



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
ANNUAL REPORT

(7 May 1975 - 6 May 1976)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTY-FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 10

UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1976

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

E 5784
E CEPAL 1016

NOTE

The Economic Commission for Latin America is required, in paragraph 12 of its terms of reference, to submit to the Economic and Social Council once a year a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies. For those years in which the Commission does not hold a session, the Executive Secretary is required to submit to the Council a full report of its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, after approval by the Chairman of the Commission and circulation to Governments of member States for their comments and any necessary modifications.

During the period covered by the present report, the Commission has not held a session and the provisions of the above-mentioned paragraph have been applied accordingly.

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WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE 7 MAY 1975

1. This twenty-seventh annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) covers the period from 7 May 1975 to 6 May 1976.^{1/} It is submitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its sixty-first session in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Commission's terms of reference.

A. ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

2. This section of the report covers the activities of the Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation, its Inter-Agency Commission, and the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

Tenth Meeting of the Committee on Central American
Economic Co-operation

3. ECLA's Mexico Office continued to act as the secretariat for the Committee on Central American Economic Co-operation and its subsidiary bodies, and in this capacity it prepared the documentation submitted to the tenth meeting of the Committee.

4. This was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 28 to 30 May 1975 and was attended by representatives of the five member States and observers from Central American organizations, plus a representative of the Government of Panama.

5. The agenda included matters which are of vital importance for the members of the Committee and for Central American integration at the present time of acute international economic tensions. Particular consideration was given to the short-term strategy for Central American economic integration, foreign trade, external financing, monetary policy, the main productive sectors, the Central American Common Market, and technical assistance.

6. Two central concerns emerged in the meeting: the need for a determined effort to revitalize the Central American economic

^{1/} For the twenty-sixth annual report of the Commission see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/5608).

integration programme, and the need to orient the Committee's activities towards the realities of the world economic crisis. An extensive programme of work was laid down for the secretariat on these matters and on the rest of the agenda items.

7. The discussions gave rise to 19 resolutions,^{2/} one of which (resolution 164 (X/CCE)) provided for the establishment of an inter-agency commission to carry out the various forms of short-term action approved by the Committee at its tenth meeting. As a result of this the ECLA Mexico Office, which was entrusted with co-ordinating the activities of the commission, convened two meetings of the new body of which details are given below.

First meeting of the Inter-Agency Commission for the
fulfilment of the decisions taken by the Central
American Economic Co-operation Committee

8. This was held on 11 July 1975 in Guatemala City and was attended by representatives from the Permanent Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration Treaty, the Central American Economic Integration Bank, the Central American Institute for Industrial Research and Technology, the Central American Institute of Public Administration, the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Central American Monetary Council. The resolutions adopted by the Economic Co-operation Committee were considered in order to determine each institution's responsibility in their execution and to identify the tasks which should be carried out in a co-ordinated manner by two or more institutions.^{3/}

^{2/} The text of these resolutions may be found in document E/CEPAL/CCE/369/Rev.1.

^{3/} See the report of the first meeting of the Commission (E/CEPAL/CCE/370).

Second meeting of the Inter-Agency Commission for the
fulfilment of the decisions adopted by the Central
American Economic Co-operation Committee

9. This was held on 17 October 1975 in order to continue with the examination of the manner in which the resolutions of the Economic Co-operation Committee were being put into effect by the bodies concerned, especially in the case of the resolutions on industrial policy and the development of tourism. In addition, note was taken of the report by the ECLA secretariat on the fulfilment of the other resolutions of the Committee.^{4/}

First session of the Caribbean Development and
Co-operation Committee

10. This Committee was set up in accordance with ECLA resolution 358 (XVI) "to act as a co-ordinating body for activities relating to development and co-operation and as a consultative organ of the Executive Secretary of ECLA" on Caribbean matters.

11. The first session was held in Havana in two stages: a technical meeting on 31 October and 1 November, and a ministerial meeting on 3 and 4 November 1975.

12. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Committee: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

13. On the conclusion of the discussions, the Committee approved its Functions and Rules of Procedure, its Programme of Work and Order of Priorities, and its Constituent Declaration which includes its Terms of Reference. In addition, possible areas of co-operation of the Committee with other member countries of ECLA and the question of co-operation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies with the Committee were also examined.^{5/}

^{4/} See the report of the second meeting of the Commission (E/CEPAL/CCE/375).

^{5/} See the report of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (E/CEPAL/1010).

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Activities of the secretariat

14. This and the following sections deal with the activities of the secretariat not directly related to the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Economic Survey

15. During the period covered by this report the Division prepared the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1975.

16. The Economic Survey describes the conditions in which the Latin American economies evolved during 1975. Three of the main points are that the rate of growth slowed down to 2.6 per cent, which was less than the rate of population growth; the terms of trade were negative to the extent of 15.8 per cent, resulting in a trade deficit of 6 billion dollars, but inflationary conditions improved in all except four countries, resulting in a decrease in the average rate of growth of internal prices. The data in the Survey are contained in three parts. The first deals with regional economic conditions; the second, with the region's problems and prospects vis-à-vis the developed economies; while the third is a country by country review.

Styles of development

17. Work continued on the population model, with simulations for four countries. This study considers growth in Latin America in terms of the present prospects of the external sector. The simulation experiments for Brazil were completed and a first draft was written. The analysis of the Argentina data and a first draft were concluded. Work was begun on general conclusions on the basis of comparisons of the four countries. An article entitled "Notes on styles of development in Latin America" was prepared and will be published in the first issue of the "ECLA Review".

Economic policy

18. The Division participated in the preliminary stages of a joint project with the Consejo Federal de Inversiones of Argentina on the spatial distribution of industrial activity. The Director of the Division attended a seminar in Vigo, Spain, on the monetary crisis and inflation and presented a paper entitled "Una visión latinoamericana de la inflación en los países industrializados".

19. The study on the economic development of Latin America in the last 25 years entered its initial phase. A preliminary outline is under discussion.

Financial intermediation

20. The Division started work on the preparation of the report on the financing of housing. A paper entitled "Dinero de valor constante, conceptos, problemas y experiencias" was revised and published in the Cuaderno series (No 6). A paper entitled "Fundamental concepts on Constant Value Money" was prepared for the Interregional Workshop on Policies and Techniques for Mobilizing Personal Savings (Colombia, 18-27 February 1976), and a staff member participated in the Workshop.

Transnational enterprises

21. During this period a study (CEPAL/Borrador/IDE/129) on the presence of transnational corporations in manufacturing industry was terminated and is being circulated for comments. This study aims to lay the foundation for further investigations of the impact of the activities of transnational corporations, concentrating on the evaluation of available information on the presence of such corporations in the countries of the region.

22. Other studies presently under way are: (a) an evaluation of international subcontracting activities of the transnational corporations in Latin America; (b) industrial integration in the Andean countries and the present and future role of transnational corporations; (c) the presence and effects of transnational corporations in primary export commodities: the case of bananas in Central America and bauxite in the Caribbean; (d) transnational corporations in export-oriented primary commodities: a comparison of their impact on economic development in Latin America and Southeast Asia. These activities are being carried out jointly with the United Nations Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations, under the terms of the agreement concluded in the period covered by this report to set up a regional unit in Latin America.

Public enterprises

23. This project comprises a methodological analysis and empirical research on selected countries, covering points such as the productive activities of public enterprises, their saving and investment process, and their integration into national planning systems. The first drafts of the studies on Uruguay and Argentina have been completed.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

24. During the period under review the Social Development Division has continued to focus its activities on two broad and closely related questions: styles of development, and social change in Latin America, trying to keep to a minimum the dispersion of its limited resources among the numerous specialized policy areas that can be classified as "social". The aim has been to relate specific projects, including new activities entrusted to the Division, to a general interpretation of change processes and development policy alternatives. The central problem addressed is summed up in paragraph I.A.11 of the 1975 Chaguaramas Appraisal of the International Development Strategy (ECLA resolution 347 (XVI)): "In spite of the professed aims and of the greater material capacity to eliminate poverty which should be implicit in the favourable economic growth rates of several countries - it is therefore not surprising that the rate of progress towards the attainment of social development goals is extremely slow. It is now more important than ever that the governments of Latin America should not out of excessive optimism regarding the spontaneous results of accelerated economic growth or out of pessimism regarding the possibility of looking in the future and influencing the processes of social change in such a complex and changing situation lose sight of the fact that, in order to achieve equitable and integrated development, greater efforts are needed together with a thorough, realistic knowledge and appreciation of what is happening".

Styles of development

25. Several studies pursuing lines of research described in previous documents of the Division 6/ were completed in draft form and

6/ Some of these documents have been published in the first number of the ECLA Review and others in a book entitled El desarrollo esquivo: exploraciones en la política social y la realidad socio-política (Fondo de Cultura Económica, Mexico City, 1976).

circulated for comments. One of these papers, entitled "The Concrete Utopias and their Confrontation with the World of Today", (CEPAL/BORRADOR/DS/134), falls into three parts: (a) a discussion of contradictions, in recent international pronouncements on approaches to development and on new economic orders, between the formulation of concrete negotiable reforms in the existing order and the achievement of a radically different style of development requiring a transformation of dominant values and of human relationships; (b) a description of the confused and unstable directions of change now visible within different types of national society, "developed" as well as "less-developed", that affect the capacity of their dominant forces to choose and act on one or another approach to development; (c) a discussion of the focus on "critical poverty" as one possible approach to the reordering of development priorities and strategies, and a comparison of its implications with those of alternative ways of identifying disadvantaged target groups and central deficiencies in current styles of development.

26. A related paper ("Los escenarios de la 'detente'") begins with a historical survey of the relations between developmental expectations and the changing international economic and political order and proceeds to a discussion of the alternatives for Latin American development under different "horizons", that is, suppositions concerning the future evolution of the international order, ability or inability to overcome the present economic crisis, and more consensual or more conflictive relations between the central countries.

27. A third paper, "Los estilos de desarrollo y las pequeñas naciones", discusses the special constraints confronted by the smaller countries of the region in "choosing" styles of development.

28. A fourth paper entitled "The concept of participation: An evaluation" criticizes the varying and unclear uses of this term in discussions of styles of development, proposes that it be identified with influence on the political decision-making process, and suggests lines of research on the relations between this form of participation by specific social groups and the distribution of the benefits of public policy.

Social change in Latin America

29. Work continued throughout the period on the study of "social stratification and mobility", utilizing data on occupational structures from samples of national census carried out around 1960 and 1970. Sets of statistical tables for 16 countries have been prepared and distributed to selected research institutions, along with various methodological papers, including one entitled "Stratification research in Latin America: A review of the literature and a preliminary research proposal". The data processed during the period have confirmed preliminary findings of a large-scale increase in the proportion of employed population in urban middle- and upper-strata occupations. This project has been co-sponsored by UNICEF, which has financed the statistical work.

30. A study entitled "Tipos de concentración del ingreso y estilos políticos en América Latina", relating different degrees of concentration of income to different types of political systems, was prepared. It represents a considerable expansion and revision of an earlier text. Within the Division's work on income distribution a study entitled "La vivienda en América Latina: Una visión de la pobreza crítica" was also prepared. This demonstrates the disproportionate share of public housing resources in the region received by middle-income groups and the very limited impact of public programmes on the housing deficit of the poor.

31. Work on employment consisted mainly of co-operating with the ILO Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) in the preparations for the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ILO World Conference on Employment, Income, Distribution and Social Progress, and the International Division of Labour, sponsored jointly by the International Labour Office and ECLA, which was held at Cartagena, Colombia, from 3 to 7 May, 1976. This work included co-operation with PREALC in the preparation of guidelines for a regional position on a wide range of topics relating to employment policy.

32. A joint ECLA/UNDP/UNESCO research project on "development and education", deriving from previous studies and research proposals of the Division, was organized after prolonged negotiations and is now in progress, with continuing participation by the Division.

33. A statistical compendium of "Indicators of the social sectors 1960-1974" (CEPAL/BORRADOR/IDS/1135) for the Latin American countries was prepared so as to make readily available to social scientists and development analysts indicators previously dispersed in numerous sources.

34. Information-gathering continued with a view to a study of recent rural social change, with emphasis on the combined processes of rural modernization and marginalization. The Division participated in a meeting organized by UNICEF on rural "integral development" programmes, and prepared detailed criticisms of the policy guidelines proposed under this label.

35. A study of "Social Structural Change in the English-speaking Caribbean" was prepared in co-operation with the ECLA Port of Spain Office.

36. Towards the end of the period preparations began for participation by the Division in ECLA's forthcoming research project, "Latin American development: Its appraisal and long-term prospects". All of the specific activities summarized above are to serve as inputs for this project, in the same way that earlier stages of the same and other activities were used in ECLA's first and second Regional Evaluations of the International Development Strategy.

