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LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS
OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Organized by the United Nations Conference on the Human
Environment and the Economic Commission for Latin America,
under the sponsorship of the Government of Mexico

Mexico City, September 6-11, 1971

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

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Note

This report represents the views and recommendations of the Governments of Latin America, members of ECLA. Representatives of Canada, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States attended in their capacity as members of ECLA and because of their interest in learning the views of the other participants. However, they did not engage in the Seminar debates or join in the drafting and approval of the final report. The delegate of Colombia requested that mention be made that his delegation attended in this capacity.

I. BACKGROUND

The deterioration of the atmosphere, the soils, the seas and rivers, which is being caused by modern industrial technologies in many parts of the world, together with the problems experienced by the developing countries due to the lack of sufficient means to take care of the needs of huge, precariously living population centers, have created serious alterations in the natural ecologic conditions, environmental mutations, indiscriminate and irretrievable destruction of fauna and flora and an extensive contamination of the air and nutritional elements, in both the developing and highly developed countries, which may have unpredictable consequences.

These conditions, which tend to deteriorate from day to day, and the imperative to attack a problem which might reach unpredictable proportions if measures are not taken to counteract its effects, prompted the United Nations General Assembly to call a Conference on the Human Environment which will be held on June 5-11, 1972 in the city of Stockholm,^{1/} where formulas will be studied which may enable governments to protect the environment from the multiple threats already stated.

The Secretary General stressed the importance of the participation of developing countries in this Conference^{2/} and stated that it would be convenient to hold four meetings of regional experts prior to the Stockholm Conference, where specific problems can be studied "to protect the interests of these countries in order to coordinate national environmental policies with development plans."^{3/} He further decided that the regional meetings be held

^{1/} Resolution 2398, XXIII, December 3, 1968.

^{2/} Addendum to the XXV period of sessions of the General Assembly, November 13, 1970 (A/8065/Add.1).

^{3/} Resolution 2657, XXV period of sessions of the General Assembly, December 7, 1970.

"with the participation of government experts and under the sponsorship of regional economic commissions and the Beirut Office of Economic and Social Affairs."^{4/}

During the second period of sessions of the Preliminary Commission, the Secretary General of the Stockholm Conference^{5/} informed about the plans to hold these regional seminars in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

Furthermore, during the fourteenth period of sessions of the Economic Commission for Latin America, held in Santiago de Chile, a resolution was taken^{6/} about the "convenience to determine the true nature, cause and consequences of the environment problems in the countries of the area" and it was recommended to hold the Regional Seminar, accepting the offer made by Mexico to host this meeting.

After the initial regional meetings held in Bangkok and Addis Ababa^{7/} the United Nations convened a Conference on Human Environment and the Economic Commission for Latin America, sponsored by the Mexican Government, organized the Seminar's regional meeting for Latin American countries.

The following organizations have collaborated in the Latin American Regional Seminar on Problems of the Human Environment and Development: the Latin American Institute of Economic and Social Planning, the Latin American FAO Regional Office, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Pan-American Health Organization.

The topics examined and discussed during the Seminar are reported in the following pages.

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- ^{4/} Report of the Secretary General to the second period of sessions of the Preliminary Commission of the Stockholm Conference (A/Conf.48/PC.8, par.80).
^{5/} Geneva, February 8-19, 1971.
^{6/} 301 (XIV) United Nations Conference on Human Environment.
^{7/} See the corresponding reports.

II. INAUGURAL SESSION, ATTENDANCE, AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR'S WORK SESSIONS

1. Inaugural session

The inaugural session of the Seminar was held in the auditorium of the Department of Foreign Relations. The Secretaries of the Presidency and Foreign Relations, Hugo Cervantes del Río and Emilio O. Rabasa, were present, as well as other high Mexican government officials. The session itself was formally inaugurated by the Secretary of the Presidency, who referred to the great importance of the theme chosen for the Seminar and to the interest of the Mexican Government over the conclusions to be reached. Mr. Arnoldo Gabaldón, delegate from Venezuela, formally replied on behalf of all delegates.

Next to speak were Mr. Maurice F. Strong, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment; Mr. Abraham Horwitz, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, and Mr. Carlos Quintana, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America. They referred to various topics on the agenda of the Seminar and to the problems derived from protection of the human environment and the progress of developing nations.^{1/}

2. Attendance

Present at the Seminar were delegates from member nations of the Commission, observers from member states of the United Nations which do not form part of the Commission and were thus attending as consultants; representatives from United Nations organizations, specialized organizations and other government groups.^{2/}

^{1/} See Attachments D and E.

^{2/} See names on Attachment B, list of participants.

3. Organization of the work sessions and agenda

The work sessions were held at the Hotel Camino Real in Mexico City. During the first of these sessions, Mr. Jos6s Cabrera Mu6oz-L6do,^{3/} Chief of the host country's delegation, was designated President of the Seminar. Other appointments were: Mr. Probyne Nearsk, representative from Jamaica, as First Vice President; Mr. Ron6 Calle Cabrera, delegate from Ecuador, as Second Vice President, and Mr. Adolfo Cutimella, delegate from Uruguay, as Rapporteur.

The delegates approved without change the provisional agenda prepared by the Seminar's Secretariat.^{4/} In view of its length and the short time available, the Secretariat suggested examining some of the topics in plenary sessions and others in two work committees. This was approved. Mr. Samuel Bouchimol A., delegate from Venezuela, was appointed Chairman of Committee I, engaged in an examination of the inter-relation among development, environment and economic policies. Mrs. Gladys Pozo de Ruiz, delegate from Ecuador, was named Rapporteur of this Committee. The Chairman and Rapporteur of Committee II --a group engaged in analyzing the international aspects of human environmental problems-- were Mr. Jorge Ferrandiz Camacho, delegate from Peru, and Mr. Eduardo Pedace, delegate from Argentina, respectively.

^{3/} See Attachment F.

^{4/} See Attachment A.

III. CONSIDERATIONS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The discussions during the Seminar were based on the Secretariat documents The human environment and economic development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2), Development and Environment (Expert Study Group convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment) (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3) and on various statements made by government representatives and specialists from the United Nations agencies.

1. General aspects

Unanimous agreement was reached on recognizing the transcendent importance and the timeliness of calling for a world conference on the problems derived from human environment.

It was agreed that environmental problems are not new but that they have acquired a new dimension. Recent emphasis on environmental problems of highly developed countries which centers mainly on industrial and urban contamination should not lead us to forget that this is only one secondary aspect of the environmental problems of countries in the process of development.

A primordial difference exists between the environmental problems of the region and those of more developed countries, obliging us to adopt a basically different attitude.

The main environmental problems of Latin America constitute a reflection of its condition as a region in the process of development; and the importance of these problems varies with ecological and geographic characteristics as well as with the state of development of each country.

The maintenance of a process of rapid development in Latin America is an indispensable requisite to the solution of the environmental problems. It is, then, suggested that goals be fixed with regard to environmental quality, compatible with each stage of development, and that we accept,

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insofar as necessary, the near **capacity** for the assimilation of contaminants.

The need of incorporating environmental considerations into the planning for economic and social development is recognized. The use of environmental indicators for the evaluation of these aspects has been proposed, but criteria and minimal standards of preservation will have to be fixed with regard to the conditions and systems of values in each country, avoiding the use of norms, valid in advanced nations but which may prove inadequate and of unwarranted social cost.

With regard to population problems as they relate to the environment, it was the opinion of the gathering that the diversity of national conditions would permit no useful generalization, but that it was the responsibility of each country to determine its own population policy.

The Seminar agreed that international cooperation is of great importance in meeting environmental problems. It recognizes, nevertheless, that each country must formulate its national policies concerning the human environment in strict accord with its peculiar situation and in enjoyment of its national sovereignty. On a basis of regional and international agreements, spheres of action of the various countries in research, control and solution of the environmental problems, may be determined.

It appears advisable for international **institutions for** outside help to give special attention to national projects destined to the perfecting of human resources in countries in **the** process of development, in order to prepare them **for** the study and protection of the environment.

Without gainsaying the convenience of accepting environmental criteria in the evaluation of projects, it is still considered necessary to avoid inadequate standards or poorly applied norms that may introduce additional obstacles into the international flow of credit for development. The sovereign right of decision of each country should be respected in all cases.

/The elaboration

The elaboration of an in-depth and complete study of the consequences of activities destined to preserve the environment as they are being carried out in developed countries, as well as of international trade in the countries in the process of development, is considered of importance.

It is considered necessary to promote and complement the activities of international organisms destined to the protection of the human environment and apply effectively the mechanisms of coordination that will eliminate duplication of efforts and the creation of new organisms.

The Seminar took note of the fact that the measures taken by Latin American governments in defense of their marine resources contribute to the conservation of essential aspects of their environment.

Considering that certain environmental problems are of a global nature, affecting the entire world population, and that they may be aggravated by human action in each country, the Seminar agreed on the convenience of integrating the efforts of all nations in programming protective measures for the human environment.

It was agreed that there is need to unify criteria and concepts and to adopt a common terminology in dealing with environmental problems. In this respect, "medio ambiente humano" is considered to be the most adequate Spanish translation of "human environment".

2. Regional Aspects

It has been recognized that technical and scientific knowledge is insufficient for the comprehension and evaluation of environmental problems, and that it is therefore urgent to promote investigation in this field. Applied investigation programs should cover both the questions related to the natural sciences and the improvement of environmental conditions' and the economic and social aspects of environmental problems.

International cooperation, sufficient financial and human resources, and contributions from the developed nations will be required to make it

/possible

possible for investigation programs to produce the results that are necessary to the development of more rational short-term approaches to environmental problems. As an important part of these studies, it is suggested that the countries cooperate in carrying out a systematic diagnosis and evaluation of the problems relating to improvement of the environment.

It was agreed that the ultimate objective of environmental control and economic development is the physical, mental and social well-being of man. Taking into consideration the activities undertaken by the PHD in this respect, the Seminar considers it necessary to expand its environmental improvement programs. It also feels that international credit agencies should increase their economic assistance to countries seeking solution to these problems.

The importance of regional planning and territorial distribution was underlined as means of protecting environment and achieving a more balanced national development. Industrialization programs, so necessary for economic and social development, will require an analysis of their environmental effects, a careful planning of their geographic distribution and an adequate selection of technologies. A planned distribution of human settlements is also deemed convenient, considering environmental effects.

Problems derived from environmental protection and economic development require a high degree of government participation. This makes it necessary to maintain the public adequately informed and, at the same time, promote community-wide action.

The focus on environmental problems should be multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary participation of national and regional planning bodies should be sought, together with that of health institutions and other organizations involved in activities affecting the environment.

Examination was also made of problems peculiar to some specific areas of Latin America. The case of Central America received special attention, and the delegates listened with interest to the results of the Central American Seminar on the Physical Environment and Development.

It is suggested that countries of the region utilize whatever channels may be necessary to exchange information and viewpoints on human environments, with a view towards a more coordinated regional presentation during the Stockholm Conference.

IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

a) Background

Two aspects were considered under this heading, both analyzing the relationship between environmental problems and development and their effects on social and economic development policies. An examination was made of the background pertaining to development conditions peculiar to Latin American countries, as well as the framework under which the problems derived from development policies should be considered in this part of the world.

Fundamental concepts expressed during the early plenary sessions and recorded in the basic documents of the conference served as basis for the discussions. It was felt that the state of development or underdevelopment determines the applicable policies on problems derived from human environment. This is a criterion of great importance when defining the points of view of Latin American countries in this field. As stressed during the general debate, everything seems to point to the existence of unfavorable conditions for human life in Latin American countries. This is basically due to their status as developing countries, in itself a consequence of internal conditions. Among these is the manner in which these countries participate in the international system of economic relations. The way in which the technology of developed countries is transferred has created an additional problem, because of the limited possibilities available to Latin American countries to select, adapt and create the techniques they need.

These technological problems which have prompted differences in the productive structure have proven disadvantageous in relation with other countries. They have also created problems among the various sectors of production, insofar as their capacity to accumulate capital and expand their productive capacity.

