Mr. President,

The Secretary-General has asked me to express to the Commission members his very great regret that he cannot attend this meeting of the Commission and greet you personally. The effort he has felt impelled to make in these recent weeks has, I know, been followed closely in this region as in all other parts of the world, and you will understand that the fulfillment of this initiative which has taken him to Moscow, London and Paris must take precedence over all his other interests and duties. He has nevertheless asked me to tell you that he hopes to renew his acquaintance with the Commission members in the future and that he trusts that this session will continue and develop the valuable work commenced by the Economic Commission for Latin America.
I need not emphasize how glad I am to be here today and to be able to express our gratitude to the Government of Uruguay for the gracious invitation and the generous welcome it has extended to us. Our hosts have indeed only just received another United Nations body and I should like to emphasize our appreciation of the great efforts the Government has made to ensure the smooth running of these meetings.

Mr. President,

At these sessions of the Economic Commission for Latin America, I have permitted myself at this point in your proceedings to comment upon some aspects of ECLA's work or upon some feature of the work of the Secretariat of relevance to your forthcoming session. I should like, if I may, briefly to comment on two such matters now.

As to the work of the Commission, it is essentially to provide the governments of Latin America and those immediately interested outside Latin America with an opportunity to review the problems of the region and to work towards their solution. Solutions are difficult to discover especially where problems affect a region so vast and diverse as Latin America and - as is so often the case with present day economic problems - have their causes wholly or partially elsewhere.

It thus arises that the regional commission for Latin America has a dual role; it is at once an instrument for the study and solution of problems important to the region and also a significant part of the United Nations; in this capacity
it must interpret its responsibilities in global terms and approach certain problems from the global point of view.

The Commission has started its work wisely by requiring a study of fundamental economic problems facing Latin American countries. Information, even on these issues, has been far from sufficient and the Secretariat of the Commission has had to devote a good part of its resources to collecting the basic facts and making first analyses of the questions to be tackled. You see the results of this effort in the Survey and other studies prepared for this Session. From these it is clear that many Latin American countries are faced with serious problems of maladjustment, internal and external, which are retarding the growth and expansion of their economies. The studies which the Secretariat of the Commission has carried out will, I trust, assist the analysis of these issues and enable you to commence your consideration of these questions, both as regional problems and as issues in which the world is concerned.

I need not refer to the deep interest that the United Nations has in the problems of economic development of under-developed countries. The transition from a stage of low income and simple economy to that of higher income and greater diversification raises issues which require special attention. On the one hand, in the attempt to expand and diversify their economies and reach higher levels of production and income, the under-developed countries are heavily handicapped by the lack of internal
lack of internal resources and by the fact that they are often entering fields in which others have preceded them. On the other, with an international organization like the United Nations in operation, it is more possible today than ever before to make available the skill and the knowledge that already exist in the more advanced countries of the world.

This is the work on which the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies are engaged. On one side, studies have been made and are in progress on the basic problems of development of under-developed countries. On the other, under its programme of technical assistance the United Nations is evolving a mechanism which will greatly enlarge the availability of technical skill and training.

The Secretariats of Regional Commissions have a significant role to play here, and the Secretary-General has clearly expressed his desire to be able to use the Secretariats of Regional Commissions fully and effectively in the formulation and the execution of the programme. This topic has been treated fully in a report prepared by the Secretariat of the Commission on the operations of the Technical Assistance Programme in the Latin American countries. I am certain that as the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance comes into operation in the near future, the benefits available under the Programme to Latin American countries
countries will increase in volume greatly as also will the participation of the ECLAC Secretariat.

The United Nations has probably devoted a larger proportion of the funds presently available to it for technical assistance to this region than to any other. This has been the consequence of the speed with which your Governments have seized the opportunities which the new programme offers them to obtain the benefit of assistance from the industrialized and technically advanced countries of the world. It has also been a consequence of the participation of the ECLAC Secretariat in the development of the programme of technical assistance and of the many services rendered by senior members of that Secretariat. Because of the extent of the United Nations technical assistance given to the countries of the region, it is natural that we should have introduced in Latin America a new method for the most effective rendering of technical assistance. This is the appointment of a Permanent Technical Assistance Representative to serve any Government where there is the prospect of considerable technical assistance being sought and provided in the immediate future. Such a Representative has already been appointed to one of the Member Governments of this Commission and we have every confidence that, as a result, that Government will be able to obtain more speedily the assistance which it requires, and that the assistance will be such as to make a maximum contribution to the economic development of the country.

There are
There are several advantages in an arrangement of this kind. The Representative can assist the Government by helping to define its needs with sufficient precision to enable the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to respond as promptly as possible with the services of properly qualified technicians. It is the Secretary-General's view that appointments of this nature can greatly contribute to the avoidance of confusion which may otherwise arise from the multiplication of channels through which technical assistance can flow. Moreover, the existence of such a resident Representative should assist those under-developed countries, which have not yet developed appropriate co-ordinating machinery, to view their needs for technical assistance from the standpoint of the over-all economic development needs of the country.

In accordance with the instructions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, it is the Secretary-General's responsibility to see that through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development, and through such devices as that I have just described, the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies will be able to maintain a steadily growing programme of direct technical assistance for the economic development of the countries of Latin America.

/Mr. President,
Mr. President,

I have touched on certain issues that arise from the work of the Commission. The proper handling of these issues is, in itself, a great responsibility and every step toward their solution will contribute greatly to the economic development of the region. Moreover, in the act of discharging this specific responsibility, the Commission is helping to promote the wider cause of world peace. In the act of co-operating with one another, you not only hasten the solution of various problems of common concern but also contribute to the growth of that harmony and closer understanding between nations which is the foundation of the United Nations Charter.