Participation of women in development

37. Five papers on different aspects of this question, prepared by the Division for a Seminar on the Integration of Women in Development, with Special Reference to Demographic Factors, (Caracas, 28 April-2 May 1975), were prepared and published, along with the Report of the Seminar, by the Fondo de Cultura Económica, under the title, Mujeres en América Latina: Aportes para una discusión. Following

prolonged discussions concerning means of giving this subject due importance and permanence in the work of ECLA while integrating it with the overall approach to styles of development and social change, as was done in the five published papers, an expanded work programme comprising a series of policy-oriented studies was prepared in early 1976.

Population

38. As a consequence of the decisions, taken at the Second Regional Population Conference (Mexico City, March 1975) and the sixteenth session of ECLA, which set up a Regional Population Programme and made the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) an integral part of ECLA, various research activities relating to population and development previously carried on by the Division have been transferred to CELADE. The Division's previous research papers on this question were published as a book at the end of 1975 by the Fondo de Cultura Económica, under the title Población y Desarrollo en América Latina.

39. The only activity under the heading of "population" remaining in the Division is a continuing study of the family, which is now expected to become an essential part of the work on the participation of women in development. During the period under review, this project resulted in two papers, an "Inventario Bibliográfico sobre la Familia" and a conceptual discussion entitled "Aspectos sociales de la familia como unidad económica", emphasizing the changes in types of families associated with present patterns of social change, economic growth and urbanization.

Regional development

40. The Division's activities in this area have been carried on almost exclusively through regional advisers with technical assistance responsibilities, the Division being able to provide only very limited substantive backing. During the period missions to Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador and Haiti were carried out, and a study of the spatial distribution of development in Ecuador, made in co-operation

with the Junta Nacional de Planificación y Coordinación Económica, was completed. It was not possible to organize comparable studies in other countries, as was previously planned. Advisory and research activities in the policy area have since been centralized in ILPES.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

41. The opening years of the United Nations Second Development Decade have witnessed major transformations in the international political and economic order. The crisis of the international monetary system led to a number of reforms that are currently underway, while the emergence of new power centres introduced important changes in the system of trade relationships and in the guiding principles of the trade policies practiced by the developed market economy countries among themselves, with the centrally planned economies, and with the developing world. It is hoped that the new round of international trade negotiations which is going on, as well as the UNCTAD IV Conference, will help to advance the process of liberalization of international trade and eventual transformation of the institutions that regulate such trade on a world scale.

External trade

42. An information note on "Recent trends in some primary commodity markets" (E/CEPAL/L.122) was distributed to the governments at the end of August 1975. It presents projections on the trade balances of Latin American countries for 1975-1976, in line with growth rate assumptions such as those envisaged in the International Development Strategy, and a detailed review of the recent evolution of the markets for a selected group of primary products of export interest to Latin America. This study goes on to analyze, from the regional point of view, the various proposals made by international organizations, countries or groups of countries regarding programmes for the stabilization of world trade in primary products.

Financial safety net

43. A working group of 20 officials of Central Banks and representatives of international, United States and European agencies was convened by ECLA at the end of July 1975 in Santiago to discuss

the features of a mechanism for achieving smoother adjustment to balance-of-payments fluctuations. This reciprocal financing system would operate on the basis of commitments by the Central Banks of the region to make available to the system an agreed amount of resources for a set period. This system, which was proposed at the sixteenth session of ECLA in Port of Spain, would help to counteract the problem represented by the size of the current account deficit of non-petroleum-exporting countries. A draft document prepared by the ECLA secretariat served as the basis for the group's discussions. A new document entitled "Possible Features of a Financial Safety Net for Latin America" (E/CEPAL/L.120), incorporating the comments and suggestions made during the meeting, was distributed to the governments and Central Banks of the member countries of ECLA. This document was considered during the meeting held by the governors of Central Banks of Latin America in San José (Costa Rica) in August 1975, and it was decided to give general support to the idea and to establish a working group of Central Bank experts to continue developing the idea. ECLA was invited to join CEMLA as the Secretariat for the Group of Experts. The group met in Mexico in November 1975, when it reiterated general support for the idea and requested the Joint Secretariat to produce a more detailed document including operational aspects. The Joint Secretariat accordingly distributed a new document to the Central Banks in February 1976 and the group of experts met again in March 1976 in San José, Costa Rica. The matter will be taken up again by the Governors of Central Banks, meeting in May 1976 in San Salvador, to decide what additional work should be undertaken.

UNCTAD IV

44. The secretariat has always maintained close links with the UNCTAD secretariat and has participated in all the sessions of the Conference as well as in the regular meetings of some of its subsidiary bodies. ECLA staff members participated in the meetings held by the "Latin American Economic System" (SELA) with a view to

the adoption of a regional declaration which the countries of Latin America subsequently presented at the Ministerial Meeting of the "Group of 77" in Manila in February 1976. ECLA distributed to its member Governments a document entitled "Some topics of UNCTAD IV" (E/CEPAL/L.133) which analyses selected items from the agenda of the Conference with special attention to matters connected with the decisions which the Conference may take as regards the Integrated Programme for Commodities and other international co-operation measures in this field, as well as the problems of external financing, with particular attention to the quantitative and qualitative changes observed in recent years in such financing and the specific problems being faced by various countries on account of both the volume and terms of their external debt. ECLA also distributed to Governments the information document "The international commodity markets in 1975" (E/CEPAL/L.134), which examines the evolution of the external markets for 14 commodities of interest among Latin American exports.

Development programme for exports of manufactures

45. In accordance with the project approved by UNDP, an analysis was begun of the experience accumulated by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico regarding development policies for exports of manufactures, with a view to passing this experience on to other countries of the region which have asked ECLA for assistance in the formulation of policies or strategies for exports of manufactures. The respective country documents, together with a comparative analysis of the four countries, will soon be completed and will constitute ECLA's contribution to a meeting organized jointly with IBRD which is to be held in Santiago towards the end of 1976 with the aim of assembling and comparing the experience of developing countries of different regions.

Regional and subregional economic integration

46. A study was published entitled "Regional co-operation and development: a Latin American proposal for industry and trade" (CEPAL/BORRADOR/CID/139) in which some ways of changing Latin America's present form of insertion in world trade and industry are discussed. Two political option hypotheses for the future development of the region up to 1985 are analysed. One is based on the assumption that the forces of inertia of domestic markets will continue to predominate, with little regional integration. It is demonstrated that this option is very limited, since external strangulation would reappear in full strength, limiting the rate of growth, while moreover the changes in the production and trade structures would be very restricted. The other alternative is based on a regional programme of industrial and trade co-operation in the mechanical and chemical industries. If this were applied, very important results would be obtained, since it would not only appreciably speed up the rate of development and relieve considerably the external strangulation, but also make it possible to overcome the systematic backwardness of these sectors of industry, to maintain conditions of international competitiveness, and consequently to achieve a massive increase in the region's exports to the rest of the world. Finally, the study makes a preliminary analysis of the problem of the distribution of the benefits of a co-operation policy such as that proposed among the various Latin American countries.

47. In March 1976 the heads of the regional offices of ECLA met in Santiago to analyse problems connected with integration, the approaches and solutions to them, and the programme of work of ECLA. The latter would comprise three principal topics:

(a) Central research projects, useful not just for one particular process but for the region as a whole, and designed to bring out the favourable influence which integration can have on the whole set of countries as well as individual countries.

(b) Sectoral or specific research projects, designed to go more deeply into a particular sector (industry, agriculture or transport), but also bringing out parallel forms of economic co-operation such as the role of the public sector and public enterprises in the Latin American integration and co-operation process.

(c) Work designed to give specific technical support to action organizations (principally the integration secretariats and SELA). This work would be the natural consequence of the foregoing and would take the form of research projects carried out in accordance with specific needs.

48. This programme of work naturally represents a large number of tasks to be carried out in the coming years and calls for the deployment of greater resources than those presently available.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

49. In the field of industry it is a matter of some concern that the developing countries's share of the world manufacturing product has remained stationary at a very low level for over a decade, in spite of the efforts and achievements of many third world countries. The gradual elimination of this unfavourable situation is one of the basic aims of the new economic order, which in this connexion stresses the need for a redistribution of the world industrial capacities which should be set up with a view to considerably increasing the share of the developing countries. At the Second General Conference of UNIDO (Lima, 12-27 March 1975) it was stated that this share should be increased to at least 25 per cent of world industrial production by the year 2000, and that the proportion for Latin America should be 13 per cent.

50. At the regional level, the establishment of a new economic order in the manufacturing sector involves the need for governments to adopt a number of measures and decisions and, in particular, the Latin American countries to take concerted and co-ordinated action vis-à-vis the developed countries and developing countries in other regions. The Commission, at its sixteenth session, decided to instruct the Committee of High-Level Government Experts to study and propose the measures needed for putting the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation into effect, and to function as a Latin American regional component of the system of permanent consultation established by the Second General Conference of UNIDO at the global, sectoral and regional levels. At the same time, it requested the secretariats of ECLA and UNIDO to work in close co-operation to provide technical aid to the Committee, and to make the necessary institutional arrangements and take the necessary measures to adapt the programmes of work of the two organizations to the requirements of the servicing of the Committee.

51. Accordingly, the work programme of the Industrial Development Division was reviewed and reformulated in line with the new

circumstances, and new activities which were considered more suited to the region's needs were included. These activities consist mainly of sectoral studies aimed at identifying problems, promoting development and seeking co-operation formulas in specific branches of industry.

52. Following this same line of action, in September 1975 an agreement was concluded with UNIDO for the establishment of the Joint ECLA/UNIDO Industrial Development Division, with a view to both organizations carrying out a unified programme of industrial activities in Latin America and assisting the countries in the implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation.

53. During the period under review, the Industrial Development Division carried out the studies cited and commented on below.

54. Chapter IV, vol. 2, on the appraisal of the industrial development process in the document entitled "Latin American development and the international economic situation".^{7/} Among other objectives for the 1970s, the International Development Strategy establishes a minimum average growth of 8 per cent annually for the manufacturing product, as one of the requisites for accelerating the economic and social progress of nations and at least making "a modest beginning towards narrowing the gap in living standards between developed and developing countries". From 1970 to 1974 Latin America as a whole attained that target, recording a growth rate for the manufacturing product of 8.1 per cent annually. However, 13 of the 19 countries considered recorded growth rates of 6.6 per cent, which shows the unequal growth potential of the Latin American countries.

55. At the regional level, several dynamic factors which made it possible to attain the aforementioned target may be distinguished. Among them mention may be made, in particular, of the fact that

^{7/} See Latin American development and the international economic situation, Second regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy (E/CEPAL/981).

between 1970 and 1974 exports of manufactures rose at an accelerated pace to above 7,800 million dollars, thus more than tripling the value for the first of those years thanks to a growth rate of 37 per cent annually. The share of exports of manufactures in total exports went up from 15 per cent in 1970 to 29 per cent in 1974.

56. Report of the Joint UNDP/ECLA/FAO Mission on the possibilities of setting up multinational enterprises for the production and/or marketing of fertilizers. In compliance with the wishes expressed by several Latin American countries, UNDP, in association with ECLA and FAO, assumed responsibility for carrying out an exploratory study with the purpose of analysing the possibilities of establishing multinational enterprises in the region for the production and marketing of fertilizers.

57. It is stated in this study that notwithstanding the considerable increase in the production of fertilizers envisaged by several countries, in the next few years Latin America will continue to be dependent to a significant degree on imports. The region possesses large reserves of natural gas - the most suitable raw material for the production of ammonia - and phosphate rock. Natural gas is found mainly in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. The most important deposits of phosphate rock are found in Peru, Mexico and Brazil. Estimates of nitrogenous fertilizer supply and demand for 1980 and 1985 would seem to justify the installation of two or four ammonia plants - depending on whether or not Trinidad and Tobago's output is included in the region's supply - each with a production capacity of 1,000 tons daily and expected to enter into operation towards the end of the present decade or at the beginning of the next. As regards the production of phosphatic fertilizers, the figures for production and demand in 1980 and 1985 augur an unsatisfied demand which would justify the installation of several units for the production of phosphoric acid with a capacity of 500 tons of P_2O_5 daily.

58. The study concludes with recommendations for the formulation of a regional co-operation strategy in the field of fertilizers. Among the short-term measures proposed is the establishment of a regional marketing unit and of a regional fund to finance purchases of fertilizers. In the longer term, it is suggested that a holding company be set up to control the production plants and regional marketing unit, in order to facilitate the programming, co-ordination and supervision of the multinational development of the fertilizer industry in Latin America.

59. Exportaciones de manufacturas en América Latina: Informaciones estadísticas y algunas consideraciones generales (E/CEPAL/L.128).