/We must

We must add something else to all of these inconveniences. The increased concentration of population in urban zones because of demographic growth, has radically altered the order of importance of the various types of unbalances observed to date. The uncontrolled development of cities in several Latin American countries has brought to a head the environmental problems the majority of nations have to face. It has also created new problems, such as contamination of the biosphere. On the other hand, the problems so characteristic of more backward economies continue to prevail in some rural areas, such as loss of the potential offered by natural renewable resources (water, soil, flora and fauna). This is an especially important aspect because of the little knowledge available on tropical eco-systems. These eco-systems are of great importance for many Latin American countries and at present, environmental solutions are being considered which would affect the capacity for toleration of the contaminating factors which such systems could possess.

b) Specific topics under discussion

The topics mentioned here reflect the emphasis given by the various delegations to the problems in question.

i) Development and handling of natural resources, and study of tropical and subtropical eco-systems. Emphasis was given to the current lack of information on available natural resources in tropical and subtropical zones in order to establish the priority which should be given to investigators. The results obtained by these investigators would determine the dynamic policies which tropical and subtropical ecosystems could utilize. These observations were based on experiences acquired in various fields, such as studies on the use of natural resources, on rural health, on the utilization of river basins, health problems, and air pollution in many of the large Latin American cities. The problems of deforestation and loss of humus on the one hand, and reforestation and protection of the quality of the soil on the other, were also considered in this same context, underlining the relationship between the solution of these physical problems and the historical conditions under which natural resources have been utilized.

ii) Production of goods and services in the context of economic development in Latin America. There are many problems which could be included in this chapter. In actual practice, the environmental problems of Latin American countries which take place as a result of agricultural and industrial practices on the one hand, and the performance of services on the other, are due to varied degrees of utilization of production techniques. The co-existence of distortions in the environment, produced by the use of primitive techniques —as is still the case in the agricultural sector— and the environmental problems due to industrialization were also considered in this context. The accumulation of environmental problems resulting from industrial activity is actually due to the use of techniques originating in developed countries. Because of the circumstances prevailing in the modern world, these techniques in one way or another have made possible the margins of industrialization attained. Since Latin American countries depend to a large extent on the technological progress of developed nations to increase their own productive capacity, quite frequently they have found themselves with little to say in the selection of production techniques that will allow them to improve their own economic systems.

iii) Social aspects of development. Incorporation of the human environment into the analysis and development policy, underlines the social and cultural aspects of this process. The human environment includes the social conditions in cities and **rural areas** and is also influenced by the prevailing educational systems, by the social relations maintained by the communities and by the access to information media. In this respect, present-day concern over the problems of human environment gives greater validity to the trend, observed in recent years, of enriching the development concept, giving it a fuller meaning. It refers not only to the immediate satisfaction of material needs, but to social aspirations as well, and to the elevation of the cultural standards of each country. Many

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similarities are observed between the most modern definitions of development and the universal view which tends to establish the concept of the human environment adequate for social development.

In its material aspect, what has come to be defined as the social side of human environment, is the investment directed to raise the standards of living of the people (urban and rural health, housing, potable water and development of educational systems). All of these aspects have been of great concern in the past ten years, when seeking to resolve problems derived from underdevelopment.

iv) Territorial considerations. This topic was referred to the relationship between the configuration of a geographic pattern for the use of capital and human and natural resources, and the preservation and improvement of the human environment. It can be proven that the geographic pattern for the utilization of resources in Latin American countries is unbalanced. A substantial regional concentration is evident as a result of successive economic concentrations of national and foreign capitals necessary to Latin American economies.

An analysis of the problems derived from the concentration of resources in a relatively small number of large urban centers, and a greatly dispersed population and capital in rural areas, points to the need of a greater rationale in the regional use of the territory. This seeks the double objective of obtaining the maximum results from development efforts, and preventing a deterioration of the environment. Within such a context that we consider one of the basic problems of underdevelopment in Latin American countries is the concentration of population in a few urban centers, with the subsequent concentration of capital, and the need for a strategic decentralization, to permit greater access to the natural resources of a country and their more effective utilization.

v) Courses of action for development and treatment of environmental problems. The relationship between development and environmental problems has underlined the need for placing both within the logical framework of economic and social planning. Both the physical and the social aspects relating to existing production systems, require solutions including general policy decisions and an adequate use of resources. In this context, they represent one more dimension which must be borne in mind when formulating development policies and applying them to determined plans. Treatment of human environmental problems requires clear economic and financial considerations, inasmuch as decisions adopted could absorb resources which under other circumstances would be utilized to promote development. It must be clearly pointed out that the alternatives in the utilization of resources depend on the autonomous decision of each country.

Scientific and technological policies on the one hand and educational policies and formation of specialized personnel on the other, are to be found within such a framework. Other aspects of investment programs undoubtedly would prompt a more complete treatment of development problems but would not basically alter the relationship between availability of resources and the priority of development objectives.

It has been duly recognized that economic theory is still seeking answers to problems in the fields of economic development and environmental promotion. That is why the greatest caution is recommended.

The technique involved in the analyzing processes has been cited as the most encouraging for gradually integrating the large number of variables found in this type of development planning. Its application, however, can still present many serious problems. There are no adequate means of measuring non-monetary values nor of correcting certain market values, or the indispensable social and environmental elements.

It was felt that subdivision of development problems on a regional scale and subsequent treatment of urban and rural problems gives another

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basic dimension to development planning in Latin American countries. It also coincides with the need for facing up to underdevelopment problems in the field of hydrographic basins, depressed zones and multiple purpose investment programs. Regional and urban planning, two basic pillars in countering environmental problems, are also two basic dimensions of developing planning techniques.

In this context, it is necessary to underline the role which environmental hygiene must play in resolving such problems as deficiency in services and other negative factors **which have already affected Latin American countries.**

Inclusion of sources of concern relating to human environment in economic and social planning implies additional problems of coordination. These must be treated according to the characteristics of each country and the development objectives involved. This coordination in planning systems, however, will not require the creation of new specialized organizations. It will be necessary only to incorporate the new principles into existing structures. The search for the greatest possible rationale in the utilization of resources necessary to maintain and improve environment for human life, is consistent with the principle of elevating the rationale of decision making mechanisms and, in a consequence, increasing the efficiency of existing institutions. In this respect, it would be logical to expect economic and social planning systems to consider human environmental problems as part of a complex in the economic and social development of countries.

C) Conclusions

i) On a company level, market systems and economic factors generally do not consider social and environmental costs, thus contributing to the deterioration of the human environment. For this reason, solutions should be found based on a socially articulate system for development planning.

ii) It will be necessary to intensify and broaden investigation programs, and particularly the study of ecological systems in tropical and subtropical areas that constitute the greater part of Latin America, in order to give due attention to the new requirements the planning systems must meet.

iii) In order to expand these studies, it will be necessary to encourage diverse types of multinational and bilateral cooperation, giving greater importance to the role that international and regional agencies should play, not only as centers for the exchange of information, but also as agents to give technical and financial aid to the Latin American countries interested in these programs.

iv) In the areas where problems related to the human environment are of national scope, the application of any new policy measure should be undertaken voluntarily and under the exclusive responsibility of the sovereign states.

v) Latin American countries have still not reached a stage where they generate environmental pollution problems of world-wide importance, even though some of them do suffer the obvious effects of contamination provoked by alien activities. On a national scale, the environmental problems of Latin American countries are derived from their status as developing nations and cannot be defined as contamination problems of over-riding international importance.

vi) Each developing country will define its own minimal environmental goals to be reached in diverse fields and sectors such as public health, nutrition, water supply, etc., as well as the measurement of progress obtained in their search for these goals in relation to their environmental development.

vii) It is considered necessary that the developing countries include environmental improvement among many other goals set in their general development plans, and that they define priorities and scope in the light of their own cultural and social values as well as the phase of economic development through which they are passing. So considered, there need be no contradiction between development and the preservation of environment.

/viii) The aim

viii) The aim of development and the solution of problems of human environment should take into consideration, among other factors, the importance of the distribution of income and of employment, and grant major importance to public services oriented toward social welfare, thus obtaining greater public participation.

ix) Greater attention must be given to measures of policy related to the use of land, to physical planning, to the location of industries, to community health and development, in order to incorporate environmental activities into development planning.

x) Developing countries retain their right to formulate specific directives for evaluating projects in the light of environmental factors that should truly reflect the cost and social benefits of such projects, including favorable and unfavorable effects on the environment. These countries should also undertake to formulate such directives at the level of the national and international organizations that they consider pertinent.

xi) It would be advisable to compile all laws in force related to environmental control, including the ordinances and regulations on urban planning, the location and expansion of new urban centers and other such environmental questions from different countries.

xii) Special attention should be given to the creation of adequate techniques adapted to the conditions prevalent in Latin American countries and emphasizing the creation of employment and the integral exploitation of resources, including by-products of their main industries.

xiii) Specialized personnel, expert in problems of human environment, must be prepared as rapidly as possible and the problems themselves must be included in study plans in order that they be better known.

xiv) It will be advisable to formulate a scientific and technological policy closely related to plans for economic and social development in each country which would include specific measures to preserve environmental conditions and the welfare of the population. At the same time pure research programs should be set up as necessary channels for the cultural and technological development of Latin American countries.

xv) Top priority should be given to the preparation of scientists and technicians who will make in-depth studies of tropical and subtropical ecosystems, and will evaluate the problems of this region. Such technicians should have at their disposal the resources necessary to carry out detailed studies which will provide the information essential to the realization of a plan well-founded on ecological bases and an adequate structure of the territory.

xvi) Creation is recommended of biological reserve zones, with examples of diverse ecosystems. These reserves would make it possible to conduct scientific investigations. In any case, each country would determine its own needs in this regard, in keeping with the priorities of its development.

xvii) It was agreed that the ultimate end of economic development and environmental control is man's physical, mental, and social well-being. With this end in mind, the Seminar studied the resolutions adopted in the field of environmental hygiene by the 24th World Health Assembly and the XVIII Pan American Sanitary Conference. (Resolutions WHA 24.47 and XXXIV, respectively) (See Annex G).

It was agreed that health problems should not be considered complete if they do not include environmental improvement, not only in activities pertaining to government health agencies but to other departments as well. In implementing these policies, coordination should be assured with all sectors involved in human environment, so as to assure a concerted action by all concerned.

xviii) It is of outstanding importance that the developing countries establish an adequate legal basis for dealing with the respective problems of environmental preservation within the frame of their development goals.

xix) It is likewise essential that we insure the presence of adequate material conditions in the working environment, permitting workers to carry on their labor both efficiently and safely. Occupational accidents and diseases, aside from the damage they cause the persons who

/suffer them

suffer them, signify an obstacle to development. From this point of view, the importance of programs of accident and disease prevention and control becomes manifest.

xx) In closing, it is of maximum importance that we include environmental problems within the frame of general planning incorporating regional, urban and rural aspects and keeping particularly in mind the distortion caused by growth which may be observed in cities and villages of Latin America and which have caused serious problems of marginal economic and social existence. Consequently, the Seminar has determined that development planning should be carried on within the same framework, keeping in mind the territorial order implied by country-city-region relations from a socio-economic point of view.

V. INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS

The possible international repercussions of human environment problems were discussed during the Seminar, with special attention to the manner in which other countries might be affected by individual national policies for the protection of the environment.

It was agreed that there are a great number of world-wide problems that affect all countries, regardless of their size, the stage of their development, or their economic system.

Foremost are the deterioration of the balance and quality of the atmosphere, the contamination of the seas, and the dangers of radioactivity. Although Latin America's role in the prevention and control of these problems is limited, this situation does not justify an indifferent attitude toward the measures that might affect this area in the short or long range.

a) Pollution problems at the international level

The mass of pollutants and the excessive steam and heat generated by fuels in the industrialized countries, have already had an unquestionable effect on local climates, and there is no doubt that they could produce broad changes that could alter climatic conditions and life in general in the area as a whole and throughout the entire world.

Regarding the contamination of the seas, there is substantial proof that Latin America is being affected by the generalized and progressive contamination of the seas caused mainly by maritime traffic and the activity of the industrialized countries, some of them engaged in defense preparedness, in addition to the damage caused by local conditions.

It is a fact that air pollution, a byproduct of the large urban and industrial centers, travels considerable distances, often crossing national frontiers.

The deterioration of the environment may also involve more than one country when it affects international river basins or border areas where natural resources of this type are commonly shared. Since almost all the Latin American countries share relatively important routes with their neighbors, their policies concerning the management of water, vegetation cover, and soil resources involve collective interests that require international collaboration. Considering the danger of contamination and excessive exploitation of maritime resources, their study and use should be based on a rational and collectively adopted policy of utilization and conservation.

