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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Ad Hoc Committee on International Trade  
Fourth session  
Mexico, D.F.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Mexico City  
on Thursday, 7 June 1951, at 1730

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/PRESENT:  
E/CN.12/AC.13/SR.7

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. HASPERUE BECERRA	Argentina
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. BOJAN	United States of America
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. ANDES GUTIERREZ	Argentina
	Mr. NAVAJAS MOGRO	Bolivia
	Mr. RAMOS	Brazil
	Mr. GARCIA VALVERDE	Costa Rica
	Mr. VALDEZ RODRIGUEZ	Cuba
	Mr. GONZALEZ ALLENDES	Chile
	Mr. BARONA ANDA	Ecuador
	Mr. GLOWER VALDIVIESO	El Salvador
	Mr. BROWN	United States of America
	Mr. LEPREVOST	France
	Mr. PALACIOS	Guatemala
	Mr. AMADOR	Mexico
	Mr. JONGBAW	Netherlands
	Mr. McCULLOUGH	Panama
	Mr. PEZET	Peru
	Mr. FABRE	Uruguay

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. CASSERES )	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. CORDOVA )	
Mr. del CANTO	International Monetary Fund

Representative of a non-governmental organization:

Miss ALDAPE CANTU	World Federation of United Nations Associations
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Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mr. JONGBAW	Caribbean Commission
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Secretariat:

Mr. PATIÑO	Secretary of the Committee
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UNITED STATES CAPACITY TO ABSORB LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCTS  
(E/CN.12/226, E/CN.12/AC.13/8)

The CHAIRMAN called for discussion of item 3 on the Committee's agenda.

Mr. VALDEZ RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) emphasized the usefulness of the report prepared by the Executive Secretary (E/CN.12/226); that document would enable the Latin American countries to take the measures they deemed appropriate, taking into account factors which, since the beginning of the century, had influenced the system of trade between Latin America and the United States of America. All the countries concerned understood the need to make the greatest possible use of their productive capacity; the United States itself had acknowledged that all obstacles to the export of Latin American products should be eliminated. Factors which currently determined the demand for those products should not be lost from view; they might change in the near future.

On the basis of the resolution adopted at the third session (E/CN.12/194), he was submitting a draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.13/8) in which the recommendation was made to Latin American governments that they should inform the Executive Secretary as to their views on the conclusions reached in document E/CN.12/226, and the Executive Secretary was requested to continue to study the possibilities of expanding and diversifying Latin American exports to the United States of America.

Mr. GONZALEZ ALLENDES (Chile) and Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) asked that discussion of the Cuban motion should be postponed to the next meeting, so that the delegations might study that interesting proposal in detail.

/It was so

It was so agreed.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STUDY OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE  
(E/CN.12/228, E/CN.12/AC.13/4)

Mr. FREIRE (Uruguay) commented that the report (E/CN.12/228) submitted by the Executive Secretary under resolution E/CN.12/201 was of great interest, but that it could not be regarded as complete as, so far, it had been limited to the study of trade relations between Brazil and Argentina. Mr. Freire associated himself with the conclusions reached by the Executive Secretary in the report submitted to the Montevideo session (E/CN.12/AC.1/1). He recalled the difficulties which prevented Latin American industries from producing goods cheaply owing to their very restricted domestic market; every country therefore had to open its borders to the products of other countries of the area. A period of adaptation was essential if trade was to be liberalized on the pattern of Europe. First a protective system had to be set up on a regional basis with a co-ordinated programme which would stimulate production, in the spirit of the principles laid down in the Havana Charter. The studies undertaken by the Secretariat in that field would doubtless take several years; nevertheless, the international situation urgently required an exchange of views among the various countries concerned. In accordance with the first paragraph of its terms of reference, ECLA should draw up a recommendation at the current session to intensify trade among the Latin American countries.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that at the following meeting the

/Committee

Committee should study in detail the interesting statement made by the representative of Uruguay.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Panama) briefly outlined the position of his country in respect of intra-regional trade. Since the opening of the Panama Canal, the cities of Panama and Colon, at the two ends of the canal, had lost the benefits derived earlier from goods traffic. Moreover, in 1948, the government had decided to create a free zone at Colon. The advantage of that decision was clear, both in the interest of Latin-American trade and for Panama, which now had to pay very high maritime freight rates because there was no return cargo.

Mr. McCullough hoped that his country would benefit from the assistance of ECLA and other United Nations organs in solving the problems he had mentioned.

Mr. AMADOR (Mexico), reverting to the Uruguayan representative's statement, stressed its special significance, in view of the fundamental importance of the matter to the Latin American countries, and ECLA should complete its study of it as soon as possible.

Mr. Amador would welcome a draft resolution from the representative of Uruguay containing the ideas he had put forward. In the meantime, the Committee should defer until the following day consideration of that question as well as the problems raised by the representative of Panama.

Mr. RAMOS (Brazil), Mr. VALDEZ RODRIGUEZ (Cuba), Mr. BARONA ANDA (Ecuador) and Mr. GONZALEZ ALLENDES (Chile) wholeheartedly agreed

/with the

with the Mexican representative.

Mr. FREIRE (Uruguay) would have been glad to accede to the Mexican representative's wishes, but believed that a draft resolution concerning such a complex matter should not be drafted by a single delegation. Hence, the remainder of the discussion should be taken up at the next meeting so that the delegations would have time to consider the problem thoroughly before they expressed their views. The Committee might deal with the question raised by the Panamanian representative in the same way, as the Mexican representative had suggested.

It was so agreed.

MEASURES TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATERIALS (E/CN.12/230 and annex, E/CN.12/AC.13/7)

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that that item on the agenda had been divided between the Ad Hoc Committee on International Trade (Committee 2) and the Ad Hoc Committee on Co-ordination and General Questions (Committee 3).

Mr. BARONA ANDA (Ecuador) and Mr. GONZALEZ ALLENDES (Chile) wished the Committee to defer the question to a later meeting in order to enable delegations to study the decision taken by Committee 3 on that item of the agenda.

The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that Committee 3 had adopted a draft resolution on that question, and that it was awaiting the decision of Committee 2 before submitting it to a plenary meeting of the Commission.

/Mr. AMADOR

Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) stated that after having studied the matter, he felt that it did not raise an international trade problem. It was simply a task of co-ordination with which Committee 3 had dealt. He thought therefore that Committee 2 should delete that item from its agenda.

Mr. FREIRE (Uruguay), while sharing that opinion, thought that the Committee should defer its decision until a later meeting in view of the draft resolution which had just been submitted by the Costa Rican delegation.

Mr. GARCIA VALVERDE (Costa Rica) asked the Committee to defer the study of the question until the following day as the head of his delegation had been unable to attend the present meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7 p. m.

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