This document presents systematically, over a fairly long period, series on exports of manufactured and semi-manufactured products, according to industrial origin and use. It represents the first stage of a longer-term study aimed at identifying and quantifying the effect of exports of manufactures on an industrialization process in which export action is considered to be not the result of a purely commercial act, but rather an activity inherent in the industrial development process.

Other work

60. The Division participated in the Working Group on the Transfer of Technology in the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry, organized by OAS (Quito, 5-12 April 1975). It was also represented at the eleventh Congress of the Latin American Manufacturers' Association (AILA), which took place at Rio de Janeiro from 5 to 7 May 1975.

61. In August 1975, the Division took part in the meeting of experts on fertilizer production convened by Mexico (First Latin American Fertilizer Congress, Mexico, 20-22 August).

62. In the Training Programme sponsored by the Government of Mexico and ILPES, classes were given on the planning of the chemical sector.

63. A diagnosis of regional fertilizer production, installed capacity and the availability of raw materials, which was prepared

for the ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference (Lima, 26-29 April 1976), concluded with several observations on regional co-operation in the production and marketing of this basic agricultural input.

Technical co-operation

64. At the request of the Government of Bolivia, the regional adviser on industrial economics carried out three missions to that country with the purpose of providing advisory assistance in connexion with the methodology and preparation of the section on industry in the Five-Year Development Plan. In Mexico, he carried out two missions to advise on the programming of specific industries jointly with the Nacional Financiera, and a third to co-operate in planning the course on industrial programming with special emphasis on the agro-industrial sector.

65. The regional adviser on industrial development strategies, plans and policies visited Costa Rica to advise the Government on the formulation of long-term strategies and the selection of instruments for promoting industrial development in that country. He also visited Paraguay in order to co-operate with the Government in the formulation of a technical assistance programme to be carried out jointly by ECLA and UNIDO. The regional adviser on industrial technology carried out a mission to Costa Rica, at the Government's request, to assist in the selection and registration of imported know-how.

66. In compliance with a request from the Argentine Ministry of Economic Affairs, an advisory mission was undertaken in connexion with the development prospects of the pulp and paper industry and, in particular, with several specific projects in the sector.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

67. In line with the objectives set out in its programme of work, this Division has continued to collaborate with member Governments and international organizations which have so requested and to prepare studies of more general interest for the region. There are four main areas in this work: (a) facilitation of transport and international trade; (b) bases for the improvement of transport planning; (c) application of appropriate technology in Latin American transport, and (d) promotion of Latin American tourism.

Facilitation of transport and international trade

68. The Division participated in the Seminar on Transport Policy in Economic Integration Schemes, with Particular Reference to Road Transport (Buenos Aires, 21-26 April 1975), organized by the Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL) and the Latin American Institute for Social Research (ILDIS). Among the papers assembled by ILDIS/INTAL for this Seminar is the Division's contribution, Aspectos Institucionales del Transporte Terrestre Internacional, which is an offprint of the document Servicios de transporte terrestre internacional en los corredores Lima-Buenos Aires y Lima-São Paulo (E/CEPAL/1007),^{8/} published jointly by CEPAL/INTAL.

69. With a contribution from the Andean Development Corporation, the Division began work in September 1975 on a study of overland transport services in the Santiago-Caracas Andean Corridor.

70. After being approved at the meeting of the representatives of the Governments of Bolivia and Chile in May 1975, the Integrated Transit System (SIT) for goods imported by Bolivia through the port of Arica was put into operation in August of the same year with the technical support of the Division, provided through successive missions to Arica and La Paz.

^{8/} This work appeared in a preliminary version under the same title with the symbol E/CN.12/L.107.

71. On the basis of observations made in the field, a Manual of Procedures designed to improve the functioning of the system was prepared. This Manual was finally incorporated as an annex in the document Informe sobre la aplicación del Sistema Integrado de Tránsito de mercaderías con destino a Bolivia a través del puerto de Arica (E/CEPAL/L.116/Add.1), which was submitted in February 1976 to the Minister of Transport of Chile and the Director of the Bolivian Bonded Warehouse Administration. The Ministers of Transport of the two Governments met in Arica in December 1975 to evaluate the improvement achieved in the situation regarding the transit of merchandise during the five months in which the SIT had been applied. They declared their satisfaction with the results obtained and agreed to keep the system in force.

72. In the field of the facilitation of rail transport, close collaboration with the Latin American Railways Association (ALAF) has continued. A Multinational Rail Traffic Agreement was jointly prepared and was subsequently ratified by the railway companies of the Southern part of Latin America in October at the eleventh Assembly of ALAF in Montevideo. Work is now proceeding on the documentation for a meeting of railway companies at which the Regulations for this Agreement will be discussed.

73. Collaboration has been kept up with the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultive Organization (IMCO) and especially with that organization's Facilitation Committee, regarding all aspects of maritime transport.

74. The Division continues to provide advisory assistance for the formation of national transport facilitation groups and the promotion of the simplification and standardization of the procedures and documentation required in connexion with international trade and transport. Through the Boletín FAL, which comes out every two months, information has been disseminated on, among other things, documents simplified and standardized in accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Layout Key, the elimination of the need to make use of consular services, and new receipt and dispatch formalities in Latin American ports.

75. Another publication prepared by this Division is the study entitled Coyuntura y perspectivas del transporte marítimo en el Caribe (E/CEPAL/1003), which is designed to promote the facilitation of inter-island maritime transport and the promotion of the merchant marines of the Caribbean countries.

76. In addition, at the request of the Secretariat of the Meeting of Ministers of Transport and Public Works of southern Latin America, the Division has started on the preparation of a draft agreement to facilitate international multimodal transport with a view to permitting better utilization of the road and rail infrastructure of that part of South America.

77. Experts from the Division also took part, either as active participants or as observers, in many national seminars on international multimodal transport (among others, these held in Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Peru), as well as in the first part of the third session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Group for an International Multimodal Transport Agreement (Geneva, 16 February-4 March 1976). Finally, the document Sistemas de responsabilidad y seguros en el caso de contratos de transporte multimodal internacional (E/CEPAL/L.123) was prepared.

Bases for improving transport planning

78. The objective of this project is the improvement of the handling of information connected with the transport sector and of the methodological framework within which such information is used. In the execution of this project, the Division has received co-operation from the World Bank and the Organization of American States.

79. In the joint programme with the World Bank, work was carried out during 1976 on the establishment of bibliographical reference files in Brazil, Colombia and Honduras, using as a pattern the Esquema de Organización de la Información del Sector Transporte, revised and published in document E/CEPAL/1008. An English version was published as Information Classification Manual for the Transport Sector (E/CEPAL/1008/Rev.1).

80. In connexion with this project, preliminary studies were also carried out in Mexico with a view to preparing for the installation in ECLA of the Integrated Scientific Information System (ISIS) for information retrieval. One of the first applications of ISIS has been in the establishment of a file of key entries for transport in Latin America. In addition, the Division began the preparation of a transport thesaurus in order to permit the application of ISIS to its library.

81. With the collaboration of the OAS, further steps have been taken towards the completion of the Latin American System of Information on Maritime Transport with the publication of a number of documents: Código de Puertos and a supplement to it entitled Guía de armadores chilenos de servicio exterior, tráficos que atienden y agencias en el país; Código de agencias marítimas en Chile; Guía de armadores latinoamericanos que atienden tráficos con Chile y sus agencias en el país; Registro de buques latinoamericanos de servicio exterior; Registro de buques extrazonales que atienden tráficos con Chile, and Guía de puertos que tienen tráfico regular con Chile y armadores que los atienden (E/CN.12/L.108/Add.1-8) which were given wide distribution and have received a good welcome in the region.

Application of appropriate technology in
Latin American transport

82. On the basis of the experience collected in the course of the joint ECLA/INTAL project on transcontinental corridors, the Division prepared a first version of a methodological model for the study of the technological, economic and documentation aspects of the distribution of products, from their production to their delivery for consumption.

Promotion of Latin American tourism

83. In response to requests from several countries of the region, the regional adviser on the promotion of tourism carried out advisory missions to evaluate the national tourism situation and the possibilities of obtaining technical and financial assistance through international organizations. These field appraisals were not only reflected in the corresponding mission report, but were also incorporated in the document entitled Evaluación regional del turismo dentro de la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo.

Other collaboration activities with member States and other bodies

84. In fulfilment of a request made by the Bolivian Government through the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Division carried out various missions during 1975 and part of 1976 in order to provide assistance in the structuring of the project to establish a transport co-ordination unit in Bolivia.

85. The Division has continued to collaborate with the Latin American Railways Association (ALAF) on the examination of the technical assistance received by Latin American railways. In August 1975 ECLA and ALAF prepared a joint document entitled Experiencia en proyectos de asistencia técnica en ferrocarriles de América Latina con miras a mejorar su eficacia (E/CEPAL/L.121) which served as the basis for the Technical Assistance Appraisal Seminar held by ALAF in Montevideo in October.

86. The Division has continued to give support to UNCTAD in the preparation of a meeting to study the establishment of an Association of Latin American Insurance Superintendents.

87. In compliance with a request from the Latin American Economic System (SELA), technical support is being given to this agency in matters related to its programme of work.

JOINT ECLA/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION

88. The sometimes fairly marked changes that have taken place on the international scene since 1972 both in commodity markets and prices and in the supply and prices of inputs for agriculture have had either a positive or a negative influence on the performance of agriculture in the Latin American countries. The governments have had to revise their agricultural policies and to concern themselves more with the role that agriculture should play in the economic development of each country.

89. The Division, adopting a regional approach, has channelled its efforts in the same direction. It has given special attention to the analysis of the effects of the above situation on the region, and particularly on the food sector, and the way in which Latin American agriculture has faced this challenge. During the period covered by this report the following documents were prepared.

90. Situation and evolution of food and agriculture in Latin America (LARC/76/2). This presents an overall view of the performance of the Latin American agricultural sector in the years 1971-1974, and indicates the presence of fundamental factors whose evolution helps to explain the results of the production apparatus and its reaction to the stimulus generated by attractive but changing and uncertain external markets. The first chapter of the document places agriculture within the context of overall development and of the Latin American economic situation, and gives special attention to foreign trade in agricultural commodities and its relationship with variations in the world markets. The second analyses the results of Latin America's agricultural production and its reaction and sensitivity to recent changes in the world markets, distinguishing between developments in connexion with crops and with livestock production, fisheries and forestry. The third chapter deals with production resources, technological inputs and some aspects of agricultural financing. Lastly, the fourth chapter examines the supply of foodstuffs and food price trends in

Latin America and presents some hypotheses regarding future demand for food, on the assumption that the countries' action will be decisively geared to eliminating shortages of food for the population. Some conclusions of interest to Latin America, to the subregions covered by the various economic integration systems and to the member countries are drawn from this report.

91. The agricultural sector in the economic integration systems of Latin America (E/CEPAL/1011). Fifteen years after the emergence of the economic integration process in Latin America, it was considered useful to undertake this study, the preparation of which forms part of the Division's current activities, and which assembles fundamental ideas on integration, and highlights and evaluates the main developments in this field in the region up to mid-1975. It analyses the progress of integration, gives a brief account of the general features of the agricultural sector and the treatment of agriculture in the various treaties and agreements in force in the region; it briefly examines the potential of this form of co-operation for integrated development of agriculture in the countries of the area; it reviews the progress made in general and individually by the various integration groups; it analyses trade in agricultural products in the region, its recent situation, problems and prospects, and presents some considerations on trade policy in the region; and concludes with a short note on co-operation for the integration of regional agriculture which involves assistance from countries and from international organizations.

92. Consumption and production outlook of fertilizers in Latin America (E/CEPAL/1015). Technological change in Latin American agriculture has gradually led to the transformation of the traditional production techniques and the increasing use of inputs in agriculture. For example, the chemical fertilizer technique has become increasingly important. In the decade 1963-1973 the demand for fertilizers grew at a rate of 12.9 per cent annually, while the volume of fertilizers used increased 3.5-fold, thereby satisfying the most optimistic demand projections. However, the recent critical

situation of the world market as a result of the energy crisis halted this trend. The 1974/1975 crop year recorded a first drop of 6.7 per cent in the consumption of fertilizers. The document prepared jointly with the Industrial Development Division reviews the behaviour of consumption and the regional demand outlook for 1980/1981; presents a diagnosis of the region's production of fertilizers, installed capacity and availability of raw materials; and concludes with various considerations on regional co-operation in the production and marketing of this basic agricultural input.

93. A note was prepared on agriculture in Andean integration with the purpose of introducing this topic within the context of the Andean Integration Agreement at the In-Service Training Seminar on Economic Policies for the Development of Agriculture in Latin America, which was organized by FAO and took place at Caracas from 16 to 23 April 1975.