The fundamental concern of the countries of the area represented by the Committee, however, was the possible repercussion of measures taken by the industrialized countries to control the quality of their environment. The Committee agreed that it is of utmost importance that the Latin American governments assemble, facts on these possible effects so as to limit their negative impact and so as to benefit from the opportunities that might be derived from the situation. Thus, in any event, Latin America would be adequately prepared to take an active part in the decisions to be reached during the Conference in Stockholm.

Within this context, the discussion was centered mainly on the two following points: (a) the general principles that the governments should follow considering the possible international implications of the matter; (b) an analysis of the manner in which such implications might affect trade, international cooperation, the transfer of technology, and the reallocation of industrial activities; and (c) the possibility of cooperation at the regional and international levels.

b) General Considerations

There was a consensus that the relatively low level of development in most of the countries and regions of the Continent is the chief cause of deterioration of the human environment and of the living conditions of their peoples. In this sense, development becomes, in essence, a solution to their main environmental problems.

/Therefore

Therefore, the decisions to reconcile the conservation and improvement of the environment with the goals for economic and social development should be taken within the frame work of their individual development processes.

The main source of environmental pollution and degeneration in the air, on land, and at sea can be attributed to the actions and policies of the developed countries. Therefore, their efforts to solve environmental problems should not be limited to controlling pollution within their national boundaries; rather they should accept their responsibilities as the international level. Not only should these countries try to avoid the negative effects of their environmental policies on the developing countries, but they should also aid in accelerating the development process of the lesser industrialized countries and in this way help to solve most of their environmental problems and prevent possible future ones.

Thus, for example, the industrial readjustment policies adopted --or to be adopted-- by the industrialized countries due to the growing need to control environmental pollution should be aimed at not producing negative effects on the development processes of the poorer countries so as not to aggravate any further the precarious situation of the quality of life in their societies.

The industrialized countries' concern for their own environment does not, and should not, lessen the commitment they have with the world community in the enormous effort required to develop its lesser favored areas.

As stated in the Founex report, this concern should "not only [stress] the imperative of a formal pledge to achieve the goals established for the Second Development Decade, but also redeline them so as to be able to combat the object poverty that is the most important cause of the problems affecting environmental conditions of most of Mankind."

Many countries expressed the belief that the study of environmental problems concerns all peoples and all countries of the world and that consequently this issue should be treated on a universal basis with equal participation by all the countries, which should be invited to take part in

/the debate,

the debate, contribute their experiences, and join in the world-wide struggle to preserve the environment and improve the quality of life for all men on earth.

It was pointed out, moreover, that, given the special nature of the environmental problems in the developing countries, the Stockholm Conference should take into account the differences in the problems in these countries resulting from their various levels of development.

c) Implications of environmental action taken by the industrialized countries

In the course of the Seminar attention was called to the fact that, unless preventive steps are taken, the efforts currently being made by the developing countries to accelerate their economic and social development could be seriously affected by the measures taken by industrialized countries to control environmental pollution.

Concerning international trade, the following points were mentioned:

a) the possibility of creating new trade barriers that would affect the developing countries in an effort to compensate for increased industrial costs in the developed countries, thus establishing new protectionist systems; b) the possible limitation of raw material exports as a consequence of measures against environmental pollution; c) the reduction of exports of certain raw materials vital to the economies of the developing countries owing to the use of pollution-preventing techniques - as for example recycling, and d) consequent deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries as a result of increased import costs of industrialized products.

In respect to aid for development, it was pointed out that both the volume and the terms and conditions of present international aid for development could be affected by: a) and increase in governmental

/expenditures

expenditures by the developed countries due to their policies for pollution control, which could lead to further reductions in financial aid to the developing countries; b) the establishment of standards for pollution control by bilateral or multilateral financial assistance agencies, which could lead, in the best of cases, to a delay in negotiations for a loan or, in more serious circumstances, to a refusal of aid for certain development projects in the underdeveloped countries.

On the subject of transfer of technology, which is so important to the acceleration of the development process of the developing countries, great concern was expressed both over the increased cost that could result from measures to preserve the environment and over the need for carrying out new efforts to adapt technology to the special conditions and needs of the developing countries.

On the redistribution of industrial activities, there was general consensus that the decisions that have been or may be adopted by some of the industrialized countries in regard to transferring the highly contaminating industries now operating within their territories to other areas should be carefully studied by the countries of the region in order to weigh the positive effects of increased industrial activity against the possibility of imports, coming to constitute a severe contamination hazard in time.

Over all, the negative aspects of the world-wide concern over the conditions of the human environment could affect the international relations simultaneously of the Latin American countries at different levels. Possibly, a decline in income from exports could coincide with a reduction in the flow of external aid; the higher cost of imports essential to the development process could be further increased by the added cost of mechanisms to control the contamination produced by national industries. These combined effects could lead to a slowing down

/or even to

or even to a halt in the growth rates of the countries of the region and seriously curtail the efforts of their governments to accelerate the economic and social development process.

It was also mentioned that there are instances in which the measures to control environmental pollution in the developed countries could be a benefit to the developing countries - for example, when pollution control systems accelerate the development process (as in the recycling of water used for irrigation and other purposes) or abate costs (as in certain recycling techniques).

The Seminar pointed out the new opportunities for the region resulting from the improved competitive position of natural products vis-a-vis synthetics owing to their less contaminating effects. The concern over conservation of the environment could also lead to the renegotiation of long-range price agreements and even to the review of existing mineral and oil concessions.

d) Conclusions regarding the international impact of environmental conservation measures taken by the industrialized countries

To avoid the negative effects that have been pointed out, the Seminar considered it desirable to draw some conclusions in order to guide the governments of the region in their presentation of these problems at the Stockholm Conference and to coordinate the regional action that it would be desirable to take prior to the meeting.

e) International trade

a) It was considered necessary to recommend that UNCTAD carry out continuing studies and reviews of the possible damages to the exports of the developing countries caused by the measures adopted, or that might be adopted in the future, by the developed countries as a result of their concern over environmental deterioration. These studies would analyze the potential harm that could be caused to such exports and make suggestions for the prevention thereof.

/b) In the

b) In the event that the developed countries should establish new trade barriers as a consequence of their environmental conservation policies, they should agree that such barriers should not apply to exports of developing countries.

c) Suitable mechanisms should be devised to compensate for the decline in exports from the developing countries owing to new demands of the importers, new techniques, or increased prices of imports due to similar causes.

d) It was considered necessary to request the United Nations, and in particular UNCTAD, FAO and WHO, to establish ~~multilateral~~ and bilateral consultation mechanisms among its member states for careful consideration of the points mentioned above.

f) International aid

The Seminar considered that international financial assistance programs should give special attention to: (a) the need to provide new funds, under the most favorable terms and conditions possible, for attending the most urgent needs of the developing countries, i.e.: (i) the rising costs that will result from the industrial restructuring necessary to adapt certain branches of industry to new standards of environmental control; (ii) absorption and adaptation of the modern technologies imposed by new methods of environmental control; (b) the possible damage that might be inflicted on developing nations if foreign aid were reduced even further than its present level owing to the increased costs that would be implied by environmental control and preservation systems; and, (c) the fact that governments and multilateral agencies should not condition their policies of financial cooperation in development projects on the fulfillment of standards fixed by their own authorities. The Seminar felt that all developing countries should ~~exercise their sovereignty in determining~~ for themselves the norms and standards to be observed, in the light of their national priorities, their state of development, and the environmental conditions they consider most appropriate for their societies.

The Seminar noted, in respect to the transfer of technology: (a) the need to accelerate technology transfer to developing nations under more favorable terms than at present (thus allowing these nations to include environmental preservation criteria in the setting of their economic development policies); (b) the urgent need for giving the greatest possible attention to the adaptation of imported technologies at lower costs to the human and natural resources of the developing nations and to their environmental preservation needs; (c) the need to give attention to the technologies employed by certain types of private foreign investment, when these do not conform to adequate ecological criteria or to the standards fixed by each country for the preservation of its environment. Particular concern was shown over the lack of adequate methods of waste disposal and the harmful effects of pollution caused by petroleum exploration and industrialization.

g) Transfer of industries

In respect to the transfer of certain industrial activities to the developing nations due to environmental concern in the industrialized nations, the Seminar deemed it convenient to recommend that in providing new locations for such industries the following aspects be taken into account: (i) that the terms and conditions of such decisions be favorable and acceptable to each country; (ii) that the net resources be applied to the investment process; and (iii) that respect be maintained for national standards of environmental protection.

h) International cooperation

The Seminar insisted on the need for using all possible means of international, financial, and technical cooperation to aid the developing nations, including those of Latin America, in solving their environmental problems and minimizing the effects that environmental preservation policies of the developed nations might have on their own development efforts. It was particularly noted that efforts to improve the human environment

/will only

will only prove truly effective when world peace has been achieved and present-day international tensions have been relieved. This would also allow resources now being devoted to warlike ends to be diverted to international aid programs for environmental preservation.

On the regional level, particular emphasis was placed on: (a) the need for the nations of the region to effect the greatest possible exchange of information on environmental problems, utilizing the aid of the specialized regional organizations that already exist for this purpose; (b) the need to obtain greater technical assistance and to carry out new investigations that will aid the countries of the region in solving present environmental problems and preventing future deterioration of environmental conditions; scientific and financial collaboration of the developed nations and specialized international agencies was considered indispensable in achieving these ends; (c) the interest in carrying out joint studies of environmental problems in border areas and on the high seas, in order to preserve the environment in accordance with the development and land use allocation policies of each nation; (d) the convenience of maintaining the highest possible degree of coordination among the technical agencies operating in the Latin American area, in order to take advantage of their accumulated experience and avoid the creation of new and unnecessary structures; (e) the desirability of convocation by such agencies of consultative seminars at the technical level to facilitate the exchange of scientific information, and of investigation of possibilities for installing information and bibliographical documentation centers for the collection of data related to the preservation of the environment and to the quality of human living conditions in the region; (f) the need for unifying the criteria, concepts, and terminology followed in dealing with human environment problems; in this way it would also be possible to determine national, regional and global spheres of interest in environmental problems; (g) the need

/for recommending

for recommending to the governments the creation of an international organization empowered to establish a general or interregional system for controlling atmospheric quality and determining the effects of pollutants on climatological conditions, ecological systems, and human health, patterned on the structure of the Latin American Center of Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Science (PAHO/WHO).

At the international level, the Seminar considered it desirable:

a) to recommend that a meeting of all Latin American governments be held for consultation on the topics to be dealt with in the Stockholm Conference in the most appropriate forum. This will allow for an ample exchange of opinions among the governments and will be especially useful in determining the position of the nations of the region in respect to the possible harmful effects of environmental protection procedures that might be adopted by the industrialized nations. The Seminar requests that the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, ECLA, and the specialized agencies in the region continue to provide technical aid to the different nations in order to help them develop their viewpoints for the Stockholm Conference; b) to lend support, through the international financing organizations, to granting new additional funds for financing environmental protection projects and programs, particularly those designed for less-developed areas; c) to fix time limits for the official adoption of international quality standards, particularly in regard to trade in foodstuffs, and to request FAO and PAHO/WHO to exercise surveillance of the standards that are specified; d) to review the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade in the light of the additional need of the developing nations to safeguard and improve their environment. Also, the developed nations and the corresponding international organizations would be asked to provide the developing nations with whatever technical and financial assistance is necessary for transforming their production processes in such a way as to permit their adaptation to the

new conditions set by importing nations; e) to give ample support to every measure tending to improve, at the international level, knowledge and investigation of environmental problems in developing nations, to the dissemination of such knowledge in all nations, to the formation of the technical cadres necessary for dealing with environmental preservation problems, and to the establishment of surveillance systems at international and regional levels that will reinforce those already in existence; f) various nations proposed support for the creation of a special fund for meeting the requirements of environmental preservation at the international levels, as well as for the concession of additional financing to cover costs of relieving or correcting financial harm to developing nations arising from measures adopted by industrialized nations for the preservation of their environment. In negotiating funds for this purpose, the countries that at the present time are most responsible for pollution of the environment should be asked to contribute the largest shares.

