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Third Session

COMMITTEE I

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held in Montevideo, Uruguay,
on Saturday, 17 June 1950, at 11 a.m.

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Draft resolution on studies on distribution, markets
and prices of agricultural products (E/CN.12/AC.1/17)

Chairman: Mr. BALTRA Chile

Rapporteur: Mr. ZAMORA Mexico

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Members:

Members:

Mr. MONTANTZ	Argentina
Mr. ALVARADO	Bolivia
Mr. CAMPOS MELO	Brazil
Mr. ELGUETA	Chile
Mr. LOPEZ-FRESQUET	Cuba
Mr. BENITES VINUEZA	Ecuador
Mr. GLOWER	El Salvador
Mr. MENDES-FRANCE	France
Mr. RAMIREZ	Guatemala
Mr. LICHTVELD	Netherlands
Mr. GONZALEZ	Panama
MR. PANE	Paraguay
Mr. WILLIAMS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. HOOVER	United States of America
Mr. BRONDI	Uruguay

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ETCATS	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. ESTABLER	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. COLLETT	International Labour Organization (ILO)

Representative of a non-governmental organization in category A:

Mrs. C. APARICIO World Federation of United Nations
Associations (EFUNA)

Secretariat:

Mr. MARTINEZ CABANAS	Executive Secretary of ECLA
Mr. FURTADO	Secretary of the Committee

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RELEVANT
DRAFT RESOLUTION (E/CN.12/AC.1/25/Rev.1)

Mr. HOOVER (United States of America), as Rapporteur of the Working Group, reviewed the debate which had led to the presentation of the draft resolution before the Committee. There had been a divergence of view regarding whether the ECLA Secretariat, rather than the Secretariat at United Nations headquarters together with that of the specialized agencies, was best qualified to draw up lists of experts to be made available to Latin America in implementation of the technical assistance programme. Furthermore, Uruguay had requested that special emphasis should be given to the possibility of using elements of technical assistance from underdeveloped and semi-developed countries in promoting the development of other countries with similar economic conditions. El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras had stressed the importance of affording students and holders of fellowships the opportunity to study the language of the countries in which they would receive their technical training. Speaking as the representative of the United States, Mr. Hoover noted that there were certain imperfections in the draft resolution which he was submitting for the Committee's consideration.

/Mr. BRONDI

Mr. BRONDI (Uruguay) feared that paragraph 2 of the recommendation contained in the draft resolution might give rise to difficulties because it appeared to provide machinery for implementing the technical assistance programme which overlapped with already existing procedures. The Economic and Social Council had laid down a method of assessing technical needs and drawing up lists of technical experts in collaboration with governments and specialized agencies which constituted a direct channel for the flow of assistance to Latin American countries; the ECLA Secretariat should not duplicate that method. For those reasons, Mr. Brondi proposed to amend paragraph 2 to read as follows:

"That the Executive Secretary assist the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies in the preparation of lists of experts who may be available for implementing the Technical Assistance Programme in Latin American countries."

Mr. HOOVER (United States of America) and Mr. ALVARADO (Bolivia) supported that amendment.

Mr. MENDES-FRANCE (France) recalled that he had accepted the text in document E/CN.12/AC.1/25 Rev. 1 in a spirit of conciliation.

/If ECLA

If ECLA really wanted to improve and strengthen the procedures for extending technical assistance to Latin America, it had nothing to gain by a further weakening of the draft resolution. The ECLA Secretariat was fully competent to prepare lists of experts for Latin America taking into account the specific needs of the area and could be counted upon to co-ordinate its activities with those undertaken by other United Nations bodies at Lake Success and with the specialized agencies. In any case, the technical assistance procedures were centralized at UN headquarters because it held the financial resources required to carry out final decisions and ECLA need not fear any conflict with that central agency. France was concerned only to make ECLA's role in the administration of technical assistance more effective and to ensure the geographical distribution of fellowships and the selection of experts on a broader basis, i.e., in as many countries as possible. If the representative of Uruguay pressed for adoption of his amendment, Mr. Mendes-France reserved the right to re-introduce the original text for paragraph 2 of the recommendation, which France had submitted in the Working Group.

Mr. COLLET (International Labour Organization) said that both France's original draft and the text as it appeared in the draft resolution were unacceptable to his organization and the ILO would have to reserve its position on them unless

/and until

and until its Governing Body decreed a change in existing policy and procedures regarding technical assistance.

Mr. MENDES-FRANCE (France) said that experience had shown how essential it was for the ECLA Secretariat in Santiago to make available for the use of the members of the Commission complete lists of technical experts. In the past, Lake Success had arbitrarily selected experts from lists which had never even been made known to ECLA or to its members, who had often proved less competent and had cost exorbitant sums. He was not suggesting that the indispensable co-ordination with UN headquarters and the specialized agencies should be weakened in any manner; his objective was merely to give the ECLA Secretariat a greater and more effective role and thus correct some of the bad administrative practices which had characterized the implementation of the technical assistance programme in the past.

Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico) supported the views expressed by Mr. Mendes-France.

Mr. BRONDI (Uruguay) reiterated his conviction that the only direct road to the effective dispensation of technical assistance was through the Secretary-General and the machinery provided at Lake Success.

Mr. MAYANTZ (Argentine) offered a compromise solution whereby the ECLA Secretariat would obtain from Lake Success and the specialized agencies lists of qualified experts

/available for

available for the application of the technical assistance programme in Latin America and would distribute those lists to the countries concerned. Accordingly, he proposed that paragraph 2 of the recommendation should be amended to read as follows:

"That the Executive Secretary obtain from the United Nations and the specialized agencies lists of experts who may be available for implementing the Technical Assistance Programme in Latin American countries, and that the Executive Secretary shall make these lists available to the countries concerned".

Mr. MENDES-FRANCE (France) and Mr. CAMPOS MELO (Brazil) supported the Argentine amendment.

Mr. BRONDI (Uruguay) withdrew his amendment in favour of that submitted by Mr. Mayantz.

By a roll-call vote, the Argentine amendment was approved.
The draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.1/25/Rev.1), as amended,
was approved.

/ Report of

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
ANTI-CYCLICAL POLICY AND RELEVANT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

(E/CN.12/AC.1/27/Rev.1 and Rev.2)

Mr. HOOVER (United States of America) stated that the draft resolutions presented by the Working Group on economic development and anti-cyclical policy involved fundamental points of commercial and economic policy with grave and far-reaching consequences. While the United States was in complete sympathy with economic development and would co-operate to achieve that goal, it nevertheless felt that there had not been sufficient time to assess the implications of the draft resolutions and to consider the measures suggested therein in the light of other international commitments in the field, entered into after long and exhaustive study. It therefore seemed unwise for members to commit their respective Governments on such short notice.

Mr. Hoover himself could not take the responsibility for committing the United States Government without consultation. He therefore proposed that the resolutions in question should not be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council but should instead be referred to individual Governments for study and comments. The question should then be reconsidered at the fourth session of ECLA.

/Mr. CAMPOS MELO

Mr. CAMPOS MELO (Brazil), speaking as the Chairman of the Working Group, explained that the draft resolutions before the Committee were the result of careful study and represented important and co-ordinated conclusions.

Mr. LOPEZ FRESQUET (Cuba), speaking as the Rapporteur of the Working Group, stated that the document before the Committee was essentially technical in nature and involved no political implications. Members would in no way commit their governments by accepting the group of unified recommendations contained in the draft resolutions.

During the discussions in the Working Group, the representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, Netherlands and France had reserved their position. In an attempt to achieve unanimity, the representative of Cuba presented a series of amendments (E/CN.12/AC.1/27/Rev.2) which he hoped would make it possible for all delegations to support the draft resolutions.

Mr. WILLIAMS (United Kingdom) indicated that the Cuban amendments made it possible for the United Kingdom delegation to withdraw its reservations and support the draft resolution as amended.

Mr. LICHTWELD (Netherlands) stated that the Netherlands delegations could support the draft resolution as amended by Cuba.

/Mr. ELGUETA

Mr. ELGUETA (Chile) stated that the Chilean delegation had been prepared to support the document in its original form but would vote for the revised text, in the interest of achieving the widest possible measure of agreement.

Mr. HOOVER (United States of America) indicated that the United States delegation reserved its position on the Cuban amendments.

The Cuban amendments (E/CN.12/AC.1/27/Rev.2) were approved, with the United States delegation reserving its position.

On the suggestion of Mr. Pallares (Ecuador), it was agreed that the second paragraph of section I should be amended to read "... to continue these surveys and extend them to those countries for which surveys had not been made..."

The draft resolution as amended was approved, with the United States delegation reserving its position.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON STUDIES ON DISTRIBUTION, MARKETS AND PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (E/CN.12/AC.1/17)

Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico) suggested that the operative part of his resolution should be amended to read "... in collaboration with FAO and other international organizations..."

In reply to a question by Mr. GREEN (United States of America), Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico) stated that he considered it unwise

/to combine

to combine his draft resolution with a general resolution calling for Secretariat studies. The Mexican proposal related to internal rather than international questions and should be kept as a separate unit.

Mr. CAMPOS MELO (Brazil) proposed that in the last paragraph, the words "and the formation of the prices of these products on domestic markets", should replace the phrase after "distribution".

Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico) accepted the Brazilian amendment.

The Mexican draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.1/27) was adopted as amended.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.