Meetings

94. In the period covered by this report the Division participated in the following meetings: In-Service Training Seminar on Economic Policies for the Development of Agriculture in Latin America (Caracas, Venezuela, 16-23 April 1975); Agro-Industrial Seminar (Santiago, Chile, 13-16 May 1975); third meeting of the Latin American Association of Food Canning Industries (ALICA) (Porto Alegre, Brazil, May 1975); the forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the Brussels Customs Co-operation Council (Buenos Aires, June 1975); and the Seminar on agricultural problems of regional integration systems (Rome, September 1975). An agricultural economist of the Division co-operated in directing this Seminar, which provided valuable up-to-date information for orienting future action in this field.

Other work

95. The Division has continued to co-operate with the FAO Regional Office for Latin America. It collaborated with the Regional Production and Productivity Programme and the Integrated Rural

Development Programme. It also took an active part in the preparation for the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and ECLA/FAO Latin American Food Conference (Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976).

96. The Division's activities in the economic integration field have not been confined only to the preparation of the aforementioned documents. It has also provided assistance to the secretariat of LAFTA through a staff member stationed in Montevideo for the purpose.

97. The Division opened a new field of activity by offering technical co-operation to SELA. At the request of the Permanent Secretariat of that organization, it helped to formulate the basic principles of SELA's programme of work in food and agricultural matters. It also collaborated with the Governments of Brazil and Ecuador, and provided technical assistance in agricultural programming and participated actively in the activities of the ECLA/FAO/OPA/WHO/UNESCO/UNICEF Inter-Agency Project for the Promotion of National Food and Nutrition Policies.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

98. The Division's activities during the period under review have focused mainly on the preliminary work in connexion with the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference, and on the launching and execution of the ECLA/UNEP project, "Water, Resources, Development and Environment in Latin America".

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Water Conference

99. An important event in the process of organizing the Conference will be the regional preparatory meetings organized jointly by the regional economic commissions and the secretariat of the Conference, with the support of UNEP. The meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean is scheduled to be held at Lima, Peru, from 30 August to 3 September 1976. At this regional meeting the water resources requirements, the obstacles to their development and possible solutions will be identified, and proposals for action will be prepared for submission to the Conference.

100. The governments have been sent letters of invitation to take part in the regional meeting and have been furnished with supplementary information. At the same time, attention has been drawn to the importance of presenting national reports which will afford a realistic evaluation of the situation with respect to water resources in each country, in order to ensure that the Conference is genuinely geared to the needs of individual countries. Reports should be in the hands of the ECLA secretariat at latest by 30 April 1976.

Water Resources, Development and Environment in Latin America

101. The objectives of this ECLA/UNEP project are: (a) to study the principal environmental effects, both positive and negative, of the management of water and related resources (soils, woods, etc.) in the region, using available information and selected case studies;

(b) to provide information to help in introducing new guidelines for planning the use of the resources mentioned above; and (c) to present the results of this work at a symposium and publish them in the form of a report.

102. The aim of this project is to improve the planning and management of water resources in Latin America, by attempting to reconcile the satisfaction of the needs of rapid economic development with the protection of the environment, one of the most important components of which is precisely water. It will endeavour to make some practical contributions and provide planners and decision-makers with some indications regarding the harmful consequences of certain approaches and the best action to take in order to achieve positive environmental effects through the utilization of water resources in Latin America.

103. The following case studies have been selected: (a) the pollution of three rivers by large cities (one in a temperate semi-arid zone, a second in a temperate rainy zone and a third in a tropical rainy zone); (b) the conflict of interests in the use of natural resources in a tropical river basin; (c) the utilization of delta areas and its effect on the environment; (d) changes in a desert environment through irrigation; (e) pollution of bay waters; and (f) quantity and quality of water in the integral utilization of a semi-arid basin.

Rural electrification

104. A study entitled "Algunas ideas básicas sobre la economía de la electrificación rural" (E/CEPAL/L.124) was prepared as a contribution to the sixth Latin American Conference on Rural Electrification (Caracas, 28 September-4 October 1975). It analyses:

(a) The need to consider rural electrification projects as part of a group of investment projects of the public sector within the national economy which compete for scarce resources.

(b) The need for a project evaluation technique that will take into account the shortage of economic resources in the public sector (electrical and other industries).

(c) The need to use a general strategy, some basic tactical approaches and a clear criterion in the adoption of decisions when dealing with the complex subject of rural electrification, in order to decide whether possible projects should be approved or rejected.

(d) The need to deal with each project separately from the standpoint of its benefits and costs, i.e., the degree of its economic viability.

The environment in Latin America

105. Work was completed on the drafting and revision of the report El medio ambiente en América Latina (E/CEPAL/132), which forms part of the ECLA/UNEP project entitled "Information on the Environment, Latin America". The report gives a general picture of what are recognized to be the most critical and representative environmental problems, and of the institutions, policies and technical capacity of the countries in matters related to the environment.

106. This general study, which will serve later as the point of departure for acquiring a more thorough knowledge of the real environment situation in the region, deals with the following subjects: the environment and development in Latin America; the environment in human settlements; environmental problems linked with natural resources management in Latin America; the response capacity; and bases for international action.

Other work

107. A draft agreement on technical co-operation between the offices of the Executive Secretaries of ECLA and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) was prepared, and ECLA has started to provide OLADE with technical assistance in certain fields on request.

108. Work is going ahead on the contribution which the energy and mining sectors will make to the ECLA interdisciplinary project on Latin American development; its evaluation and long-term prospects.

109. Staff members of the Division participated in the United Nations Meeting on Co-operation among Developing Countries in Petroleum (Geneva, 10 to 21 November 1975); the first special session of the Committee on Natural Resources of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 23 to 27 February 1976); and the Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Water Resources Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (New York, 22 February to 9 March 1975).

STATISTICAL DIVISION

110. During the period under review the first (1973) edition of the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America - which replaced the former semi-annual Statistical Bulletin for Latin America - was published and the second issue (1974-1975) was prepared for publication.

National accounts and related matters

111. National accounts series were maintained, analysed and systematized. The series on the product expressed in national currency and United States dollars are maintained at constant prices for ECLA's use; a new base year was selected for these series, and the corresponding parity rates were estimated.

112. A project to establish a permanent data file on public sector accounts was begun.

113. A permanent file on regional accounts estimates was established, and the document Experiencias sobre cálculos del producto interno bruto regional (E/CEPAL/1012) was published.

114. The work on co-ordination continued through the permanent group of Latin American experts on social accounting, now composed of 80 members, which was formed on the occasion of the meeting of the Working Group on Statistics of Income Distribution, Consumption and Wealth, held in Chile, in November 1971 (ST/ECLA/Conf.42/L.6).

115. The document Experiences of the Latin American countries in using the revised SNA (E/CEPAL/L.119) was presented to the Interregional Seminar on the Revised System of National Accounts held in Caracas in December 1975. The document National Accounts in Latin America: prices and quantities estimates was presented at the XII Meeting of Central Bank Technicians of the American Continent, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay in November 1975.

Evaluation and analysis of Latin American data
on income distribution

116. The joint ECLA/IBRD research project proceeded, and fifteen booklets with detailed tabulations from selected surveys relating to income and other socio-economic characteristics were published (E/CEPAL/L.115), as was the document Estimates of the functional distribution of income generated by sectors of economic activity, 1960-1972 (E/CEPAL/L.115/12).

117. With the surveys selected to provide the data base for this project, a Data File from Household Surveys was organized and is presently being expanded. The review that began with the document Sources of statistics on the distribution of income in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.42/L.4) was transformed into a permanent inventory of household surveys carried out in the region.

118. Controls for survey data were carried out, and the document Income distribution estimates from household surveys and population censuses in Latin America: An assessment of reliability was produced and presented at the XXV Seminar of the ECIEL Programme, held in Rio de Janeiro in March 1976.

External trade and balance of payments

119. Work proceeded on the electronic processing of balance-of-payments statistics of the 23 countries of the region. The series were also extended back to 1950.

120. Computer programmes were developed to obtain quantum and unit indexes of exports and imports and the terms of trade.

121. Contacts have been maintained with the statistical offices of the countries of the region, LAFTA and SIECA, in order to obtain detailed data on external trade. The tapes are at present to the UNSO, and a system is under study with a view to organizing the data base provided by duplicates of those tapes in order to develop further applications in keeping with ECLA's needs.

Industrial statistics

122. The collection of data from manufacturing censuses and surveys proceeded, and another document entitled América Latina: principales indicadores derivados de los censos y encuestas industriales (E/CN.12/L.45/Add.3) was produced.

123. The series on manufacturing output and employment were maintained and updated, as were those corresponding to the physical output of principal products.

124. A new regional index on mining output (base year: 1970) was worked out, with subregional indices, and special research on the importance and output of agroindustrial activities was also carried out.

Demographic and social statistics

125. During the period under review, in-house activities in this field were oriented to support two projects of the Commission: "Factores estructurales que condicionan la redistribución de la población en América Latina" and "Estratificación y movilidad social en América Latina".

126. Organization was started of a data file on employment statistics.

Technical co-operation

127. Regional technical assistance to the countries of the region in demographic statistics and related questions was provided through missions by regional advisers in the following fields: sampling methods for demographic statistics, household surveys, computer methods and vital statistics.

128. At the request of the Government of Argentina, advisory services were provided to the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC) in the application of computer methods to the processing of census results, and in carrying out a pilot experiment to test new questionnaires for their continuing household survey.

129. On the basis of a request from the Government of Colombia, assistance was provided to evaluate and reorganize the permanent population register for vital statistics purposes.
130. At the request of the Government of Cuba, advisory services were provided in demographic sample survey design.
131. Continuing assistance was provided to different statistical programmes of the Government of Ecuador. The Oficina de Censos Nacionales received assistance in the processing of the population and housing census and in carrying out their special project on the evaluation of census results. Advisory services were provided to the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) in the design and implementation of a family budget survey, in the design of the permanent employment survey, and in the organization of their electronic data processing unit.
132. Advisory services were provided for the planning of the computing aspects of the human resources survey to be carried out by the Government of El Salvador.
133. Further assistance was given to the Government of Guatemala on the reorganization of the system of vital statistics, and on sampling and computing problems of a demographic survey and the human resources survey.
134. The Government of Haiti asked for co-operation with the Institut Haitien de Statistique in the design of a family budget survey. Assistance was also provided in the evaluation of the IHS household surveys and demographic statistics programmes, and their technical co-operation requirements.
135. Assistance was provided to the Government of Honduras in the design of a multipurpose household survey.
136. At the request of the Government of Nicaragua, assistance was provided in connexion with computing problems encountered in the processing of the metropolitan census.
137. Further co-operation was given to the Government of Panama on the reorganization of the civil registration system.

138. At the request of the Government of the Dominican Republic, advisory services were provided to the Oficina Nacional de Estadística in the processing of the population and housing census, in the expansion and analysis of census results obtained by sample, and in the evaluation of its longer-run technical assistance requirements.

139. Assistance was provided to the Government of Uruguay in the processing of the population and housing census.

140. The Government of Venezuela requested advisory services on the reorganization of the system of vital statistics.

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

141. In order to assist in solving priority economic and social problems in selected fields in the countries or regional groupings of Latin America, to help develop their economies and institutions, and to strengthen regional and subregional economic integration, the Division has carried out the following activities during the period:

- (a) Formulated, for execution by ECLA, regional and subregional projects identified by the substantive divisions of ECLA in consultation with the Programming Office, taking into account the development objectives of countries or groups of countries, the resolutions adopted by intergovernmental bodies both inside and outside the United Nations system, and ways in which they can complement or support country projects;
- (b) Negotiated the financing of these projects from bilateral and multilateral sources and administered them; and
- (c) Co-ordinated ECLA's advisory services to governments in the region and the implementation of training courses carried out by ECLA and ILPES.

142. The Division continued developing the machinery for pursuing its special objectives in connexion with the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries of the ECLA region, and a note on this subject was prepared for submission to the sixteenth ECLA session, held at Port of Spain from 6 to 15 May 1975. In presenting the note, the secretariat indicated that it could possibly collaborate with the governments of member States of ECLA, at their request, in devising and applying new methods and concepts of TCDC in the region and in establishing special institutional machinery for that purpose in order to implement the recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries 9/ and of General Assembly resolution 3251 (XXIX).

9/ See document DP/69.

143. The Division has been collaborating with the UNDP Special Unit on TCDC in the organization of the Latin American Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries scheduled to be held in Lima, Peru, from 10 to 15 May 1976 in pursuance of the above General Assembly resolution.

ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS CENTRE

144. The work of the Centre in 1975 consisted basically of an evaluation of the Latin American development process, medium-term projects and a quantitative analysis of the feasibility and coherence of styles of development. In addition, various other studies were completed in connexion both with the actual work of the Centre and with requests from the Executive Secretary or for advisory assistance from countries, and staff members of the Centre participated as lecturers in courses organized or sponsored by ECLA/ILPES and provided advisory services to several countries in subjects related to their particular fields.

Evaluation of the Latin American development process

145. The Executive Secretary has assigned to the Projections Centre the task of co-ordinating the two projects concerning the evaluation of the development process in Latin America as a whole. The first project consists of an appraisal of the International Development Strategy for which biennial reports are being prepared. The second, "Latin American development, its evaluation and long-term prospects" has been assigned top priority by the secretariat, since it is linked both to some of its continuing preoccupations and to recent General Assembly resolutions.

146. During the year the Centre co-ordinated and prepared part of an abridged version of the document "Latin American development and the international economic situation: Second regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy" (E/CEPAL/1004), which summarizes the material included in documents on the subject prepared for the sixteenth session of ECLA. The summary is divided into two parts: the first describes economic and social development in Latin America in the period 1970-1974; the second deals with recent international economic trends and their repercussions on Latin America, and attempts to determine how far the present changes in the international economic situation are transitory and to what extent they constitute the germ of long-term structural changes.

147. The most important conclusions relate to the economic growth attained by Latin America as a whole in the early 1970s, and to the accentuation of the existing differences between the achievements and the development capacity of the Latin American countries. As regards the former, it is worth noting the considerable dynamism shown by the region which has enabled it to exceed the minimum target of a 6 per cent annual increase in the product laid down by the IDS, and the significant change in its economic and social structures. Nevertheless, such growth and change have not responded to the fulfilment of IDS commitments in the sphere of trade and international financing, nor to national achievements in the planning field. They have done nothing to palliate the concern at the existing deficiencies and future dangers of the prevailing style of development, and have subjected the countries' capacity to unite in meeting new challenges to new demands.

148. During the second half of 1975 the Centre collaborated actively with the Office of the Executive Secretary in defining and designing the research project, "Latin American development: its appraisal and long-term prospects". Staff members of the Centre have participated in the project from the outset, co-ordinating the discussions aimed at defining the work outline. The preliminary summary outline adopted is given in document E/CEPAL/L.131. In accordance with this outline the work is divided into two broad parts: Part I contains an appraisal of the economic and social process in the period 1950-1975, and Part II presents the prospects for Latin American development and its evolution and change in the next 25 years. Within this outline, the Centre is responsible for helping to co-ordinate the first part, and for preparing the second.

149. In its present state, the project includes research geared to reconsidering the real economic and social process in Latin America; highlighting its common aspects and the particular features of the countries of the region; examining its long-term development prospects and options in the new international situation; and contributing ideas or suggested strategies for making the proposed institutional and structural changes coherent and explicit.

150. In connexion with the appraisal work, the Final Report of the Seminars on "The review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy: the organizational problems raised by this task in the countries of Latin America" (ST/CEPAL/Conf.49/L.6) 10/ was also completed.

Numerical experimentation models

151. A compilation of studies on this subject by the Centre was prepared with a view to providing information on its theoretical and practical aspects.

152. The first part stresses the need for a flexible instrument which will describe in quantitative terms the theses it is wished to develop, even in the event of encountering serious obstacles of a statistical nature.

153. The second part of the document illustrates in detail the model used to conduct a series of experiments in order to prove alternative development strategies. It presents both theoretical and practical considerations, i.e., their theoretical-mathematical formulation and their operation.

154. The third part comments on the results obtained from applying the model to a style of development which is essentially that prevailing in Latin America as a whole, attempting to compare the operation of the medium- and long-term economy with the fulfilment of certain economic and social objectives considered of basic importance.

Econometric models

155. The preparation of the macroeconomic projections model for Colombia was completed. This model, which is presented in considerable detail - distinguishing twelve production sectors and six investment sectors and including the public sector with its various income and expenditure items - is designed for medium- and long-term analysis.

10/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, op.cit., pages 64-66.

A classification of imports according to the groups established in the LINK project was incorporated in the original version, since this work could be included in the project.

156. The draft prepared on "Export commodity price projections" (CEPAL/CPE/Draft 123) suggests a methodology for such projects.

Other work

157. A methodological study "Proyecciones del consumo privado por regiones y tramos de ingreso" was prepared as a basic document for project UNDP/FAO/BRA/71/553, "Study of Brazil's Agricultural Development Prospects" (EPDABRA).

158. The Centre prepared a provisional projection of the world matrix of trade in goods and services, considering six types of regions and adopting various growth hypotheses for the product and imports, and the basic elements for a retrospective analysis of Latin American economic trends in accordance with the model which considers the potential trade and national savings gap.

159. A staff member of the Centre attended the meetings of the LINK project held at Toronto, Canada, from 18 to 21 August 1975.

160. Lastly, lectures on planning theories and techniques were given at the Sixth Regional Course on Development Planning held at Buenos Aires (16 June-5 December 1975), and at the Regional Industrial Planning Course at La Paz (1 September-31 October 1975).

LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DOCUMENTATION (CLADES)

161. This Centre began operations in 1971. Among its functions are those of providing support for development activities through the systematization of basic economic and social information and the establishment of machinery to give research workers, public and private institutions and international organizations rapid and reasonably-priced access to Latin American economic and social information; promoting the establishment of national documentation centres; and aiding the standardization of their systems of data handling.

162. In the period under consideration CLADES carried out the following activities: (a) publication of a bibliography entitled "Interpretaciones sociológicas y socio-políticas del desarrollo de América Latina: Bibliografía de 25 años"; (b) indexing of material on public enterprises for subsequent rapid retrieval; (c) preparation of a project for rationalizing the distribution of ECLA and ILPES publications and producing indexes by use of a computerized system. Also during the period covered by this report, work was begun on the preparation of an inventory of economic and social information centres and services in each Latin American country, in collaboration with national information institutes or associations, with the aim of producing a Directory, diagnoses of the information situation in the countries, and appropriate recommendations, while a start was also made on the building up of a controlled vocabulary for indexing material produced in the region and the preparation of micro-thesauruses in collaboration with experts on transport, integration, education and the environment.

MEXICO OFFICE

Annual Economic Survey

163. Notes analysing overall and sectoral economic trends in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama were prepared for incorporation in the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1975. The relevant statistics published in the course of the period were assembled and qualitative and other information on conjunctural trends was collected directly from each country.

Economic policy

164. Central America. Work was completed on a preliminary report in which the concept of inflation, its causes, effects and repercussions are analysed and anti-inflationary policies thus far implemented in Central America are evaluated.

165. Panama. As part of the work being carried out for some years in connexion with research on possible benefits, problems and repercussions deriving from the construction of a new sea-level canal within the context of the national development strategy, and taking into account the decision of the Governments of Panama and the United States to reformulate the institutional arrangements regulating the Canal Zone, the study entitled Consideraciones sobre la economía de Panamá, el nuevo acuerdo sobre el Canal existente y la construcción de otro canal (CEPAL/MEX/75/11) was completed.

166. Guatemala. In view of the damage caused by the strong and prolonged earthquakes in Guatemala from 4 to 6 February 1976, and at the request of the Government of that country, a group of staff members of the Mexico Office co-operated in an evaluation of the damage and its effects on the national economy and prepared the document entitled Daños causados por el terremoto de Guatemala y sus repercusiones sobre el desarrollo económico y social del país (CEPAL/MEX/76/Guat.1).

167. Nicaragua. The Mexico Office continued to co-operate with the Government of Nicaragua in strengthening the country's overall system of economic planning. In this connexion, the Planning Office was given advisory assistance in reviewing the 1975-1979 Medium-Term Plan and preparing the relevant document, in which some basic guidelines were submitted for consideration, including methodological aspects and overall and sectoral evaluations which should be taken into account in formulating the 1976 Operational Plan (Nicaragua: Orientaciones básicas para la preparación del Plan Anual Operativo, 1976 (CEPAL/MEX/75/Nic.1)).

168. Honduras. In accordance with the technical assistance programme agreed on in February 1975 between the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Planning Council of Honduras (CONSUPLAN) and the ECLA Office in Mexico, and with the support of UNDP, several missions composed of experts from ECLA and the United Nations Development Advisory Team (UNDAT) collaborated with the Government of Honduras in the following work: review and reproduction of a summarized version of the 1974-1978 National Development Plan, at both the overall and the sectoral level; formulation of the 1976 Operational Plan and review of documents on the various economic and social sectors; and adjustment of the National Plan as regards the public sector and institutional aspects of development and planning techniques, with emphasis on annual operational plans and project formulation. This work was accomplished in five stages, on each of which a report was prepared, i.e., Informe de la Misión a Honduras: 20 a 26 de febrero de 1975 (CEPAL/MEX/75/Hond.1), 6 a 10 de mayo de 1975 (CEPAL/MEX/75/Hond.2), 28 a 30 de mayo de 1975 (CEPAL/MEX/75/Hond.3), 19 a 26 de junio de 1975 (CEPAL/MEX/75/Hond.4) and agosto de 1975 (CEPAL/MEX/75/Hond.5).

169. Costa Rica. The Office collaborated with the Government of Costa Rica in formulating the 1976 Operational Plan and provided the Ministry of Finance with advisory assistance in connexion with

criteria applicable to the tax system, implications of the growth of public expenditure, increase in tax income and relation between the rise in prices and in taxes, financing of the fiscal deficit, and indebtedness and review of some of the problems involved.

170. Mexico. In connexion with various activities which Nacional Financiera, S.A. (NAFINSA) of Mexico is carrying out with a view to accelerating the production of capital goods, this concern requested ECLA's co-operation in the preparation of a study on the conditions of access of those goods to the Latin American market. A compilation of the tariffs applicable to these products in each of the member countries of LAFTA was prepared in detail for both the general and the preferential systems deriving from concessions granted within LAFTA.

Industrial development

171. A document was prepared in which the bases for the establishment of a Regional System for the Joint Promotion of Industrial Products are defined, the objectives and fields of action are described and the main human and financial resources required for the instrumentation of the system are indicated.

172. In compliance with resolution 155 (X/CCE) and a decision of the Inter-Agency Committee on Compliance with Decisions of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, a working group of experts from the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Central American Research Institute for Industry (ICAITI), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and ECLA was set up to study the institutional support for activities designed to promote industry. At its first meeting held at the end of August 1975, the group examined a note entitled El sistema consultivo de desarrollo industrial regional y el apoyo a los organismos regionales de integración (E/CEPAL/CCE/372), and another on some considerations for the selection of the first branches of industry which would be included in the system.

173. In order to determine the feasibility of increasing the production capacity of fertilizers in Central America (resolution 153 (X/CCE)), a preliminary analysis was initiated on the possibilities of establishing the phosphatic fertilizer industry in the region.

174. Under the terms of resolution 151 (X/CCE), a preliminary note was prepared on those industrial activities which might have some possibility of facilitating the complementarity agreements between Mexico and the Central American Common Market.

175. As a general framework for regional industrial integration and for the selection of priority sectors and regional projects, some headway was made in studies designed to provide a prospective view of industrial development in Central America up to 1990. To that end, a preliminary document on an industrial development strategy for Central America was prepared and several studies were carried out with the purpose of preparing industrial profiles.

Social development

176. Central America. Work was completed on a preliminary version of a study on social policy and social development in Central America, the objectives of which are: (a) to summarize the evolution of the main social variables in the region in the period 1960-1975; (b) to suggest an interpretation of the significance of such evolution and its immediate prospects; (c) to consider some facets of the State's commitment with development in Central America; and (d) to indicate some integration potentialities in the social development field.

177. El Salvador. The National Planning Commission was advised on the definition of priorities and the compatibilization of social projects for the preparation of the 1976 Operational Plan.

178. Cuba. Bibliographical, statistical and conceptual data were collected on social development in Cuba and an annotated outline of the study on social policy in that country was prepared and presented to the appropriate Cuban authorities.

Technology

179. The Mexico Office prepared a preliminary version of a document presenting the background, objectives and possible mode of operation of the science and technology unit which is to be established in ECLA, in compliance with the resolutions adopted at the Meeting on Science, Technology and Development in Latin America (Mexico City, December 1974).

180. A note was prepared on the progress made in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the application of science and technology to development in Latin America.

Agriculture

181. Mexico. During the period covered by this report, an outline was prepared and discussed with government officials and progress was made in the assembly of available basic information, particularly on agricultural services (fertilizers, seed production, input prices, etc.), livestock production activities and irrigation problems, and an annotated bibliography of more than 300 volumes is already available as part of the work on the project on Mexico's agricultural policy.

182. Central America. A preliminary document on the export possibilities for Central American agro-industrial products was concluded and discussed with officials of the governments of the region and of Central American integration agencies.