Finally, the Seminar considered that all international cooperative efforts in the field of environmental protection should be based on the principle that it is a sovereign right of each Latin American nation to take such measures as it considers convenient for the preservation of its environment, within the limits implied by the needs and priorities of its own development process, and with due consideration for the regional responsibilities each nation has for upholding the collective interest in the preservation of the environment in Latin America.

Annex A

AGENDA

1. Inauguration
2. Election of officers
3. Review and approval of the agenda
4. Organization of the work

Documentation

Informative Document No. 2

5. Overall view of environmental and development problems in Latin America

Documentation

The human environment and economic development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2), a document prepared by ECLA in collaboration with ILPES and the FAO Regional Office for Latin American Development and the environment (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3)

6. Situation of the environment in Latin America
 - a) General outlook and availability of information
 - b) Human settlements
 - c) Natural resources
 - d) Pollution

Documentation

The human environment and economic development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2)
Environmental problems of urban development (IDB Document No. 1)
Conservation of hydraulic resources. Pollution problems (IDB Document No. 3)
Environmental problems of agricultural settlement and agrarian reform (IDB Document No. 4)
Investigation of physical resources for economic development
A practical compendium of OAS experience in Latin America (OAS, 1)
Renewable natural resources conservation policy in Peru (OAS,2)(only spanish)
Development of water resources. Santa Lucia River watershed (OAS,3)(only spanish)
Toward a policy of urban environmental control in Latin America (OAS Doc. No. 4)
Urban growth and the human-environment in Latin America (OAS Doc. No. 5)
Environmental health activities of the Pan-American Health Organization (PHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Americas (PHO Doc. No. 1)

7. Development and the environment in Latin America

- a) Importance of human environment problems in developing countries, with special reference to Latin America
- b) Relationship between development problems of the human environment
- c) The human environment and the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in Latin America

Documentation

The human environment and economic development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2), Chapters I and III
Development and the environment (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3) Chapters 1 and 2, Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Report of the Secretary General (A/Conf.48/PC.11) (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.4)
Accounting for environmental pollution in the social cost-benefit analyses of industry (IDB Doc. No. 2)
Environmental health activities of the Pan-American Health Organization (PHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Americas (PHO Doc. No. 1)

8. The human environment in the context of national development policy

- a) National, regional and local planning relating to the human environment
- b) Policy governing population settlement patterns and natural resources
- c) The problems of the human environment in project preparation and evaluation

/Documentation

Documentation

The human environment and economic development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2), Chapter III
Development and the environment (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3), Chapter 3
Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Report of the Secretary General (A/Conf.48/PC.11) (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.4)
Environmental problems of urban development (IDB Doc. No. 1)
Conservation of hydraulic resources. Pollution problems (IDB Doc. No. 3)
Environmental problems of agricultural settlement and agrarian reform (IDB Doc. No. 4)
Investigation of physical resources for economic development. A practical compendium of OAS experience in Latin America (OAS Doc. No. 1)
Renewable natural resources conservation policy in Peru (OAS, 2) (only spanish)
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Urban growth and the human environment in Latin America (OAS Doc. No. 5)
Environmental health activities of the Pan American Health Organization (PHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Americas (PHO Doc. No. 1)

9. International aspects of problems of the human environment
- a) International trade
 - b) Transfer of technology
 - c) International cooperation
 - d) Regional problems
 - e) Other aspects

Documentation

The human environment and economic development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2), Chapter IV
Development and the environment (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3), Chapters 4 and 5
Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Report of the Secretary General (A/Conf.48/PC.11) (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.4)

10. Conclusions

- a) On the problems of the human environment in Latin America
- b) On Latin America's participation in the Stockholm Conference

Documentation

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Report of the Secretary General (A/Conf.48/PC.11)
(ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.4)

11. Review and approval of the Rapporteur's Account of Proceedings

12. Adjournment

/Annex B

Anexo B

LISTA DE DELEGACIONES

ESTADOS MIEMBROS DE LA COMISION

Argentina

Sr. Javier Fernández, Secretario de la Embajada
Sr. Eduardo Pedace, Director del Departamento de Saneamiento Ambiental
Srta. Martha Gil Montero, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología

Barbados

Sr. Luther A. Bourne, Oficina de Planeamiento de la Ciudad
Sr. Arthur B. Archer, Ingeniero en Salud Pública

Brasil

Sr. Miguel Ozorio de Almeida, Embajador
Sr. Paulo Roberto Barthel Rosa, Secretario de la Embajada en México
Sr. Mario Grieco, Secretario de la Embajada, Brasilia

Canadá

Sr. Christopher O. Spencer, Consejero de la Misión Permanente ante las Naciones Unidas
Sr. Paul Thibault, Segundo Secretario de la Embajada en México
Sr. C. Ian Jackson, Jefe Interino, División de Asuntos del Medio Humano
Sr. A. H. Booth, Director, Saneamiento sobre el Medio Ambiente Humano

Colombia

Sr. Carlos Arturo Caparrosa, Consejero de la Embajada, Observador

Costa Rica

Sr. Carlos A. Moreno B., Ministro Consejero

/Cuba

Cuba

Sr. Pelegrín Torres de la Luz, Director de Organismos Económicos Internacionales de la CNCECT
Sr. Jorgo Royes Vega, Primer Secretario de la Embajada
Sr. Joel Ballesté Quintero, Viccdirector, Instituto de Planificación Física
Sr. Rafael Garrote Rosós, Subdirector del Grupo Técnico Agrícola de la División Nacional de la Reforma Agraria
Sr. Víctor L. Kautzman, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Chile

Sr. Hugo Vigorena, Embajador en México
Sr. Fernando Cisternas Mathus, Primer Secretario de la Embajada
Sr. Armando Radrigán Lacoste, Jefe del Departamento de Programas Nacionales
Sr. Raimundo Hoderra Bravo, Jefe de Higiene Ambiental, Servicio Nacional de Salud
Sra. Hilda Fierro Royes, Médico del Subdepartamento de Protección de la Salud

Ecuador

Sr. René Calle Cabrera, Médico Programador de la Salud, Junta Nacional de Planificación
Sra. Gladys Pozo de Ruiz

Estados Unidos de América

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Sr. Richard E. Reavis, Jefe de Proyectos de la Frontera
Sr. Glenn E. Schweitzer, Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional

Francia

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Guatemala

Sr. Angel Alberto Gaitán Hernández, Primer Secretario y Consul General

/ Haití

Haití

Sr. Guy Dumesle, Primer Secretario de la Embajada en México

Honduras

Sr. Julio Mejía

Jamaica

Sr. Probyne Marsh, Representante ante las Naciones Unidas

México

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Sr. Enrique Márquez Mayaudón, Vicepresidente de la Delegación
Sr. Víctor Alfonso Maldonado, Coordinador Nacional
Srta. Aida González Martínez, Delegado y Secretario General
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Sr. Ignacio Narvaéz, Delegado
Sr. José Antonio Ayza Bernat, Delegado
Sr. César Buenrostro Hernández, Delegado
Sr. Juan B. Puig, Delegado
Sr. Samuel Alba Loyva, Delegado
Sr. Miguel Ángel García Lara, Delegado
Sr. Arturo Gómez Pompa, Delegado
Sr. Agustín Ayala Castañares, Delegado
Sr. Gonzalo Lira Porrágas, Delegado
Sr. Ricardo Robledo Limón, Delegado
Sr. Gustavo Calderón Rivoroll, Delegado Alterno
Sr. Francisco González de Cossío, Delegado Alterno
Sr. Pedro Alvarado, Delegado Alterno
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Sr. Leopoldo Domínguez Montes, Delegado Alterno
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Sr. Raúl Cid del Prado, Delegado Alterno
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Sr. Vicente López Ysita, Asesor
Sr. Federico Sánchez Cuesta, Asesor

/Sr. Raúl

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Sr. Carlos Zavaleta Rivera, Consojero Cultural de la Embajada en México
Sr. Jorge Ferrándiz Camacho, Director del Instituto de Salud Ocupacional

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Sr. Johan P. Schulz, Conservador de Bosques (Surinam)

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Sr. W. G. Doherty, Observador

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Sr. Adolfo Cutinella, Asesor Oficial de Planeamiento

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LO SON DE LA COMISION Y PARTICIPAN CON CARACTER CONSULTIVO

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Sr. Eduardo Sales Novas

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Sr. Newton V. Cordeiro, Director División II
Sr. Tim E.U. Campbell, Técnico Especialista
Sr. Braulio Orejas Miranda
Sr. Charles Frankerhoff

Secretaría Permanente del Tratado de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA)

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- Sr. Abraham Bennaton Ramos, Asesor del Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica
- Sr. Philip L. Boreano, Profesor de la Universidad de Cornell
- Sr. Edgardo Boeninger, Rector de la Universidad de Chile
- Sr. Rodrigo Botero, Federación para el Desarrollo Económico, Bogotá
- Sra. Neoma Castañeda, México
- Sr. Francesco Di Castri, Director del Instituto de Ecología, Universidad Austral de Valdivia
- Sr. Morton Gordon, Consultor de Planeamiento, Naciones Unidas
- Sr. Joahn J. Hanlon, Servicio de Sanidad Pública, Washington
- Sr. Michael Nelson, Economista, ILPES
- Sr. Héctor Noriega Díaz, Instituto AURIS, México
- Sr. Manuel Noriega Morales, Director del Instituto Centroamericano de Investigación y Tecnología Industrial
- Sr. German Samper Gnecco, Colombia
- Sr. Robert Spizzichino, Director de Investigaciones, Institut de l'Environnement, Francia
- Sr. Víctor L. Urquidi, Presidente de El Colegio de México
- Sr. Israel Wonsowar, Facultad de Economía de la Universidad de Montevideo

DOCUMENTACION BASICA E INFORMATIVA
BASIC AND INFORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

Lista de documentos

List of documents

I. DOCUMENTOS EN ESPAÑOL
I. DOCUMENTS IN SPANISH

Documentos Básicos

Basic Documents

1. Temario (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.1)
2. El medio ambiente humano y el desarrollo económico en América Latina (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2)
3. El desarrollo y el medio ambiente (Grupo de expertos convocado por el Secretario General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Humano) (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3)
4. Comisión Preparatoria de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Humano. Informe del Secretario General (A/Conf.48/PC.11) (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.4)
5. Informe del relator del Seminario (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.5)

Informes Nacionales

National Reports

1. Informe Nacional de la República Argentina
2. Informe Nacional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
3. Informe Nacional de Chile

Documentos del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)

Documents of the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)

1. Problemas ambientales del desarrollo urbano
2. El papel de la contaminación ambiental en los análisis sociales de costo-beneficio de la industria de América Latina

/3. Conservación

3. Conservación de recursos hidráulicos. Problemas de contaminación
4. Problemas ambientales del asentamiento agrícola y la reforma agraria

Documentos de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)
Documents of the Organization of American States (OAS)

1. Investigación de los recursos físicos para el desarrollo económico. Un compendio práctico de la experiencia de campo de la OEA en la América Latina
2. Política de conservación de recursos naturales renovables del Perú
3. Desarrollo de los recursos hídricos. Cuenca del río Santa Lucía
4. Hacia una política de control ambiental urbano en América Latina
5. Urbanización y el medio ambiente humano en América Latina

Documentos de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)
Documents of the Pan American Health Organization (PHO)

1. Actividades de salud ambiental que la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) llevan a cabo en las Américas

Documentos informativos
Informative documents

1. Antecedentes, organización y puntos principales del temario
2. Organización de las labores y calendario de trabajo
3. Lista provisional de documentos básicos
4. Recomendaciones del Seminario Centroamericano sobre el Medio Ambiente Físico y el Desarrollo
5. Lista provisional de delegaciones
6. La relación entre el hombre y su ambiente: El problema de la década de 1970 (Conferencia Sanitaria Panamericana)
9. Factores ambientales que determinan el bienestar de la comunidad (OPS)

