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La Habana, June 2nd, 1949.

Mr. President:

I have the honor of addressing myself to you in order to transmit to you as an enclosure the motion which the Cuban Delegation presents relative to the inclusion into the Agenda of the Conference of the item "Turismo", in the belief that it is a factor of great importance to the economy in general and to the economy of the Caribbean countries in particular.

The above mentioned motion contains the reasons on the basis of which the Delegation I have the honor to preside requests the inclusion of the item "Turismo" into the Agenda of the Second Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest regards.

(s) A. Valdes Rodriguez  
President.

Dr. Luis Machado y Ortega,  
President of the Second Session of the  
Economic Commission for Latin America,  
School of A. Valdes Rodriguez,  
La Habana.

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/To the

To the Economic Commission for Latin America:

1. The document entitled "Economic Survey of Latin America," E/CN.12/82, in addition to being a useful reference for the future activities of the Commission or of its members, has been useful to assemble the subjects which should come under our consideration during the Second Session at Havana.

2. In the same way the provisional Agenda contained in Document E/CN.12/81, together with the other documents which are specifically mentioned therein, has facilitated the grouping of subjects and has indicated the items which should come under our consideration during the Second Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

3. The delegation of Cuba has revised, under the limitations imposed upon it by the time it had at its disposal, the documents referred to in the above paragraph, and although it reserves to itself the privilege to make observations, to propose changes, additions and, in general, to discuss the contents of the same on suitable occasions, it considers it fitting to anticipate at present the interest it has that "Tourism" be included among the items to be dealt with in this session of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

The Cuban delegation justifies its proposal to include "Tourism" among the items to be studied in this session, on the basis of the general considerations which follow.

4. The structure of the Latin American Economies is based upon exports whose value is considerable in relation to

/domestic production

domestic production and income; such exports consisting of a small number of agricultural commodities. This fact makes Latin American Economies extremely vulnerable to the cyclical fluctuations in the countries, which are generally also few in number, which absorb our exports.

Thus, the level of the production and income of the Latin American countries is closely determined by foreign demand, which is directly responsible for the increase of national income during the period of prosperity and which also determines their violent depressions when it leads to a decline of domestic production and prices. Moreover, this situation limits the possibility of these countries evolving a domestic anti-cyclical policy.

The invisible exports which tourism represents constitute an element for the development of a domestic anti-cyclical policy since in a period of depression domestic price levels constitute an inducement for a greater inflow of tourists and since it permits the respective economies to start their recovery through the sale of goods and services to tourists.

Furthermore, regardless of the phase of the economic cycle in which a country might find itself, tourism may contribute in a substantial way to stimulate production and, in general, economic activities in the Latin American countries.

In some of its aspects tourism contributes to a better knowledge and understanding of our countries, including that of our various needs.

Tourism is an economic factor which affects our capacity

/to produce

to produce goods and services, our plans for the development of transport, the assets side of our balance of payments and, in general, is of unquestionable interest for the study of the Latin American economies.

6. Therefore, the Cuban delegation proposes to the Economic Commission for Latin America that "Tourism" be included among the items to be discussed in this Second Session, so that it be considered by the members participating in it and that the implications of all aspects of this economic factor may be taken into account as they may come to the fore in the various Committees that have been organized for the carrying out of the activities of this Commission.

7. The study which is being proposed by this motion could be made with special reference to:

- a) The simplification of immigration requirements which affect the tourist trade, particularly in view of an adoption of tourist cards;
- b) The construction and financing of accommodations for tourists, such as hotels, resorts and mineral baths;
- c) Regulation of international transport services in view of stimulating the tourist trade;
- d) Regulation of hotel and other prices in view of preventing overcharging to tourists;
- e) The creation of a regional organization for the publicity and, in general, for the furthering of tourism in Latin America.