183. At SIECA's request, the project for the establishment of a Basic Grains Price Stabilizing Fund, which will be submitted to the Regional Office for the Central American Programme of the United States Agency for International Development (AID-ROCAP) and managed by the Central American Economic Integration Bank (ECIE), was analysed.

Transport

184. The objective of this project is to analyse and put forward recommendations for accelerating transport development in Central America, in support of several regional agencies carrying out parallel activities in the region.

185. A document on the expansion of the Central American road network (Consideraciones sobre la ampliación de la red vial centroamericana (CEPAL/MEX/75/18)) was completed. On the basis of the development observable and of its present use, the document analyses the prospects of expanding the Central American road network, the investment required and its financing possibilities. A first version of a document entitled Evaluación de alternativas del actual Canal de Panamá was also prepared.

186. A preliminary evaluation was prepared of alternative possibilities of investment in the Central American transport sector (Reflexiones sobre las alternativas de inversión que presenta el sector transportes en Centroamérica (CEPAL/MEX/75/20)).

Natural resources

187. Energy. Various activities were carried out in connexion with the utilization of energy resources in the region, including those related to the project for the establishment of an Advisory Group of the Central American Energy Commission which is being organized by SIECA, and to the Master Plan for Energy Development. Documents were prepared requesting UNDP support and financing for both these projects (Plan Regional de Energía, 26 September 1975, and Grupo asesor de la Comisión Centroamericana de Energía (RIA/75/063), July 1975).

188. In addition, work was completed on the Anuario estadístico de energía para Centroamérica y Panamá, 1950-1973 (C/CEPAL/CCE/SG.5/108).

189. Electricity. The study of the interconnexion of electricity systems in Central America which is being carried out under the direction of the Mexico Office, with the advisory assistance of the Mexican Federal Electricity Commission and the participation of the national electrification agencies of the six countries, was initiated with the revision of terms of reference and questionnaires on basic information for submission to the Second Meeting of the Regional Group on Electricity Interconnexion held at San José, Costa Rica, on 24 and 25 April 1975 (Cuestionarios sobre información básica de los sistemas eléctricos nacionales (CCE/SC.5/GRIE/II/DI.2)).

190. In addition, the ECLA Office carried out research on the following subjects: (a) demand projections for the interconnected Central American system; (b) economic parameters used in the study; (c) installed power at the beginning of the programme of withdrawal of outmoded thermal equipment (1981), and starting policy; (d) data for determining the cost of failure; and (e) programme for calculating the cost of a hydroelectric power station for different alternatives of installed power.

Water resources

191. Terms of reference were prepared for the study of a Central American irrigation programme (Términos de referencia para el estudio sobre un programa centroamericano de riego (CEPAL/MEX/75/17)) which will enable investment to be programmed for the decade 1976-1985 and is expected to be completed in mid-1976. So far, the evaluation of present and future irrigation possibilities in El Salvador and Nicaragua is finished and considerable headway was made in the evaluations for Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. The definition of El Salvador's irrigation programme for 1976-1985 was concluded and some progress was made in those for Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Lastly, projections on future demand for agricultural commodities of El Salvador and Nicaragua were completed and some headway was made in those for Costa Rica.

192. Disaster prevention. A document was prepared describing a hydrometeorological natural disaster forecasting and warning system (Previsión de huracanes e inundaciones en el Istmo Centroamericano (CEPAL/MEX/75/4)), which would enable the population to be evacuated in time. In this connexion, the Mexico Office participated in the Joint UNDP/UNDRO/ECLA Mission which visited Mexico, Central America and Panama and collaborated in the preparation of a report on the result of the interviews and of a document requesting UNDP approval and financing for the project (Informe de la Misión PNUD/UNDRO/CEPAL sobre prevención de desastres naturales para México y el Istmo Centroamericano (Proyecto RIA/75/016)), 9 May to 16 June 1975).

Economic integration and foreign trade

193. A major part of the efforts of the Mexico Office during the period under review was geared to preparing the Tenth Meeting of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee and, subsequently, to fulfilling the resolutions adopted. This meeting was held at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 28 to 30 May 1975. Documents were presented on the reactivation of the region's integration process and proposals for technical assistance to bring it into effect (Sugerencias para reactivar a corto plazo la integración económica centroamericana (E/CEPAL/CCE/367/Rev.3 and Add.1), Propuesta de programa de corto plazo de cooperación técnica internacional para la integración centroamericana (E/CEPAL/CCE/368/Rev.3), Asistencia técnica proporcionada por las Naciones Unidas al programa centroamericano de integración, 1970 a 1975 (E/CEPAL/CCE/368/Add.1)).

194. The Committee approved a programme of action aimed at reactivating Central American integration in the short term and reaffirmed its intention to normalize Central American trade and overcome the irregular situations restricting it. In this respect, it adopted 20 resolutions (Informe de la Décima Reunión del Comité de Cooperación Económica del Istmo Centroamericano (E/CEPAL/CCE/369/Rev.1)).

195. For the study on the establishment of closer economic links between Mexico and Central America (resolution 151 (X/CCE)) which is currently in process, an outline of the research was prepared and the first version of a description of Mexico's foreign trade was drafted on the basis of tabulations prepared for the main imports and exports of Mexico and Central America in 1974, and of a sample of countries and of main buyers and sellers.

196. Mexico. In close association with the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute, a study on exports of manufactures and the export promotion policy in force in this country is being prepared as part of a group of studies on the subject currently being carried out by ECLA headquarters.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

197. During the period under review, the Washington Office intensified its activities in the field of economic research and analysis in support of the central work programme at ECLA headquarters. It also continued to provide technical information to the substantive divisions in Santiago and the regional offices of ECLA. The Washington Office represented the ECLA secretariat at a number of intergovernmental meetings, particularly those related to the Inter-American Organizations based in Washington, and performed other liaison and representational functions at the request of the Office of the Executive Secretary.

198. Economic research and analysis ranged over a broad area in keeping with the interest of ECLA headquarters in recent events and initiatives affecting Latin America in the monetary and financial field, as well as commodity policy, trade preferences and other subjects.

199. In connexion with the proposed financial safety net for Latin America, the Washington Office prepared notes on the economic, political and institutional aspects of this proposal.

200. The Office prepared a report entitled Export Revenue Stabilization: The U.S. Proposal for a new Development Security Facility. This briefly reviewed a number of previous United Nations mechanisms designed to protect the export earnings of developing countries from unexpected shortfalls due to factors beyond their control.

201. Another report was prepared on the indexation of commodity prices. It deals with the concept of indexation, proposals on indexation of commodity prices - including earlier work by the United Nations, the UNCTAD proposals, action by the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly and other proposals - as well as comments and criticisms on indexation.

202. The Office contributed two notes to the annual Economic Survey concerning recent trends in the economies of the Dominican Republic and of Haiti, respectively. Reports were also prepared on income

distribution trends in the United States from 1945 to 1970, and on the evolution of the balance of payments of the United States from 1965 to 1975.

203. A draft report entitled Towards an Evaluation of International Subcontracting Activities in Developing Countries: Interim Report upon Completion of Field Work on Maguiladoras in Mexico was completed during the period under review. This project was jointly undertaken by the Washington Office in collaboration with the Mexico Office.

204. The Office represented ECLA at the meetings of the Special Committee for Consultation and Negotiation (CECON), the Ad Hoc Trade Group, and the country reviews held under the auspices of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council with the participation of international, financial and development institutions. During the period under consideration the Office attended the following country reviews: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

205. The Office prepared comments on the proposals for "A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation" as well as on the challenge posed to the United Nations Development System by the creation of new global and regional bodies. It assisted the Executive Secretary during his presentation to the Ad Hoc Committee on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system at Headquarters and represented him at the ACC meeting on restructuring.

RIO DE JANEIRO OFFICE

206. In the period covered by this report the activities of the Rio de Janeiro Office were greatly expanded and diversified in line with the priorities laid down in the extended IPEA/ECLA Agreement which came into force in October 1974. The basic substantive activity has been to provide technical co-operation in the field of urban and regional development to the Institute for Economic and Social Planning (IPEA) and the National Commission on Metropolitan Regions and Urban Policy (CNPV), of the Planning Department of the Office of the President of the Republic (SEPLAN). The co-operation given to CNPV consisted of advisory assistance in such matters as the location of industry and the installation of systems of research and improvement for urban technologies.

207. Owing to its continuing activities in connexion with problems of the environment and human settlements in Latin America, the Rio de Janeiro Office has gained considerable experience in the field of applied urban research.

208. Three studies were carried out under the terms of the extended IPEA/ECLA Agreement. The first two, on the national financing system for urban investment and on human resources formation, have been completed while the third, on regional inequalities in Brazil and the preparation of regional profiles, is in its early stages.

209. During this period the Office carried out a number of activities in support of the various divisions of the ECLA secretariat. It prepared a study on the agricultural sector in 1967-1973, which analyses the main variables that may affect the sector's productivity, i.e., agricultural credit, the use of fertilizers, the use of tractors, the minimum price system. It also examines separately the main export crops and those grown for the home market.

210. The analysis of the Brazilian economy for inclusion in the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1975 centred on the interpretation of the cycle currently affecting Brazil compared with the economic boom of the years 1970-1973.

Human settlements

211. Before the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America on Human Settlements (HABITAT) (Caracas, Venezuela, 30 June-4 July 1975), the Office organized a meeting of Latin American experts to discuss the bases and priorities for a programme of research on human settlements in the region which would be carried out by ECLA.

ECLA/UNEP project on human settlements technology

212. In compliance with instructions received from the Executive Secretary, the Rio de Janeiro Office has been engaged since the second quarter of 1975 in the formulation and organization of the programme for the development of human settlements technologies for Latin America, which is to be financed and implemented by ECLA and UNEP.

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE

213. The Office continued its usual work of co-operation and liaison between the permanent organs and secretariat of LAFTA and the ECLA secretariat. It maintained the regular exchange of information on studies of common interest and the provision of elements serving as mutual support, facilitating co-operation and ensuring a more efficient use of the resources of both institutions.

214. During the period covered by this report, it also met the requirements of the Permanent Representatives of the member countries, with which it maintains permanent relations that facilitate and enrich the exchange of information and the effective contribution towards orienting LAFTA activities.

215. After careful consideration of the divergent views and legitimate interests of the Contracting Parties of LAFTA, a guiding document entitled Algunas apreciaciones sobre las negociaciones colectivas entre las Partes Contratantes de la ALALC en 1976, was prepared and distributed to the Permanent Representatives in July. Following a brief analysis of the recent evolution of the world economy and its implications for the economic relations of the LAFTA countries, this document presents a summarized description of the bases and scope of the review of LAFTA machinery in the present situation.

216. The main objective of the study is to formulate specific bases for consolidating a multilateral system of trade expansion and co-operation for economic and social development, based on LAFTA. For this purpose, it is kept well in mind that this group of developing countries has a widely varying economic potential and different production structures and levels spread over an extensive geographical area with some notable peculiarities.

217. In October and November, before the opening of the session of the Conference, the Montevideo Office, in co-operation with the International Trade and Development Division, proceeded with

the task of preparing formulas designed to facilitate the final agreement of the Contracting Parties. This task is still continuing and an up-to-date document is being prepared on the adjustment of the machinery and the scope of the co-operation within the system governed by the Montevideo Treaty. It is noted that at the end of 1975 the process of instituting the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as the supreme organ of LAFTA was formally concluded and that, in accordance with the Protocol setting it up, the Council should hold regular annual meetings.

218. The Office participated in regular and special meetings of the Standing Executive Committee throughout the period covered by this report, in the collective negotiations in August, and in the session of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

219. This Office prepared the supporting material for the round of collective negotiations held in August, and prepared a report on the two bilateral agreements thus far concluded in member countries of LAFTA, namely, the Economic Co-operation Agreement between Argentina and Uruguay, and the General Friendship, Co-operation and Trade Treaty between Brazil and Uruguay.

220. The Office participated in some sectoral meetings of industrial entrepreneurs which are being held as part of the special programme of meetings of this kind organized by LAFTA.

221. It also carried out the tasks assigned to it by the Office of the Executive Secretary in connexion with both the collection of information and data for activities of the substantive divisions of the secretariat, and official formalities with respect to Uruguay's participation in international and regional meetings.

OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

222. The period May 1975 to May 1976 marked a greater involvement with meetings and preparations for meetings than any other comparable period since the establishment of the Office in December 1966. The Sixteenth Session of the Commission, held at Port of Spain from 6-14 May 1975, was closely followed by preparatory work for the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) established under ECLA resolution 358 (XVI), which held its first session from 31 October to 4 November 1975 in Havana, Cuba. Subsequent to this, considerable effort was expended on the preparatory work for specialist meetings tentatively scheduled for 1976.