10. Control de la contaminación del agua (OPS)
12. Manual sobre Administración y Gerencia de servicios de agua y alcantarillas (OPS)
13. Seminario Latinoamericano sobre Contaminación del Aire
14. Lista de documentos
15. Discurso del Sr. Strong, Secretario General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Humano
16. Discurso del Sr. Carlos Quintana, Secretario Ejecutivo de la CEPAL
17. Programa de la Cuenca del Río de la Plata (OEA)
18. Palabras del Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana, Oficina Regional para las Américas de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, pronunciadas en la Sesión Inaugural del Seminario
19. Breve consideración sobre la problemática del medio ambiente humano. Caso Ecuatoriano
20. Lucha contra el despilfarro. Los valores ambientales y el aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales (FAO)
23. Una perspectiva general del Seminario Latinoamericano sobre Problemas del Medio Ambiente Humano presentación del tema por el Sr. Alfonso Santa Cruz
24. Los problemas del medio ambiente en los países en desarrollo (Grupo de Trabajo convocado por SCOPE, Canberra, Australia)
25. Emblema oficial adoptado por la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Humano
26. Palabras pronunciadas en la sesión inaugural por el Dr. Arnoldo Gabaldón, en representación de las Delegaciones
27. Planificación y ordenación de los asentamientos humanos desde el punto de vista de la calidad del medio ambiente (experiencias de Cuba)
32. El hombre y su medio ambiente. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología. México

33. Discurso pronunciado por el Secretario General de la Conferencia sobre el Medio Ambiente Humano de las Naciones Unidas ante el Seminario del Instituto para el Entrenamiento e Investigación de las Naciones Unidas
34. Análisis del desarrollo de la sociedad guatemalteca y de la situación de la familia, la infancia y la juventud
35. Informe nacional sobre la situación de la familia, la infancia y la juventud (Guatemala)
36. Palabras del señor Jesús Cabrera Muñoz Ledo en la primera sesión de trabajo, al tomar posesión como presidente del Seminario
37. Medio Ambiente Humano. Problemas ecológicos nacionales (Secretaría de la Presidencia)

II. DOCUMENTOS EN INGLES
II. DOCUMENTS IN ENGLISH

Documentos Básicos
Basic Documents

1. Provisional Agenda (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.1)
2. The Human Environment and Economic Development in Latin America (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.2)
3. Development and Environment (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.3)
4. Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Report of the Secretary General (ST/ECLA/Conf.40/L.4)

Informes Nacionales
National Reports

3. Canada's National Report

Documentos del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)
Documents of the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)

1. Environmental Problems of Urban Development

/2. Accounting

2. Accounting for Environmental Pollution in the Social Cost-Benefit Analysis of Industry
3. Water Resources Pollution in Latin America: Some Basic Concepts
4. Environmental Problems of Agricultural Settlement and Agrarian Reform

Documentos de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)

Documents of the Organization of American States (OAS)

1. Investigation of Physical Resources for Economic Development. A Practical Compendium of OAS Experience in Latin America
4. Toward a Policy of Urban Environmental Control in Latin America
5. Urban Growth and the Human Environment in Latin America

Documentos de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)

Documents of the Pan American Health Organization (PHO)

1. Environmental Health Activities of the Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization in the Americas

Documentos Informativos en Inglés

Informative Documents in English

1. Background, Organization and Principal Points on the Agenda
2. Organization of Work and Provisional Schedule of Activities
7. Problems of the Human Environment (Twenty-Fourth WHO Assembly)
8. Community Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Programs in Latin America and Caribbean Countries (Pan American Health Organization)
11. Health Conditions in the Americas 1965-68. Pan American Health Organization (FAO)
18. Presentation of Dr. Abraham Horwitz at the inaugural session of the Seminar
20. War or Waste. Environmental values and the use of natural Resources (FAO)

Annex D

ADDRESS BY MR MAURICE STRONG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AT THE
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE SEMINAR

First of all I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency, Licenciado Hugo Cervantes del Rio, Secretary of the Presidency of the Government of Mexico, for his warm and encouraging words at the opening of our deliberations. I am also grateful to His Excellency, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Licenciado Emilio O. Rabasa, who has also honoured us today with his presence.

Since the major aim of the common concern which brings us together here is to deal with the changes that are taking place in the world as a consequence of the imbalances in the relationship between man and his environment, our presence in this country, must be for us a clear encouragement to new thinking and new attitudes towards this crucial matter.

Fifty years ago Mexico was able to make one of the most dramatic and revolutionary transformations which any society has made, changing the path of its history towards new horizons of hope, progress and social change. But you did not stop there.

Your drive continues. The courageous and dynamic personality of its President, Mr. Echeverria -when looking for new solutions to the social and economic problems of Mexico to continue and expand the scope of the Mexican Revolution, to improve the conditions of life in the rural areas, to speed up the mechanisms of better employment and more adequate distribution of income and to accelerate the process of industrialization- is giving concrete answers, within the boundaries of this country's national determination,

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to the improvement of the Human Environment in Mexico. And this, not only in Mexico, but in all of Latin America, is precisely the major issue before this seminar.

Let me also express my warmest thanks to my esteemed friend and colleague, the Executive Secretary of ECLA, Mr. Carlos Quintana a distinguished son of this country, for convening this Seminar and for giving it the benefit of his personal interest and participation.

It is indeed a privilege for me to be associated with ECLA, an organization whose intellectual leadership has meant so much to Latin America as well as to the whole United Nations family, since the early days of its former Executive Secretary and world citizen Dr. Raúl Prebisch, whose advice and guidance have meant so much to me.

I also want to recognize our debt of gratitude towards the staff of ECLA, both in Santiago and in Mexico, for their contribution and in particular to Ambassador Alfonso Santa Cruz for his personal dedication to the organization of this Seminar under extremely difficult circumstances. I greatly appreciate too, the wise, friendly and efficient cooperation of the Director-General of the Pan American Health Organization, who is with us today. Dr. Abraham Horwitz and his staff have, indeed, pioneered the improvement of the human environment of this region and have been enthusiastic supporters of our work from the very beginning. I am deeply grateful for the support and assistance we have received from the other regional members of the United Nations family, particularly FAO.

Finally, let me extend my warmest appreciation for the decisive and intense support, both personal and intellectual, of the OAS and other members of the Inter-American System, the generous intellectual and financial contribution of the IDB, as well as the contribution and the presence here of several distinguished guests from the academic community of Latin America.

I am indeed encouraged by the attendance and quality of the participants in this Seminar, it being the first in Latin America to consider the issue of the human environment in the region.

In his first message to the Nation, His Excellency the President of Mexico, Mr. Luis Echeverría recently stated: "Modern man seems to have forgotten that his survival depends on the balance of the environment which can be easily upset. Serious risks to health and public welfare, as well as damages to the fauna and flora, brought about by environmental pollution, are the high price which large human conglomerations pay."

"The problem of pollution appears not only in the large urban centers, but also extends to the rural areas, small towns, rivers, lakes and oceans. Nevertheless it is in the heavily populated and industrial areas where it becomes more acute."

"The most alarming characteristics are now apparent in the Mexico City metropolitan area. The large concentration of automobiles, the huge amounts of waste generated by this population, the accumulation and collection of garbage, industrial wastes and frequent dust storms have brought about a noticeable deterioration in our environment".

After these words, there cannot be clearer evidence of the importance for Latin American leaders of the issues to be dealt with by the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. This promises to be a historic conference- one which will engage the attention of the peoples of the World on an unprecedented scale, and which hopefully should lead to bold new steps aimed at providing better conditions of life for the entire family of man. But the Stockholm Conference can only fulfill its promise if it fully engages the energies and insights of this dynamic continent, and serves the priority needs and interests of the nations and peoples of Latin America.

Latin America is a unique case of unity in the developing world. Historical and cultural bonds have given to this region a powerful image all over the World. It is very clear that Latin America is searching through different paths for new ways of progress and social justice. It is forging an authentic "Latin American way of life", in which technology and the resources available for development are made to serve Latin American values, to accord with its cultural traditions, and to fully meet the needs and aspirations of its peoples.

The world concern for environment, should not and must not generate external forces to divert you from your present political and economic concerns. Rather, it should be a challenge which reinforces your commitments to the goals of development, laying the foundations of the Latin American approach to this new global concern, as you have done in many other fields of international cooperation. This is the reason why I attach such paramount importance to this Seminar. We need guidance on what you consider to be your most important needs and the priorities both at the national and regional levels; and we need to know your views on the global concerns and the responsibilities you share with all the people of the world.

The papers prepared for this Seminar, by the United Nations regional agencies and the organizations of the Inter-American System, the national reports already received from Latin American countries, and the report of the meeting of experts on "Development and Environment" held at Founex, Switzerland, last June, provide us with an excellent starting point.

Indeed, I want to thank and congratulate all those responsible for these documents. They will be extremely useful for the countries of the region as well as for the preparation of our Conference.

Stockholm itself is to be an "action" conference - one in which governments will be expected to take decisions on specific matters which will constitute a concerted global attack on the problems of the environment. But as most actions will have to be taken on the national and regional levels, the proposals placed before governments in Stockholm must reflect the needs and priorities

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of each region. That is why I hope this Seminar will help move us towards action at Stockholm by concentrating its attention on those issues requiring concrete action from the Latin American point of view. You may even wish to consider immediate action within the region to facilitate a concerted Latin American approach to regional environmental concerns.

It is not only in Latin America but throughout the developing world that the concern for the human environment is mounting and that preparations for the Stockholm conference are engaging the attention of governments and experts from the non-governmental sector. This Seminar, as you know, is one of four such meetings being held in the developing regions as part of the preparatory process.

I have just come from the seminars convened in Bangkok by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and from Addis Ababa where a similar regional seminar was convened by the Economic Commission for Africa. The one for the Middle East organized by the Economic and Social Affairs office in Beirut will begin September 27th.

It may be useful for me at this point to give you a brief report on the present state of the other principle elements in our preparations for Stockholm so that you may see this Latin American Seminar in relation to the whole process of which it is such a vital part.

When I left Geneva, more than 70 national reports had already been received and this number should soon reach 100, most of these are the result of environmental surveys instituted for the first time by the governments concerned. These same 70 governments have established some form of governmental machinery to deal with environmental matters. The 130 other reports have come in from United Nations' agencies, other inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental sources.

The cooperation we have received from the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the other members of the U.N. family, has been nothing short of remarkable. Their participation in this seminar is indeed further evidence of the important contribution they are making to our preparations.

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A series of meetings is taking place in various parts of the world to consider and advise us on a whole range of particular issues, from effects on climate to post-Stockholm organizational arrangements. These meetings are giving us the advantage of advice and guidance from a wide variety of sources in governments, international agencies and non-governmental sector.

For example, the International Council of Scientific Unions' Special Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) has just held a meeting in Canberra, Australia, at my request in cooperation with the U.N. Office of Science and Technology to advise us concerning the chief environmental problems of developing countries as seen by the scientists and to discuss how to obtain the maximum participation of leaders of science from these countries in various global environment programmes. A number of Latin American scientists participated in this meeting.

A widely representative group of the world's intellectual and scientific leaders, under the chairmanship of the distinguished biologist and philosopher Dr. René Dubos, has been commissioned to produce a report on "The State of the World's Environment" which will provide a broad conceptual framework for the work of the conference. Lady Barbara Ward Jackson, who first gave us the concept of "spaceship earth", is writing the report.

Five inter-governmental working groups have been established to identify and formulate specific action proposals in the fields of soils, marine pollution, monitoring and surveillance and conservation. The fifth group has begun the task of drafting the Declaration on the Human Environment which should establish the beginnings of a new code of principles and values governing international environmental relations. Let me mention just a few of the action proposals being considered by these groups to indicate their scope and variety:

- a draft convention on ocean dumping of toxic wastes and a comprehensive plan for the conservation of the marine environment;
- inventories of existing natural environmental resources and of the impacts of these resources on the national level;
- a series of measures to deal with the urgency of preventing soil

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deterioration, including land use planning;

- the establishment of genetic pools to preserve species of plants and animals whose existence is threatened as a result of man's impact on the biosphere.

This list is necessarily incomplete and merely illustrative.

It is also important to note that the preparatory work for the Conference has thus far brought together in one place a vast amount of knowledge and this, in the long run, will be one of the most important -and lasting- by-products of Stockholm.

More and more leading government officials in various nations are becoming actively involved, as are leading scientists and other outstanding experts, and their activities individually and collectively - are adding significantly to their countries' knowledge base on the environment.

