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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

MESSAGE OF FAREWELL FROM MR. DAVID OWEN, ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

It was with sincere, heartfelt regret that I was obliged to leave Santiago - and to leave Chile - early on Saturday morning, without having had an opportunity to say a word of farewell at a suitable occasion during your meetings. I was obliged to leave in order to attend the meeting of the International Labour Organization, due to open in San Francisco next week.

I would like, if I may, to take the opportunity of leaving behind me this short message, which I trust you will accept, in my absence.

First, may I express my thanks for the warm welcome we have received and for all that the Chilean Government - and the members of the Chilean Delegation in particular - have done to make this first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America run smoothly and successfully.

At the same time, I would like to extend a farewell message of thanks to the Chairman, for his wise conduct of your affairs, to the Vice-Chairmen, to the Rapporteur, to the Heads of Delegations, to all the members of Delegations, to the representatives of the Specialized Agencies as well as of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, and to all those I have met and talked with, formally and informally, so fruitfully. These conversations have broadened my understanding of Latin American problems. For this I am most grateful.

Secondly, I would like you to know that I carry with me one outstanding memory of your meeting. Not only have I been greatly encouraged by the spirit of goodwill and co-operation shown by everyone, but what gives me particular satisfaction is the high quality of the

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contribution to our discussions being made by the leading representatives. There is, in this contribution, healthy evidence of the practical approach - of emphasizing solid facts and carefully thought out expositions of your problems.

These are the memories I take back with me. There is no doubt in my own mind that - not only has your first session begun most satisfactorily - it will end with the satisfaction of having laid solid foundations for a practical programme of work. For three weeks is but a short time in which to get through all your business.

May I also assure you that the work of the Secretariat will receive my close attention and all the support which, within our budgetary limitations, is possible so that the Commission may be adequately staffed for the work it has to do.

When I am in San Francisco and later when the Economic and Social Council meets at Geneva, there will, I know, be many occasions when your difficulties are discussed. On these, and on other occasions, it will be my privilege to say I spent a week in Santiago with the Delegations attending the first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America; I think I understand their problems; I know they are all motivated with the spirit of goodwill and with determination that the Economic Commission for Latin America shall achieve positive, practical and beneficial results.

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