223. The greater volume of meetings made necessary a reallocation of resources, resulting in some reductions in research and less direct participation in working groups in support of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) integration programme.

224. As regards contributions by the Office to region-wide projects handled at ECLA headquarters, a notable feature was the expansion in the workload due to the increase in membership of the Commission with the accession to independence of the Bahamas and Grenada.

General economic development

225. As the Office's contribution to the preparation of the 1975 issue of the annual Economic Survey of Latin America, country notes were prepared for the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies Associated States. A summary giving a brief overall view of general economic trends in the CARICOM countries was also prepared. The document Economic Activity - 1974 - Caribbean Community Countries (ECLA/POS/75/4) was published during the period under review.

226. Papers prepared include Proposals for Amendments to the Standard External Trade Statistics Classification of the East Caribbean Common Market Countries (ECLA/POS/76/1), mainly arising from adjustments to the ECCM Common External Tariff.

227. Specific assistance has also been given to Governments in response to their requests. Such items include, for example, assistance to the Government of Antigua in the preparation and publication of its first Official Abstract of Statistics, dated 1975, and assistance to the same Government in the preparation and publication of its 1973 External Trade Statistics Report. Similarly, the Office provided the Trinidad and Tobago Government with retail price index information for Latin America and the Caribbean and tabulated data on external trade in petroleum and petroleum products relating to several Caribbean countries. As part of this general statistical service, the Office has furnished various data from time to time to the Jamaica Government through the Jamaica High Commission at Port of Spain and provided information on regional economic developments in 1975.

Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee

228. The first session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) laid out a full work programme for the Caribbean Office. This work programme is presented as Annex 3 of the report on the session, document E/CEPAL/CDCC/8/Rev.1.

Technical co-operation among Caribbean countries

229. First efforts were devoted to pursuing the means for implementing the CDCC decision on the promotion of collaboration among the universities and other research institutions by way of a meeting of Rectors of Universities of the Caribbean.

Agriculture

230. A second issue of the Compendium of Agricultural Statistics for Caribbean countries is about to be released. It is a new, revised and amplified version of the first,^{11/} and includes for the first time data on areas and production collected directly from the relevant official sources in the countries of the subregion.

^{11/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, op.cit., page 97.

231. Within the context of the integration of the agricultural sector, the Office maintains a close watch on the workings of the Agricultural Marketing Protocol and other instruments designed to promote production and development in this sector. As a follow-up action to the study Critical Evaluation of the Performance of the East Caribbean Common Market (ECCM) Countries under the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (AMP) and the Guaranteed Market Scheme (GMS) (ECLA/POS/74/16), the Office was requested by the Council of Ministers of the ECCM countries to collaborate with ECCM agricultural technicians in a study of the proposals.

232. In the same line of activities the Office participated fruitfully in the discussions of a CARICOM Working Party on the AMP. Inefficiency in the operation of the price machinery was considered to be one of the main hindrances to the development of trade under the AMP.

The social sector

233. Up to the end of the period under review, the ECLA Office for the Caribbean has had to limit its work in the social field mainly to community development. In this respect, it was possible to continue with technical assistance to member governments, especially those of the less developed countries, up to December 1975. This work has been directed mainly towards rural and community development, local government and youth development. Two seminars (Co-ordination for Integrated Development, in Antigua, October 1975, and Local Government and Community Development, in St. Vincent, August 1975) were organized at the suggestion and with the direct participation of this Office.

234. Since November 1975, further research by this Unit became closely linked to the implementation of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee's work programme.

Regional co-operation

235. In addition to collaborating with the CARICOM countries in analysing problems arising out of the efforts to intensify the

economic co-operation process, the Office responded to specific requests for studies which would facilitate the taking of decisions on closer collaboration with the Caribbean Community.

236. Assistance was given, upon request, to the Government of the Republic of Haiti in relation to its application to full membership in the Caribbean Community and associate membership in the Caribbean Common Market. As a first stage, a staff member visited Haiti to collect basic material needed for the preparation of the dossier that the country wishes to submit to CARICOM.

Natural disasters

237. In response to an appeal by the Government of Grenada, the Office for the Caribbean made an evaluation of the rainstorm damage of 9 November 1975. Field work and preparation of the report was carried out during the month of December. The report Evaluation of the Damage caused by the Grenada Rainstorm and its Implications for Economic Development Programmes, ECLA/POS/75/9 (E/CEPAL/CDCC/9), was submitted at the end of December and subsequently circulated to CDCC members and other ECLA member States.

Co-ordination with regional and international organizations

238. Close co-ordination was maintained with the intergovernmental bodies, particularly the CARICOM and ECCM secretariats.

239. Staff members were also consulted by personnel from UNCTAD/GATT/ITC on the subject of ITC's ongoing projects in the CARICOM region, and by OAS project personnel regarding their regional finance and capital markets project which is being conducted in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Similarly, the views of the Office were sought in the planning of the UWI/UNICEF Seminar of Social Legislation Relating to the Needs of the Child, and by Commonwealth Secretariat project personnel regarding their shipping studies.

240. A series of discussions were held with the World Food Programme relating mainly to background data in support of the Supplementary Feeding Project for Vulnerable Age Groups in Antigua.

Meetings and Conferences

241. Office personnel participated actively inter alia in the following meetings: Fifth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (Barbados, 25-30 May 1975); CARICOM Ministerial Conference on Oils and Fats (Grenada, 16-17 June 1975); Meetings of Regional Agricultural Planners and Standing Committee of Ministers for Agriculture (Belize, 23-27 June 1975); CARICOM Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Common Market Council of Ministers (Jamaica, 29 June-11 July 1975); Meeting on the Law of the Sea (Barbados, 18-20 August 1975); Regional Employment Seminar of the Commonwealth Caribbean (Jamaica, 10-13 September 1975); Caribbean Regional Symposium on Employment Strategies and Programmes (Barbados, 29 September-10 October 1975); Common Market Council of Ministers Meeting (Guyana, 6-12 October 1975); Meeting of Customs Officials on ECCM Common External Tariff (Antigua, 20-24 October 1975); First Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (Trinidad, 20-24 October 1975); Regional Symposium on the Implementation of Social Development Policies in the Caribbean (Jamaica, 11-14 November 1975); Special ECCM Council Meeting (Antigua, 18-22 November 1975); Meeting of Working Party on the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (Barbados, 23-28 November 1975); Heads of Government Conference (St. Kitts, 7-11 December 1975); Seventh Common Market Council Meeting (Guyana, 22-25 January 1976); Discussions on CARICOM Food Plan and position of ECCM Countries (Antigua, 4-8 March 1976).

BOGOTA OFFICE

242. The period under review is noted for the broader scope of the activities related to the analysis of the Colombian economy and the co-operation given to the Government of Venezuela under the terms of a technical co-operation agreement concluded in 1975 between Venezuela's Planning Office (CORDIPLAN) and the Bogotá Office.

243. As regards the annual Economic Survey, the Office prepared the data required for the notes on Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. It also collaborated with ECLA headquarters, Santiago, in the work involved in the appraisal of the International Development Strategy, and prepared studies and evaluations for the three above-mentioned countries.

244. The Office is co-operating in the research being carried out by the Industrial Development Division on the capital goods sector and the engineering industries in general. It prepared a project, jointly with the Economic Research Department of the Venezuelan Ministry of Finance, for the study of economic transactions between border areas of Venezuela and Colombia. The Office participated in the meeting of the Ministers of Finance and Presidents of Central Banks of the member countries of the Cartagena Agreement held in December 1975, where monetary, fiscal and financial aspects of Andean integration were examined and it was decided to establish the common reserve fund of the Cartagena Agreement.

BUENOS AIRES OFFICE

245. During the period under review the Buenos Aires Office carried out the following activities:

Agriculture and regional development
in Argentina

246. This work forms part of a broader study undertaken with the co-operation of the Federal Investment Council, the purpose of which is to contribute information on the regional structure and operation of the Argentine economy. The study endeavours to clarify certain important aspects by means of a quantitative analysis of production, area sown, yields, prices and gross income for agricultural commodities, by provinces.

Research programme on science and technology
matters in Latin America

247. This study examines the special features of the processes of absorption of technology in the countries of the region, distinguishing a phase of adaptation of imported technological designs and processes and another of absorption of know-how.

Creation of technology in the Argentine
manufacturing sector

248. In this study the situation as regards the creation of technology in the Argentine manufacturing sector is explored, together with the total expenditure on the creation of technological know-how, its inter-industrial composition, the effect of new know-how, on the competitive position of enterprises, the type of know-how produced, etc.

A numerical experimentation model for analysing
alternative long-term economic policies

249. This project examines the feasibility and implications of different long-term economic policies. A methodology for examining economic growth and analysing in depth the structure of the economy and its social projections will be applied to the real situation in Argentina.

250. The first part of the study describes the numerical experimentation model used, which is similar to that used in the studies on styles of development prepared by ECLA since 1969.

251. The second part refers to the application of the model to the situation in Argentina. For this purpose, the necessary statistical information was collected in order to reproduce the period 1970-1975 by means of the model. In this way, the base period (1970-1975) was obtained for the projection of optional long-term policies, which constitutes the third part of the project.

National accounts in Latin America

252. This study examines the repercussions of the expansion of the inflationary processes on the statistical work from the standpoint of the studies on national accounts. It stresses the need to establish objectives and strategies for improving those statistics, and rules for co-ordinating the indexes.

253. During the period considered, work began on the UNESCO/ECLA/UNDP project, "Education and development in Latin America". Under the terms of this project the countries of the region will be given assistance in formulating the bases for educational development policies through the exploration of several development hypotheses or policies which include education and other social aspects.

254. The Buenos Aires Office also collaborated with the Economic Development Division in the study on public enterprises, and with the International Trade and Development Division in the project for the development of exports of manufactures.

255. Other activities of the Buenos Aires Office include the holding of the Sixth Latin American Course on Regional Development Planning (16 June-7 December 1975), with the co-operation of the Federal Investment Council and under the sponsorship of ILPES, with UNDP financing. It was attended by 27 participants from various Latin American countries.

256. Between 17 and 21 November 1975 the Office gave a course of guided lectures on project preparation at the Central Bank for government officials.

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER OFFICES

257. In connexion with the organization of the United Nations Water Conference, which is scheduled to be held in 1977, and the Latin American preparatory meeting for the Conference, which is to take place in Lima from 30 August to 3 September 1976, ECLA has co-operated closely with the Headquarters Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport and with the United Nations Environment Programme. With the support of the latter agency and the Government of Italy, ECLA has continued its studies for the ECLA/UNEP Project on Water, Development and Environment in Latin America.

258. In General Assembly resolution 3128 (XXVIII), it was decided that a world conference should be held on the problems of human settlements from 31 May to 19 June 1976 in Vancouver, Canada, and the regional economic commissions were recommended to co-operate in the preparations for the Conference. In this connexion, the ECLA secretariat, with the co-operation of the United Nations Environment Programme, is carrying out studies on the situation and prospects of human settlements in Latin America.

259. The Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America, sponsored jointly by the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT) and ECLA, was held at Caracas from 10 June to 4 July 1975. The result of the discussions is embodied in the Declaration of Caracas on Human Settlements.^{12/}

260. In ECLA resolution 349 (XVI) it was recommended that a regional unit be established in Latin America for the surveillance of transnational corporations operating in the region. Accordingly, the necessary steps were taken and the secretariat of ECLA reached an agreement with the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the United Nations Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations to establish a regional unit in Latin America which will carry out research, provide information and maintain liaison with the

^{12/} See document ST/ECLA/Conf.55/L.5/Rev.1.

governments of the region in this matter. The unit's programme of work will be established shortly and it will operate at ECLA headquarters, Santiago.

261. In compliance with the recommendations on industrial development formulated by the Commission at its sixteenth session, the secretariats of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and ECLA agreed, in September 1975, to establish a joint division with the purpose of carrying out a unified programme of industrial activities in Latin America and assisting the countries of the region in the implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, adopted at the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held at Lima, Peru, from 12 to 26 May 1975.

262. With the financial and technical co-operation of UNICEF, the ECLA secretariat has continued its work on the education and development and the social stratification and income distribution projects in Latin America.

263. ECLA continued to co-operate with the Statistical Office of the United Nations, which continued to provide the ECLA secretariat with data on the foreign trade of the Latin American countries. The Office also made available special tabulations of its data bases and the statistical information obtained by means of questionnaires sent to the countries. In addition, contributions were sent to the Statistical Office for the preparation of informative documents to be considered by the Statistical Commission.