One of the questions I am asked frequently during my travels in the developing world is: "How does the new concern for human environment affect the developing countries and why should we be interested in it when we are at such an early stage of our development?". Indeed it is often thought of as exclusively a rich country's disease and I have had many suggestions that if more industry means more pollution, then developing countries should welcome more pollution. This is of course a dangerously superficial over-simplification. The real answers to this crucial questions are now emerging from the developing countries themselves where a growing number of key people, like those assembled here, are looking deeply into the realities of the environmental issue which are now unfolding.

It should surprise no one that nations just beginning the industrialization process would be willing to accept a bit of factory smoke, industrial effluents and automobile exhaust if it will bring them the jobs and material goods they so desperately need to build better lives for their people. That is what the industrialized countries did at the same stage of their development and what many of them still do. As a consequence that is where the environment issue first came to a head as an expression of concern over the adverse consequences of many of the varied practices and technologies which first produced their affluence.

So it is understandable why some of your countrymen have questioned the relevance of the environment issue to your own compelling priority of building your own economies.

This basic question was the subject of a meeting at Founex, Switzerland, to which I have already referred, attended by 27 eminent world experts joined by others from within the United Nations system. This group included several Latin Americans:

Dr. Felipe Herrera, former President of the Inter American Development Bank and one of the most prestigious intellectual leaders of the region; Mr. Jose Antonio Mayobre, former Executive Secretary of ECLA; Ambassador Ozorio from Brazil; Mrs. Castañeda from Mexico; and also distinguished representatives from Latin American organizations, Mr. Santa Cruz, from ECLA; Mr. Kirk Rodgers from OAS; Mr. Luciano Tomassini from the International Development Bank.

I am pleased that Ambassador Miguel Ozorio, Dr. Castañeda, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Tomassini are participating in this seminar and that we also have the benefit of the participation of Dr. Enrique Iglesias, a distinguished Latin American from Uruguay, who is another of the architects of the Founex report. We have been extremely fortunate that Dr. Iglesias has been willing to devote his talent and energies to coordinating the organization of all four regional seminars. He will be able to inform you of the results of the Bangkok and Addis Ababa meetings.

The report of the Founex meeting has been transmitted to governments and United Nations and other agencies concerned. Copies of it are included in the documents for this seminar.

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I do not think I overstate the case when I say that the Founex Report marks a historic turning point in the development - environment dialogue. It makes clear that the issue of human environment is of great importance to developing countries and that it must be regarded as an integral aspect of their own development process. It refers to the three basic elements in the interest of the developing countries, which are in brief:

- 1) That the developing countries will be very much affected by the actions taken by the more industrialized countries in dealing with their environmental problems and that this presents both new opportunities and new risks to which developing countries must be prepared to respond;
- 2) That the developing countries themselves have serious environmental problems; many of them related to poverty and underdevelopment, and that international cooperation is needed to enable them to deal with these problems and to build into their own development process measures which will prevent the unnecessary abuse and destruction of their environment.
- 3) That the developing countries share with the entire community of nations a common interest in preserving and utilizing for the benefit of all mankind that portion of the earth's environment - the oceans and the atmosphere above them - which lies outside the jurisdiction of any nation, and that they must join in common action to protect these precious elements.

I am sure that everyone here would be in accord with the Founex Report when it declares:

" It is evident that, in large measure, the kind of environmental problems that are of importance in developing countries are those that can be overcome by the process of development itself. In

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advanced countries, it is appropriate to view development as a cause of environmental problems. Badly planned and unregulated development can have a similar result in developing countries as well. But, for the greater part, developing countries must view the relationship between development and environment in a different perspective. In their context, development becomes essentially a cure for their major environmental problems. For these reasons, concern for environment must not and need not detract from the commitment of the world community -developing and more industrialized nations alike - to the over-riding task of development of the developing regions of the world. Indeed it underscores the need not only for a maximum commitment to the goals and targets of the Second Development Decade, but also for their redefinition in order to attack that dire poverty which is the most important aspect of the problems which afflict the environment . of the majority of Mankind"

I also feel confident there will be substantial agreement with the Founex recommendations that :

- First, environmental criteria should be defined by each developing country at the national level and that developing countries should take the initiative in formulating guidelines for environmental criteria to be used in project appraisal at the regional and multi-national levels;
- Second, institutions in developing countries concerned with environmental control and regulations and with research into environmental problems should be strengthened;
- Third, that thorough consideration should be given to the implications for international economic relations of the current concern with the environment.

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And it is noteworthy, I should add, that the report not only identifies the possible harmful implications for developing countries, such as environment-based protectionism against developing country exports, diversion of resources from aid programmes, and distortion of aid priorities but also point to the potential beneficial implications.

The United Nations General Assembly has specifically charged the Stockholm conference with the mandate to assure that the interests and concern of the developing countries receive special attention. Thus one of our principle tasks is to see that in any environmental measures which industrialized countries may want to take, the interests of developing countries are fully protected and potential benefits to them realized.

Let me give one especially topical example out of my own recent experience which illustrates the tremendous importance for the developing countries of some of the changes now taking place in the more industrialized countries as a direct result of their environmental concern. I have met with a large number of business and industrial leaders in North America, Europe and most recently, Japan. There is no doubt that they are now finding their own interest very much affected by the increasingly acute concern for the environment in the industrialized countries and the measures that are and will be taken to deal with these concerns. For example, Japanese business leaders said to me only a few days ago that they are laying plans to divert to other countries much more of their new industry particularly the high labour, high pollution and high energy consuming industries. This presents both new opportunities and potential new risks to the developing countries, which can expect to receive much of this new industry.

But I must say that in many of the developing countries I have visited I have not found a similar degree of awareness of the extent and speed with which the environmental issue is changing so many of the international factors that affect crucially their own development prospects.

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It is important, both to the more industrialized nations which will be exporting industrial capacity and to the developing nations which will be receiving it, that the benefits of this kind of industrial development be maximized and its adverse consequences reduced. One of the important tasks of the international community which I hope this seminar will serve, is to alert the developing countries to this new situation and to help them to benefit from it to the fullest extent possible. Here indeed is an example of how the environmental issue is providing a new and unexpected impetus to the drive for industrialization by the developing countries. However, it is no less important to ensure, as the Founex report stresses, that "such efforts should not lead to an indiscriminate export of pollution by developed countries or to discarding of environmental standards as adopted by the developing countries."

These issues certainly merit careful consideration by the countries of Latin America as well as by industrialized and developing countries in every part of the world. They will receive precisely this consideration at Stockholm.

On the basis of the Founex Report and from the personal evidence I have obtained from visits to some 30 developing countries in all regions I think it is clear now that there will be a high degree of participation by developing countries at Stockholm. Certainly this seminar strengthens this conviction. Of course, the level of interest continues to vary from country to country but I can report that there is a growing cadre of people in the developing areas with a high degree of both knowledge and concern about environmental problems. And in an increasing number of countries, moreover, this knowledge and concern is now evident at the highest levels of government.

But the active engagement of the developing countries does not in itself resolve all problems. There are certain understandable differences of approach between developing and industrialized countries even in areas of demonstrably common concern; and as I have noted, there will be other areas of conflicting interests.

/Latin America

Latin America is a very clear case where reconciliation between development targets and environmental concern must take place. It is a continent of enormous contrasts. It experiences at the same time, the problems of human environmental deterioration that result from the lack of development, and the problems of degradation of the human environment brought about by the process of economic development.

In most areas of Latin America, the quality of life is affected by unemployment, illiteracy, malnutrition and poor sanitary conditions. Large segments of the population still live in marginal areas, as an army of redundant labor, excluded from participation in the economic, social and political life of their country. In the midst of this society you have minority groups, living in modern enclaves, benefitting from technological progress, enjoying high income levels and sophisticated patterns of consumption, with broad access to education, health, housing and a strong participation in the cultural and political process.

It is not surprising therefore, to encounter criticism or even opposition to the discussion of the problem of human environment in isolation from the question of the structure of Latin American societies, or as a simple transplant of the present concern for environment in the industrialized countries.

Some people, particularly the young generation, greatly motivated by the need for change and transformation of their societies, might consider the type of concern for environment in the industrialized countries as a diversion from the real problems of their societies as they see them.

Let me express my conviction, in line with the points of view of the Founex Report, that there is -indeed there can be- no contradiction in Latin America between the major targets of economic and social development and the need to introduce, into this concern, an additional dimension covering the problem of environment.

I strongly believe, that for large groups of population in Latin America,

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quality of life means more goods, better housing and sanitary conditions, social justice through improvement in the employment situation and in the prevailing patterns of distribution of income, mobility through education and political participation. In this respect, and for those people, concern for human environment is concern for social, political and economic development. Only by structural changes in their economies and the transformation of their societies will they be able to effect the needed improvement in their conditions of life.

If this challenge is not met, the environmental problems of poverty will increase in intensity leading to a further deterioration of the conditions of life both in the towns and in the countryside. The process of development, far from being in conflict with major environmental goals, is an indispensable precondition to attaining such goals.

But the situation in Latin America is by no means a static one. All the countries are experiencing a second category of environmental problems: those that arise out of the process of development itself. The relative importance of this category of problems increases as development gathers momentum since environmental problems/^{are} generated by the growth of industrialization, by the transformation of agriculture, by the growth of the means of transportation and communications and other factors.

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In few areas can this be seen more vividly than in the urban crisis. We all know how difficult it is, even today, for such affluent cities as New York and Tokyo to deal with urban crises that are bad by any standards. But Sao Paulo, Santiago and Mexico City have equally difficult urban problems -plus all those associated with under-development. And their resources proportionally are only a fraction of the per capita amount available to the average city in an industrial society. In the health area alone, some of the cities of the developing world face hazards that could make them unfit for human habitation within the next decade or so if urgent action is not taken. Indeed, the "eco-catastrophies" of which we hear so much are more likely to occur in the developing world than in the wealthier countries that have the resources to cope with them.

Similar problems however are found in rural areas, brought about by inadequate land tenure systems, backward techniques and a traditional neglect of education, health and related services. The most distant rural areas are lagging even further behind in the provision of services and are adversely affected by the pressures of industrialized agriculture and conservation of natural resources.

And above all is the pervasive issue of water, which affects both the rural and urban population.

Much of the widespread concern is reflected in the ECLA-ILPES paper presented to this Conference, with the valuable contribution of the FAO.

No country -no matter what the stage of its development- can escape the costs of environmental neglect. And any assumption that environmental concerns can be set aside until a later stage of development may be a particularly dangerous one. Cleaning up, after rivers, lakes and estuaries have become polluted and water supplies contaminated, after agricultural and forest areas have been desecrated, marine and animal life depleted, and cities hopelessly congested and decayed will cost far more than developing countries could possibly afford. Prevention is the only feasible alternative and preventive

measures must be built into the whole process of planning and implementing development programmes.

As many of you at this seminar know all too well, moreover, countries do not have to wait on high levels of industrialization before they begin to feel environment induced threats to their economy.

There will, of course, be differences in perspective and priority amongst countries at different stages of development and there will be conflicts between short-term and long-term, between economic and social considerations in particular cases, each society must make its own choices. But in making these choices, all should have the benefit of the best knowledge which can be made available as to probable consequences of alternative courses of action. Indeed, the environment issue requires us first and foremost to develop better methods of applying knowledge and values to the processes of decision-making by which our societies shape their own future.

This will mean a much closer harmonization between social goals and economic decision-making. It also implies overcoming the restricted and material limits brought about by the simplistic and inadequate definition of economic and social development as the mere growth of G.N.P. As your political and intellectual leaders have stated on many occasions, this will require vigorous reforms. Latin American societies must avoid the blind import of technology, as well as its incorporation without due consideration to the human and natural environment of the region. When technology is not directed to serve the goals of man, it becomes a serious threat to the conditions of human life on our planet.

It will involve radical changes in the attitudes and the structures of the more industrialized societies. In this respect the changes required in most developing countries will be of a far less fundamental nature as they have already established mechanisms for collective planning and

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allocation of resources which require coordination of private economic decision-making with public policy.

The importance of such planning and coordination cannot be overstressed for it is the developing country least of all that can afford to misuse its environmental capital. Economic development which ignores environmental and ecological consideration can give rise to economic and social costs which negate or seriously impair the purposes it is intended to serve. Moreover, effective environmental planning and action can make a positive and dynamic contribution to development in so many areas.

There is no escape from the obvious conclusion that, in these closing decades of the 20th century, not only are environment and development entirely interdependent, but that many aspects of the national development process will be bound up with what is happening in the region and the rest of the world.

