ	Guatemala
	Mr. FARREAU	Haiti
	Mr. ORTIZ	Mexico
	Mr. RADHAKISHUN	Netherlands
	Mr. LUNA	Nicaragua
	Mr. COUCHONNAL	Paraguay
	Mr. BAKULA	Peru
	Mr. SCOTT FOX	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. COLE	United States of America
	Mr. VASQUEZ	Uruguay
	Mr. LARRAZABAL	Venezuela

/Representatives of

Representatives of States Members
of the United Nations, not members
of the Commission, attending in a
consultative capacity:

Mr. BRUENNER	Austria
Mr. MERAN	Hungary
Mr. CUNEO	Italy
Mr. ANDO	Japan
Mr. PAN DE SORALUCE	Spain
Mr. ALEXEEV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Representatives of States not
Members of the United Nations,
attending in a consultative capacity:

Mr. MEWES	Federal Republic of Germany
Mr. STINER	Switzerland

Representatives of specialized
agencies:

Mr. H. SANTA CRUZ	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Mr. VERA	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organ- ization (UNESCO)
Mr. BLOOMFIELD	World Health Organ- ization (WHO)
Mr. MARTINEZ	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Representatives of inter-
Governmental organizations:

Mr. DA SILVA	Organization of American States (OAS)
Mr. DEL PINO	Inter-Governmental Committee for Europe Migration (ICEM)

/Secretariat:

Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH

Mr. SWENSON

Mr. A. SANTA CRUZ

Mr. VALDES

Mr. ECHEGOYEN

Executive Secretary

Deputy Executive Secretary

Assistant Executive
Secretary

Secretary of the Commission

Technical assistance
administration (TAA)

/OPENING ADDRESSES

OPENING ADDRESSES

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY declared the meeting open and announced that the Chilean Minister for Foreign Affairs would deliver an address.

Mr. MARTINEZ SOTOMAYOR (Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile) welcomed the delegations on behalf of the Government and people of Chile. He referred, particularly to Canada, which had just become a member of the Commission.

The eighth session of the Committee of the Whole had a special significance, since it marked the first meeting of the Governments members of the Commission after a number of recent and important conferences of the inter-American system. At the present meeting, in addition to reviewing the activities of the ECLA secretariat during the past year, the representatives would consider a number of important developments that were bound up with the conclusions reached at these conferences.

Referring to some aspects of the economic and social problems facing Latin America that were of most concern at the present time, he pointed out that there was a steadily widening gap between the countries that still permitted the existence of poverty and inequitable conditions and the more developed countries. The chief responsibility for remedying that state of affairs rested upon the countries concerned, many of which had valiantly attempted to implement stabilization and development programmes in the face of great difficulties. But those countries were unable by themselves to cope with certain handicaps such as the alarming decline in Latin America's share of world trade and the chronic shortage of capital. Hence, greater co-operation was urgently needed from the industrialized countries and international organizations.

One of the encouraging attempts to define Latin American problems and envisage possible solutions to them was the Alliance for Progress programme drawn up at Punta del Este. In signing the Charter the Latin American nations had pledged themselves to institute radical reforms and to make a joint effort to improve the economic and social conditions of their peoples.

/The Government

The Government of Chile was already undertaking far-reaching tax, agrarian, educational and health reforms and working towards the fulfilment of the Ten-year Economic Development Plan, for which it hoped to obtain the collaboration of international credit organizations.

The aims pursued by the signatories of the Charter could not be achieved unless certain conditions were fulfilled. One of the most important was a supply of properly trained technical personnel to formulate, administer and apply the complex economic development programmes of the present day. In that respect, his Government viewed with particular satisfaction the project for the creation of an Institute for Economic and Social Planning, one of whose principal functions would be to train officials and specialists. It was prepared to give its whole-hearted support to the Institute which, under the auspices of ECLA, would undoubtedly prove a success.

His Government also had high hopes of the Montevideo Treaty and had taken part in the recent tariff negotiations of the Latin American Free-Trade Association in an endeavour to increase trade among the members of the Association. He pointed out, however, that the Free-Trade Area should be regarded merely as the first stage towards Latin American integration and that further steps should be taken to free intra-regional trade. Industrial complementarity agreements should also be signed as rapidly as possible.

Although the programmes referred to were ample evidence that the Latin American Governments had realized the need to institute new systems that would be more compatible with present-day requirements, their efforts to raise levels of living and increase economic growth might be handicapped by the difficulties experienced by the countries of the region in finding a market for their exports. In his Government's opinion, the main source of income of the Latin American countries for financing their imports and implementing their development and stabilization programmes should be their export trade; and so far the European economic associations had failed to eliminate the barriers that prevented the free entry of traditional Latin American exports into their markets. He urged the Governments members

/of these

of those organizations to throw open their markets to Latin American goods. His Government considered that the new foreign trade norms being adopted by the economic associations of other continents were a matter for grave concern and called for co-ordinated action on the part of the Latin American countries. Those countries were engaged in a race against time in which failure would mean the demoralization of their people and loss of faith in the future of the region. The representatives present carried a great responsibility and should face their task with courage and decision.

Mr. VASQUEZ (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the delegations present, thanked the Government and people of Chile for their hospitality. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs had pointed out, the eighth session of the Committee of the Whole marked an occasion of exceptional importance. Latin America was called upon to find itself again in order to regain its upward path, Latin America was faced with difficult and complex problems, since the age was one of conflict between opposing systems, and new bases of agreement had to be sought. Millions were still living ignorance and poverty. The élite had the means whereby to lead a better existence, but the infrastructure presented problems that seemed almost insuperable. However, the region should not be underestimated. It had given evidence, in its political life, of a capacity for organization, which should be extended by means of strenuous efforts to the economic field. Tangible expressions of economic solidarity were the Free-Trade Association and the Alliance for Progress, which could undoubtedly count upon the understanding and support of other regions of the world in their struggle to achieve success.

The hopes of those present at the meeting were centred upon the establishment of the Institute for Economic and Social Planning, which would train Latin American economists and assist Governments in an attempt to discover a sound method for maintaining freedom within a just and equitable system.

Mr. VALDES (Secretary of the Commission) read a cable from U Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, expressing his good wishes for a successful session of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.