264. The UNDP/UNCTAD/ECLA project on advisory assistance to countries in connexion with multilateral trade negotiations has continued to co-operate with the countries of the region and, in this respect, has prepared three documents, provided advisory assistance to four countries and held three seminars, two subregional and one national. Close contact has been maintained with the UNDP/UNCTAD Interregional Project operating in Geneva.

C. LATIN AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE

265. Resolution 346 (AC.68) adopted at the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (Mexico City, 7 March 1975) provides that the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) be incorporated in the ECLA system. At its sixteenth session the Commission approved the Latin American Regional Population Programme contained in document E/CEPAL/1002, and entrusted its implementation to CELADE.

Basic population statistics

266. Several countries were given technical assistance in processing data from the latest population censuses carried out in 1970 or subsequent years. In four cases (Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic) the computer service prepared complete programmes of tabulations for the latest censuses. For a fifth country (Peru) tabulations were prepared from a census sample. In the case of other censuses (Haiti and Honduras) programmes were devised for ensuring the reliability and consistency of the data, or advisory assistance was given in connexion with technical problems of electronic data-processing (Argentina and Uruguay).

Population growth

267. Up-dated estimates and projections were prepared for the population of countries on which new statistical information and/or more sophisticated evaluations of the data were available. The demographic situation in figures is published twice-yearly in the Boletín Demográfico of CELADE.

268. Work continued on the execution of the research project on mortality of children of five years of age, the main objective being to determine the differences in the mortality rate between various population groups with different levels of living. On the basis of the information obtained from the latest population censuses, some progress was made in the studies for Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

269. The transfer of manpower from the country to the town is the subject studied under the terms of the project on the interrelationship between population and development. Its objective is to link the emigration of rural workers with population growth, land tenure and the mechanization and productivity of agriculture, among other determining factors. This research covers two countries - Brazil and Mexico - which have similar levels of urbanization and population growth but substantially different systems of land tenure.

270. The studies on female labour carried out by CELADE examine the factors determining the supply of female labour, particularly marital status, fertility, education, and the husband's income and employment. Secondary data from censuses and household surveys are used. A report containing the results of an analysis of changes over time and another on transversal interrelationships are expected to be completed in 1976.

Population policy

271. As a relatively new activity in the CELADE programme, attention centred on the documentation, training and research necessary for a study of the particular situations in the various Latin American countries.

272. The research focused on a project involving development strategies and population policy, the main objective of which was to compare the possible effects on population growth of certain public policies linked with specific development strategies. Four countries were chosen for the purpose of undertaking case studies. In two of these - Brazil and Costa Rica - national research centres participated in the project.

Family planning

273. During the period covered by this report the most important activity was the provision of technical assistance to national family planning programmes and to health and welfare programmes linked with family planning.

274. A good deal of this work was centred on the Programme for the Extension of Maternal and Child and Family Welfare Services (PESMIB) of the Chilean Ministry of Health, which receives considerable financial

support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). CELADE, as the executing agency of the tasks assigned to the Research and Evaluation Unit of the Programme, provided advisory assistance in the design and analysis of the following types of research: household surveys, fertility survey, follow-up survey, coverage research (retrospective and prospective stages), application of the system of service statistics (SIDES).

Documentation and information

275. With the aim of establishing an information system based on existing concepts and technology, specialized personnel worked on the preparation of a documentation system which began to operate in April 1976.

276. The data bank operated normally and increased its tape library with samples from the latest censuses of several countries of the region, surveys, service statistics and other population data.

Education, training and exchange

277. Educational activities were carried out by means of various courses.

278. These were mainly the Basic Demographic Analysis Courses and the Advanced Demographic Analysis Courses held at the San José Office. The 1975 Basic Course was attended by 20 students from various countries of the region, nearly all of whom were United Nations fellowship holders. The 1974-1975 Advanced Course comprised advanced training in demography and population for five professionals with previous training in demographic analysis.

279. Pursuing the policy initiated several years ago, national courses on basic demographic analysis were held to promote interest in demographic education and research in countries where there is sufficient demand to justify the organization of this type of course.

280. The following seminars were held in 1975:

- Seminar on Methods to Estimate Mortality and Fertility on the Basis of Census Data, organized jointly with the International Statistical Programme Center of the United States Census Bureau.
- Seminar on Political Structure and Population Policy, the main objective of which was to work out theoretical frameworks for the study of interrelationships between the political and demographic fields.
- Seminar on Historical Demography of Migrations in Chile from the XVII to the XX Century, where problems of methodology and progress in research in a regional study which is currently under way were examined.

D. LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PLANNING

281. The Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) which, by a decision adopted by the governments, is now a United Nations body within the system of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), is continuing its research, advisory and training activities.

Research

282. In addition to the projects already in execution, the execution of which has been the responsibility of ILPES staff members, special consultants and academic centres in the region, some new activities were initiated. As regards agricultural planning, work continued with a view to completing the text on agricultural development planning.

283. An internal seminar on Urban Planning in the Context of Overall Planning was held with the aim of providing better guidance for the execution of the ensuing stages of research on the subject in several countries, and some work was done on human settlements within the context of overall planning.

284. In connexion with research on the State and planning, an internal seminar was held by ILPES, work continued on the basic studies and a start was made on the preparation of the seminar to be held in Bogotá in June 1976.

285. In developing the topic "Planning and short-term policies", a seminar was organized in Panama with the co-operation of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy of Panama and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

286. As a result of this meeting, studies are being prepared on fiscal and monetary policy, indexation, econometric models, economic policy, and other matters related to short-term planning.

287. In the research on growth, natural resources and environment, ILPES has initiated jointly with Resources for the Future the basic studies for the study of Colombia's economy. As regards critical poverty, a group of initial activities have been carried out to define the content, emphasis, method of work and cases to be studied in this new high-priority project within the Institute's programme of work.

Advisory services

288. ILPES has continued to provide technical co-operation to the countries of the region at the request of governments.

289. In Bolivia it collaborated with the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination in the preparation of the 1976-1980 Five-Year Development Plan.

290. In Panama, ILPES, acting as a specialized agency by virtue of an agreement between the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank, co-operated in some phases of the process of formulating the 1976-1980 Development Plan.

291. As part of the advisory services given to Costa Rica, work continued on at Headquarters on the preparation of studies on technical co-operation for the National Planning Office (OFIPLAN). The main part of the work consisted in analysing in greater depth the problems involved in the changes in the country's production structure, with special emphasis on the construction sector.

292. In Mexico, ILPES co-operated with the Nacional Financiera in an economic analysis with a view to undertaking feasibility studies for some industrial development projects.

293. At the request of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, the bases were prepared for renewing the technical co-operation agreement with that state. ILPES collaborated in the implementation of the overall, sectoral and regional aspects of the State Development Plan. Advisory assistance was also provided in preparing the operational plan and strengthening the state planning system, including the statistical system.

294. The bases were laid for the Institute's co-operation with the Haitian National Development and Planning Council in order to advise it on the final stages of the formulation of the 1976-1981 National Development Plan and the preparation of the First Operational Plan for 1977.

Training

295. Under the Training Programme, courses were held on: Regional Development Planning, Buenos Aires, Argentina (26 participants); Regional Planning, Brasilia, Brazil (36 participants); Industrial and Regional Planning, La Paz, Bolivia (38 participants); Development and Planning, Tegucigalpa, Honduras (40 participants); Industrial Planning, in which ILPES co-operated with the Mexico Office (40 participants); Agricultural Programming (40 participants). Preparations were made for the following courses which are expected to be held in 1976: Regional Development Planning, Santiago, Chile (for participants from Latin America and the Caribbean); Planning and Development, San José, Costa Rica (for participants from Central America, Panama, Haiti and Dominican Republic); Development Planning, Tegucigalpa, Honduras; joint activities with Project MEX/73/004 and with the Training Centre for Economic Development (CENDEC) of Brasilia; progress was made in the preparations for holding courses in co-operation with the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague and the Centre for Land Settlement Studies in Rejovot.

296. In addition to these activities, ILPES carried out the preliminary work for the organization and preparation of topics to be dealt with at the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning Offices scheduled to be held early in 1977.

297. The Institute also completed the preliminary stages of the implementation of ECLA resolution 351 (XVI), which establishes that ILPES should be at the service of the various countries as a centre for the exchange of experience and research results on the various aspects of planning. In this respect, it prepared a report on activities and a bulletin which will be distributed periodically among planning bodies and experts.

E. RELATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

298. Under the terms of ECLA resolution 356 (A), the secretariat was requested to hold a Latin American food conference to consider questions related to production, distribution and foreign trade in respect of food and agricultural products. This meeting was held jointly with the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America (Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976).

International Labour Organisation

299. In compliance with United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 1968 (LIX), a World Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on full employment and other related topics has been convened and is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 4 to 17 June 1976.

300. At the same time, the regional economic commissions were requested to co-operate with the ILO in the preparations for the Conference. In compliance with this request, ECLA, jointly with the ILO, sponsored a Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ILO World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution and Social Progress, and the International Division of Labour, which was held at Cartagena, Colombia, from 3 to 7 May 1976.

Organization of American States

301. Co-operation between the Organization of American States (OAS) and ECLA continued to be strengthened through close contact and mutual co-operation in specific fields. The Executive Secretary met the new Secretary-General of OAS in Washington to analyse matters of common interest to both organizations. Subsequently, the Director of the Department of Economic Affairs of OAS visited ECLA headquarters in Santiago, where the work programme of both institutions was reviewed.

302. Special attention was drawn to the co-operation existing in the field of transport and it was agreed to make a joint study of the project for a new international economic order, for which purpose an OAS mission will visit Santiago.

303. Representatives of the secretariat of ECLA attended the General Assembly and the recent session of the Economic and Social Council of OAS, and took part in the review of the problems of the individual countries currently being undertaken by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Council.

304. ECLA continued to co-operate with the Inter-American Statistical Training Centre (CIENES), some of whose courses were given by staff members of the Commission.

International Bank for Reconstruction
and Development

305. ECLA and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) agreed to undertake a project for the evaluation of experience in the promotion of exports in several Latin American countries and the rest of the world. Experts from the World Bank and ECLA will meet to consider this matter in the second half of 1976.

306. Discussions were held on the second phase of the ECLA/IBRD project concerning an information system for transport planning.

307. Work continued on the execution of the Joint ECLA/IBRD Project on the measurement and analysis of income distribution in the Latin American countries, 15 leaflets being issued with various detailed tabulations.

Inter-American Development Bank

308. The agreement concluded between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and ECLA on a scientific and technological development project in Latin America entered into operation with the appointment of the Manager and Co-Manager in representation of both institutions. Agreement was also reached on the work programme concerned.

Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA)

309. During the period covered by this report, ECLA continued its co-operation and liaison with the executive organs and secretariat of LAFTA and maintained a regular exchange of information on work of common interest and the provision of elements of mutual support. The section on the activities of the Montevideo Office includes a detailed report on ECLA's co-operation with LAFTA.

Central American Common Market

310. The co-operation given to the Central American Common Market is described in the section on the Mexico Office.

Board of the Cartagena Agreement

311. ECLA continued to co-operate with the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the members of which visited the Commission with a view to analysing the solutions which may be considered at the present time in connexion with the progress of the Andean Group, and to co-ordinating the work programmes of the two institutions.

Caribbean Common Market

312. The activities of the ECLA Office in Port of Spain increased with the number of meetings held in the Caribbean and the inclusion of the Bahamas and Grenada as members of the Commission. One of its most important tasks has been the co-operation it provided in adjusting the external tariff of the Common Market.

Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative
Organization

313. Co-operation with this agency has continued in all matters concerned with maritime transport and particularly with its Facilitation Committee. ECLA presented a document on the reception of ships in Latin American ports at the Committee's ninth session.

Latin American Energy Organization

314. The visit of the Executive Secretary of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) to ECLA headquarters was the first of several contacts with this agency with the object of reaching agreement regarding co-operation in various sectors of activity. This agreement was formalized by means of an exchange of letters.

Canadian International Development
Agency (CIDA)

315. With the co-operation of this Agency, the secretariat is carrying out various studies in which several United Nations agencies are participating and which will be reported on later.

Latin American Economic System (SELA)

316. After several meetings held in the course of 1975, the governments of the region decided, in Panama, in October of that year, to set up the Latin American Economic System (SELA) as a permanent regional consultation, co-ordination, co-operation and joint economic and social promotion agency, with international juridical status, composed of sovereign Latin American States. They also decided to establish a permanent secretariat of SELA in Caracas.

317. From the outset, close contact has been maintained between the secretariats of ECLA and SELA with a view to co-ordinating the relevant work programmes at the technical level. Thus, ECLA was requested to prepare technical documentation in connexion with the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development scheduled to be held in Nairobi from 3 to 28 May 1976. Moreover, the Permanent Secretary of SELA was invited to attend the first session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, a new subsidiary body of ECLA.