Secretary General U Thant put it more aptly when he said: "Ours is the first global civilization and.... it can make global mistakes which can wreck not just one nation or society, but the very earth itself".

What it all comes down to is that the living world is not and can never be compartmentalized. We are all in it together, made one interdependent community by man's mastery and use of science and technology, there is after all, 'only one earth'.

And we must, as I was reminded by a quotation I saw yesterday in the magnificent Museum of Anthropology from a leader of ^{one} of Mexico's ancient cultures, "take care of the things of the earth".

But one earth must also mean one world. In order to achieve one world, Latin America will need profound social, political and economic transformations to accelerate progress and extend social justice to all social levels. Doing this is and will remain a national responsibility. But nations will not be able to discharge this responsibility effectively without seeking collective answers to the common problem of managing our global environment, which requires the cooperation of the entire community of nations. Your concern for human environment will reinforce your long struggle to change the patterns of international cooperation. It will show how relevant for the quality of life for your people are issues like:

- a more equitable sharing of the world's resources and opportunities;
- open access to the international markets and fair prices for your exports so as to permit you to expand agriculture, benefit from accelerated industrialization, improve income levels and create new job opportunities to cope with your serious problems of unemployment -all of which are strongly linked to the quality of your human environment;
- a massive effort to develop adequate technologies, which will make you less dependent on imported patterns of production and consumption, and avoid disruption in your natural and human environment due to indiscriminate use of inappropriate technologies.

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The interests and aspirations of all sovereign nations are interwoven here as in no other issue at no other time. And the Conference will enable them to consider specific measures by which they, as Member Governments of the United Nations, can take the kind of actions which our newly perceived environmental challenge will require of us.

The obvious question, then, of course, is what do we expect the Conference to accomplish? What will come out of it? Let me give you some of my personal thoughts and hopes.

It is clear that to deal with the challenge of the human environment will require a vast increase in the scale and scope of international cooperation. The first and most important task we face is the political task of agreeing on what the principal problems are, then what action we must begin to take to deal with them and then how and by whom these actions will be taken.

This is the essential task of the Stockholm Conference. It will draw upon the world's scientific-intellectual community to identify the major issues requiring the priority attention of governments and produce a comprehensive plan of action to provide governments and international organizations with an internationally agreed basis for establishment of action priorities. These actions will not, in most cases, represent final solutions to environmental problems but first steps in what will be a long term and continuing process not just of identifying and resolving problems but of planning to foresee and avoid them.

It is my hope, therefore, that Stockholm will make a major step forward in meeting the need for this continuing process by making provision for the continuance of this work after Stockholm.

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I will not attempt to deal here with the important question of post-Stockholm organizational arrangements, except to say that much of the action required to deal with environmental problems must be taken, at the regional level. For many of the conditions affecting the environment have a distinctive regional nature that will best respond to a regional approach. This will offer opportunities for new dimensions of cooperation between the regional organs of the United Nations family and the different institutions of the Inter American system. It is precisely in respect of this important question of regional arrangements that this seminar can help assure the success of the Stockholm conference. And more than that it can help advance the overall development-environment needs of the Latin American Nations.

Your agenda lists a number of possible ways you can do this, and I will not repeat these here. I only wish to reiterate the priority importance I attach to:

- a) Your comments on the Founox Report
- b) Your survey of the state of the environment of the region;
- c) Your priorities for action in terms of intra-regional co-operation on problems of environment, and your recommendations for dealing with these on a regional level
- d) Your views on how developing countries in general can achieve an active and dynamic participation at all levels of the Stockholm Conference, particularly measures to deal with the international implications of the environmental concern
- e) Precisely what you would like to see come out of the Stockholm Conference both for the region and for the world.

I am here to learn from you, what you tell me, what you decide, will be conveyed to the Conference Preparatory Committee when it meets at the United Nations in New York on 13 September. That is why your deliberations and discussions have such immediacy, such importance.

/In the course

In the course of these remarks, I have tried to provide you with a broad but necessary incomplete picture of the preparatory work of the Conference and some of my hopes for the future. Quite obviously it must be the governments themselves that will set the priorities and make the decisions. No matter what these may be, however, I can but reiterate that all countries have a vested interest in working together, in bettering the quality of human life for their own people and for everyone.

At a time when political will for aid is weakening in the industrialized nations, the environment issue could provide a new basis for pointing up the essential inter-dependence between the industrialized world and the developing world. It could provide a new rationale for assisting developing countries and could lead to new means of providing assistance.

I do not deny, as I have said, that some of the decisions that will come before the governments at Stockholm will require readjustment in our conventional thinking. But the environment is no conventional issue, and if through the Stockholm Conference the United Nations can demonstrate its ability to deal usefully and effectively with the important environmental issues requiring international action, it could have an exemplary and revitalising effect on the whole United Nations.

In the nearly 26 years since the Charter was signed, it has undergone rigorous testing. But it is still around, and so is the U.N., battered somewhat, but still standing. For with all the quarrels, with all the conflicting ideologies and disagreements, with all the pain and suffering and hunger in the world today, people still hope that some day, perhaps, its promise will be fulfilled. There is, indeed, no other alternative.

I do not deny that I harbour such hope, too. Nor do I deny my hope that, in the environment, perhaps, the United Nations will become what its architects intended it to be - that finally, men and nations will be able to unite their energies and rise above narrow rivalries.

/We have

We have never succeeded in becoming one world politically - and it is questionable whether we ever will or should. Environmentally, whether we like it or not, we are one world, one earth.

In saying this I make no claim that environmental issues will effectively close the gap between the rich and the poor, end discrimination, unite opposing ideologies and bring about lasting peace, do all that other have so far failed to do. I do say that the environment offers the United Nations its greatest opportunity to transcend differences and to help the peoples of our earth attain the "better life in larger freedom" they were promised a quarter of a century ago.

The United Nations can only be as successful as its members permit it to be, only as effective as its members wish it to be, only as strong as the political will that governments must provide for it. In the name of what has been the tradition of leadership and cooperation of Latin America in the larger goals of mankind, I invite you all to take again in the management of this new global concern the leadership which the world needs from you. I believe that in meeting the challenge of our environment, the United Nations, will also find the seeds of its future greatness, and that those seeds will grow in an earth that wants to be saved for the family of man.

Annex E

STATEMENT BY MR. CARLOS QUINTANA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA DURING
THE SEMINAR'S INAUGURAL SESSION

During the fourteenth session of ECLA, in April and May of this year, I had occasion to inform the Commission Governments that Latin America's economic growth had been satisfactory in the years 1968, 1969 and 1970, when the overall rates of economic development were 6.1, 6.5 and 6.9 per cent, respectively. I stressed that this was a good omen, since it indicated the region's potential to grow at rates close to what ECLA itself has defined as desirable.

Using other figures, which I will not delve into here, I pointed out that the economic growth achieved in 1970, although real, had been based on somewhat precarious factors. Expansion of exports, for example, had been due to a rise in prices rather than to an increase in volume, financing of this growth, which had been undertaken while suffering a deficit in the balance-of-payments. This deficit which had been increasing since 1966, registered an unprecedented rise of 20 per cent in 1970 over 1969 figures. This negative factor was offset by an influx of non-compensatory capital, with a substantial short-term component, increasing the extent of obligations. As you are aware, this situation has led to a net outflow of foreign exchange for many years.

/In short

In short, all this means that there may continue to be economic growth, measured by total or per capita income, but unless trade, financing and technological relations with other countries improve, the current boom will collapse. Either that, or Latin America's dependence on other countries will increase, limiting freedom of action in taking economic policy decisions.

I have referred to this situation so it may serve as a background for the comments I will be making later on, and which seem to me to be of an even more serious character. First, I should like to point out that development is still concentrated geographically and demographically in certain areas and sectors, further widening the breach in development between important production centers and outlying areas, and between the high and low-income population groups.

From an ECLA study on income distribution, it is evident that there is still a sector in Latin America, unable to enjoy technical progress, advances in productivity or greater income. What might be called the modern sector is achieving progress, but even here there are marked differences in the distribution of income when compared to those found in France or The Netherlands.

But the most important point which I wish to raise is the belief we have arrived at recently, that economic development, measured by the growth of income, would not solve the real problems of a social nature, even if it took place on a sound basis and involved ^a more equitable distribution of the benefits of progress. The importance of these problems brings home to us, all too frequently, the social tensions, the political instability, and the constant struggle for something which is still far from being clearly defined.

There are many doubts now as to whether the ideal society which could serve as model for development is that of the United States, or Western Europe, or the European socialist countries or Japan. Not only because of historical, geographical or human reasons, but because of the

/nature of the

nature of the development problems which becoming obvious in those regions or countries, they may be far from representing the types of society to which the Latin Americans aspire. Worst of all, however, is that we ourselves have been unable to form an image of what our future society should be and this is perhaps the biggest problem we must solve, not only as individual underdeveloped countries, but as subregions as well, and as Latin America as a whole.

Until we can define that image, our economic and social development policies will be fragmentary and even temporary. Until we know exactly where we are going, our planning will lack a long-term structure, within which sound short-term and medium-term decisions may be adopted.

At this point I wish to bring up the subject of human environment, which is the theme of this regional seminar. To me, the definition of future human environment, in the broadest sense of the word is precisely the image of what we wish to be and have limited only by the availability of our resources, the existing technical potential, and long-range planning. But, of course consideration of this future human environment would have to go beyond the limits of our countries, considered individually, and of our region, since a large part of the resources and techniques would be of a global nature.

The way to achieve this environment, however it may be defined, can no longer be called economic development, as we have known it. Nor can it be called social development which until now has been judged by the number of schools, hospital beds, drainage systems, housing complexes and expenditures in potable water. It will involve all this, but, above all, it will involve spiritual values which make up the real nature of life. Perhaps "development" is not a broad enough term to convey all this. Let us not discuss terms, however, but rather the fact that

development in the future must involve the long-term development of the human environment so that it will bring lasting physical and spiritual well-being.

All this may seem somewhat ambiguous, but if the concepts of development and of the human environment are linked together by adequate long-term planning it would then be possible to deal with the more practical problems. These include planning for the use of natural resources, both from the standpoint of countries and regions and in a more universal context, to include the biosphere and an exploitation of the resources of the seas; the preservation of the physical environment, with which we are now concerned; the purity of the air and the water; and the conservation of forests and arable land.

Even at the risk of being over-insistent, I must reiterate that the developing countries have no reason to channel their development efforts in the pattern of industrialized countries, nor face the same problems now besetting these nations. I should also add that whatever course our development may take, we are starting from a situation that is totally different from that which existed in the industrialized nations, many years ago, when they began their industrialization. The basic difference lies in the development of technology, which on the one hand has meant material progress, and, on the other, has brought pressure to bear on the poorer countries to acquire goods which, from an economic point of view, are beyond their reach.

For this reason, and for other even more important reasons, such as our determination to remain free to make our own decisions, it is necessary for Latin America, and the other underdeveloped regions as well, not to sit idly by until the industrialized countries have blazed the trail in solving the problems of the human environment, they should begin to act now, on the basis of all the means at their disposal, without of course, ignoring technical contributions from other parts of the world.

/This is the

This is the reason for holding this regional Seminar. We want to know what Latin America's position is on this issue, and we hope that at this Seminar, the foundation will be established for resolving development problems, leading to elevation of human life on a short and long-term basis.

Latin America, however, should not confine itself to discussing the problems that affect it directly. Many other problems do affect it or will affect ^{it} /not in regional terms but in global terms. The gradual world-wide depletion of certain non-renewable natural resources and their replacement with other resources; the universal use of maritime resources; the technological impact of atomic energy; the use of satellite telecommunications ^{of} systems; and, in general, the effect on human and animal life/technological progress may exert in the future. All these are issues on which Latin America and the other developing regions have to take a stand when the occasion arises, as it will at the Stockholm Conference next year.

If we take such a broad approach to environmental problems, we move into an action-oriented sphere that goes beyond pure internationalism and becomes what has been called "globalism". This is a term coined to describe problems of importance to the world as a whole, rather than those of a regional nature.

As Philippe de Seynes, Under Secretary General of the United Nations, has said, globalism-which does not stem from a sense of human solidarity or political wisdom-is now associated with the ambivalence of technology, on one hand it brings progress and on the other it has negative effects, such as degradation of the environment, the appearance of destructive factors, the possible depletion of natural resources, the population explosion and, not yet so powerfully, the gross waste in a resources allocation process very remote from basic human needs.

