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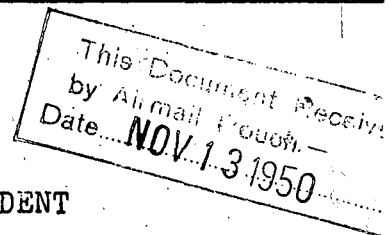


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ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY, DON LUIS
BATTLE BERRES, TO THE DELEGATIONS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

I am indeed honoured by the presence in my country of all the delegations to ECLA. It is one of our ambitions to welcome the different organizations that make up the United Nations. Like the rest of the world, we have pinned all our hopes on the success of the work undertaken by the United Nations and that which is being carried out by all the Commissions depending from them. We believe that through the work undertaken by this organization it will be possible to achieve unity of the people, the solutions of peace, tranquility, prosperity and unity which the world has been seeking for so long. It is perhaps this contact of the peoples through these Commissions and this constant pilgrimage which men make through all the countries that enable them to know each other better and to make better friends, and enable us to unite

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/all the governments

all the governments and all the people in the just ambitions of everyone to achieve peace and realise this universal aspiration: the happiness of each one of the countries represented in these organizations.

The great nations, as directors of the world, require unity because in unity they will find peace. But the little nations which together are more than the great ones, are those which most need this unity and this peace. We, the small nations, shall be strong and we shall be powerful if this organisation of the United Nations is able to become strong and to become powerful. We must therefore all fight for it, since it is still in its beginning and is often beset by many difficulties. For this reason it is a responsibility for the peoples and the governments to receive organisations such as ECLA.

I am not going to talk about what ECLA is, since you who are forming it and working for its success know it better than I. The principal idea of discovering and utilizing the wealth that America produces and is capable of producing, presupposes the liberation of the millions of slaves existing in that continent; to produce the wealth of which America is capable is to give the people food and housing which many of them do not have, and thus attain the social stability for which we are all striving and which we all covet.

/I wish ECLA

I wish ECLA success and a rapid success. It is very serious that the millions of inhabitants of America that are neither housed nor fed should first hear ideas of destruction, contrary to the social and political order in which we live, before they see the fruits of the work of ECLA. I believe that there is no time to be lost; that the dreams of ECLA must be realized rapidly; that it is of the greatest urgency to discover our wealth and make it available to all, especially those in great misery. This is a matter which America must solve rapidly if our democracy is to be sound and if our social order is to be sound. If this is not done soon America may go through a great catastrophe, and you, as directors of policy and of the public affairs in your hands, bear a great responsibility; the responsibility of the governments is even greater and we are under an obligation to act without wavering or delay.

I repeat that it is a great honour for Uruguay to receive the delegations working for and seeking the solution of the problems which they are considering, but I can assure them that the Government and people of Uruguay will give all their support and help, though it be but small, for the success of ECLA's work; that they carry all our hopes which are great. If ECLA is not successful, we shall without any doubt be checked on the road to recovery, of understanding between the countries and of improvement for the peoples.

/ECLA

ECLA is a means towards all these ends and we will do everything in our power for the success of this organization.

I hope that in addition to the time you devote to work in Uruguay, you will be able to spare some to become acquainted with our country and our people. I am sure that if you have come with the impression of arriving in a friendly country, you will leave knowing that you have left behind many friends. I am sure that you will leave this country convinced that we enjoy freedom of the people. I am sure that you will leave saying that you have seen everywhere the will to fight for peace and for the unity of America. During these hard times, a country where liberty is a fact and where the aspiration towards peace and unity exists, is indeed a friendly country.

The greatest ambition of our country is to make friends, since by making friends we are sure that we are fighting for peace.