From these global issues I return to the national or regional problems. I want to emphasize again that Latin America must develop its own conceptual framework that will enable it to channel its development towards more suitable goals, bringing about lasting physical and spiritual well being.

/I realize

I realize that at this meeting we do not have enough data available to reach conclusions; not only that, many people will be involved in working out the conceptual framework, ranging from government officials and technicians, to the worker, the farmer and the university student. All will necessarily have to participate in the process and have a say in the future of their own society.

We are already aware, however, of some of the components of this future image of society I have mentioned. I believe a beginning can be made at this Seminar.

One of these components, well known to all of you, is the excessive concentration of economic activity in rapidly expanding cities. In my view, the main reason for this, is that society is basically organized to follow economic incentives, i.e. cost/benefit factors. This involves taking advantage of existing external economies, and requires greater community control over economic and social services accentuated by obsolete schemes of economic policies. The impact on human, physical and spiritual well being is not taken into account.

Fortunately, countries of our region have realized for some time how important it is to decentralize economic population activities, and have combined this idea with that of regional development, or the regionalization of development. Even in its simplest economic sense this yields great advantages, for it makes it possible to utilize previously untouched natural resources and to take advantage of development opportunities ignored by centralization. In many cases, the regionalization process may appear defective from a short term private point of view. But in virtually all cases there may be important social benefits, as the population moves away from crowded cities and polluted skies and water. In all cases, however, if the planning is adequate, there will be long-term benefits, not only for the particular region under development, but also for areas with a previously excessive concentration of economic activity.

/As you have

As you have probably discovered, water is the basis of planning in most instances of decentralization and regional development. There are very interesting examples of this here in Mexico, for example, the central area, where planning of water resources has determined the location of communities, industries and farms.

In many cases, decentralizing the economy will mean that industrial processes and certain services will have to be adapted to operate on a relatively small scale, or at least with a certain degree of vertical disintegration. This seems to be a difficult problem because the techniques developed by the industrialized countries involve an approach very different from that now proposed for Latin America. This is one of the reasons why Latin America-- and other developing regions-- should take a hand in technological research with a view towards discovering techniques more suited to their economic and social goals. This is one more reason why we should not think that we are always going to have to follow in the footsteps of the industrialized countries and copy their techniques, although I in no way wish to infer by this that we should not keep making a great effort to take advantage of existing technological progress.

Regionalization also involves upgrading the status of rural activity which partly involves devoting greater attention to agro-industries. In a more broader sense, it also means ensuring that the value of the farm product is more compatible with that of the industrial product, thus improving income distribution and bringing about a sounder economic development.

One of the most important issues on which the developing regions should come to some agreement, both to protect themselves and their contribution to global policy, relates to the supply, economic use and value or price of non-renewable natural resources. Fortunately, these resources are still abundant in the developing regions, but since no balance sheet has drawn up on a national or even world scale of their

projected use in the future, there is uncertainty both about the supply of such resources over the long term, furthermore, since even in the best of circumstances, the laws of supply and demand are involved, the price paid -though fair under such terms- may not really be equitable, considering that these resources represent a basic component in the development of non-industrialized countries. The question of trade terms, which ECLA and other agencies have been striving to improve for many years, takes on a new role and a clearer significance in the light of environmental considerations of the future. It is therefore urgently necessary for developing countries, and Latin America in particular which has acted as leader on many occasions, to advocate and promote a study of the supply, future use and development of the most important non-renewable natural resources. This, of course, should consider the possibility that industrialized countries will replace these resources with synthetic products. The global aspect of studies of this nature will have to take account of the wastage of natural resources which, while it may be justified now in terms of economic cost/benefit calculations, may found to be unprofitable if account is taken of the human environment in the future.

Directing economic and social development towards a better human environment will inevitably reduce the efficiency of industrial processes, lower productivity and increase costs, as compared with a development approach based on economic cost/benefit analysis of the type we are now familiar with. This may be a disadvantage for developing countries, particularly when they try to compete with their goods on foreign markets, unless suitable measures are taken. One of the possibilities, to go back to what I said earlier, is to search unceasingly for new techniques better adapted to the new concept of benefit or development, involving a higher degree of human well being. Decentralization, to which I have also referred, may have a cost penalty for a certain period. Deliberately ignoring certain types of technical progress-because, given the ambivalence of technology, they may be prejudicial to man to man-also has/ its disadvantages in terms of competition, in an economic society governed for the most part by the laws of the market. On the other hand, techniques

that need a great deal of refinement to achieve the desired objectives may also place the developing countries at a disadvantage.

Although it may be thought that there is a safety margin for all this somewhere, that perhaps the technology of the future will provide, it is certain that this issue goes beyond a universal concept, or at least beyond the international sphere. Consideration must be given to the handicaps of countries seeking new patterns of development, just as we are now witnessing --at least in principle-- establishment of trade preferences for manufacturers seeking access to the markets of the industrialized countries.

Viewing the question from a different angle, it is quite possible that the cost of raw material and machinery which Latin America imports from industrialized countries will increase if those countries also adopt a form of development designed to improve human environment. This situation should be examined carefully since it may provide a new opportunity for developing countries to replace some of these goods, precisely because environmental deterioration is still an incipient problem in these countries, and because the very fact that they are in the process of developing means that they can organize their production more flexibly, in line with new techniques.

The immediate causes underlining the deficiencies of the human environment which will be discussed at this Seminar, include unemployment or under-employment, which in turn is the cause of the deterioration in the living conditions of a large proportion of the Latin American population. It is common knowledge that Latin America's efforts to increase production mainly through industrialization have not had the desired results with respect to employment. In fact, the situation has gradually worsened. This is a complex problem brought about by increased productivity in agriculture, population growth and the lack of more vigorous economic development. I must, however, point out once again that progress has been sought mainly in an increase in per capita income, the accelerated development of labor productivity and a more efficient utilization of investment. Only in a few cases has there been a policy which places the employment needs above all other factors. These are governed by a desire for expanding private benefits and in considering the question of human

environmental improvement, we are for the first time challenging the supreme goal of achieving a high level of productivity and a general high standard of efficiency in investment, communications, potable water, energetics and transport. But here is where the conflict which I have referred to may arise within a market economy system such as that existing in most of the Latin American countries, channeling development towards objectives which do not necessarily involve improvements in productivity and efficiency could reduce the competitive factor when exporting to industrialized countries. These would also be the additional cost of providing a better environment for the working classes.

The basic factor in resolving this conflict is unquestionably an increase in production. This, in turn, may be based on greater internal demand, derived precisely from better environmental and working conditions of the population. But there is no doubt that efforts will have to be made in other directions too, principally in changing the pattern of income distribution, in the search for techniques -I repeat- that are geared to the joint concept of economic and environmental development.

Production of durable consumer should be designed to satisfy the consumer because they are lasting and of good quality rather than to increase the producer's sales and private or individuals profits.

Finally, I wish to put before you a personal concept which has not been considered among those related to human environment. I refer to the fact that a better life should involve a better intellectual, moral and spiritual environment, which would include greater access to culture, freedom of action and expression -within reasonable limitations established by society- and freedom from the pressures of publicity or commercial interests, the press, radio and -above all- television, to which we are daily exposed.

If we are to make progress in improving the human environment, the first step is an energetic policy which all sectors of society would help establish and which governments would be mainly responsible for implementing. Since its application goes beyond national frontiers, the responsibility should be shared by international organizations such as the United

Nations. The United Nations program for the Second Decade of Development affords a brilliant opportunity to investigate, discuss, propose and even implement agreements and projects which will help to improve human environment.

I hope that this Seminar will become the proper setting to take account of Latin America's views on this important topic, not only as a developing region but as an active and interested participant in future world decisions.

Annex F

ADDRESS GIVEN BY MR. JESUS CABRERA MUÑOZ LEDO
DURING THE FIRST PLENARY WORK SESSION, FOLLOWING
HIS INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE SEMINAR

Custom has traditionally decreed that the chief of the delegation of the host country should preside over an international conference. Thus, on this instance, it has fallen to an Ambassador from Mexico to conduct the deliberations of this First Latin American Regional Seminar on Problems of the Human Environment and Development. I am sure I will be favored with the benevolence of all participants and with the technical counsel of ECLA's excellent general secretariat.

I shall do everything in my power to fulfill the duties which such a great distinction implies.

After conveying to you the best wishes of Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations Emilio O. Rabasa for the success of the Seminar, I should like to express some brief considerations over what I feel this conference should signify.

Above all, this Seminar is an international forum for Latin American countries for the exchange of ideas, experiences and, perhaps, common objectives. There is no intention of reaching a regional criterion but, rather, of advancing viewpoints which in due time may be properly evaluated, leading to a coordinated action. Efforts will be directed at attaining general conclusions that will prompt determined courses of action by governments, international organizations, the scientific-technological community and the common man of Latin America. All of this seeks to establish a better preparation of our countries for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment which will be held in Stockholm in June, 1972.

/We are

We are gathered here to recognize and discuss common problems, and, better aware of our needs, establish the basis--preliminary though it may be-- for an effective corporation. This would permit us to resolve, on a national, regional and world level, the problem of the human environment--an environment without whose fitness, progress and even the very existence of man would be impossible.

This conference also provides us with an opportunity to further the close ties of friendship which have so solidly and effectively helped unite all members of the Latin American scientific community. This community is joined together not only geographically, but also through a communion of ideals, deeply-set convictions and a solidarity based on friendship and mutual respect.

Environmental problems cannot be resolved by the unilateral action of one country, nor even by the joint action of a group of nations. It requires a harmonious mobilization on a world scale. The root of the problem lies in technological progress which, while found in areas of greater economic development, surpasses any purely geographical boundary, because of the consequences derived therefrom.

In our times, scientific progress, with its correlative in technology, has attained a faster pace than would have been expected in the human order. Paradoxically, deterioration of the human environment--the socio-economic structures which have led to what anthropologists call "a hostile ecology"--have quite different if not actually conflicting origins: industrialized countries and those in the developing stage.

The cold and objective consideration which we are about to make of the problems before us, arouses fears over the future of the human race. But we do see a ray of hope.

While it is true that technological progress is partly responsible for the deterioration of the human environment and if, on the other hand, underdevelopment has led us to the same situation, such processes have forced us to rediscover a forgotten being which we should have never allowed to be overlooked: man himself.

The importance of making man the object of all efforts has been stressed on many occasions by the President of Mexico, Luis Echeverría. Just a few days ago, in presenting his first state-of-the-union address to Congress, he reiterated his concern in this regard when he said that: "Man in our times seems to have forgotten that his existence depends on an easily upset equilibrium of the physical environment. The serious risk to health and public welfare, as well as damages to fauna and flora which environmental contamination creates, represents a very high price paid by large human concentrations." and, he added, awareness of this problem prompted his government to take immediate and practical measures seeking an efficient solution to the situation.

This is not the moment nor the place to determine the reasons why the admirable progress of science and technology, so evident in our times, has turned against its creator. But it is proper to stress that the creator himself, because of his inexhaustible spirit, has in himself the capacity to find the means that will do away the damages his action has generated.

In seeing so many distinguished men of science and public officials—both national and international—gathered here, whose enlightened contributions will help resolve this common patrimony which is the human environment, I renew my faith in the capacity of man in general and of the Latin American in particular.

I fail to recognize the validity or prevalence of negative thoughts. On the contrary, I see here, once again, the finest of our peoples coordinating their efforts. From their combined wealth we will find the answer to the challenge being hurled at us from opposite extremes by development and underdevelopment, abundance and poverty.

Let us express our most fervent wishes that our countries, efficiently and dynamically regrouping their forces and resources, will prepare and carry out the strategy for a development based on man and directed to man.

May the profitable realization of this Seminar be an expression of that imminent task.

- 13) Hygiene measures applicable to air, sea, and land transports.
- 14) Accident prevention.
- 15) Hygiene of public recreation or tourism sites, particularly hygiene measures related to beaches, swimming pools, camping areas, etc.
- 16) Sanitary measures required in exceptional cases (epidemics, emergency situations, disasters, and migratory movements).
- 17) Preventive measures necessary to keep the general environment free from health risks...