



UNITED NATIONS/  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distribution  
GENERAL

E/CN.12/210 \*  
21 June, 1950

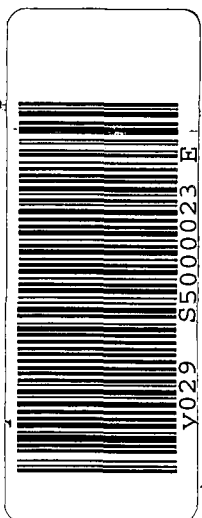
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: PORTUGUESE

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Third Session  
Montevideo, Uruguay

This Document Received  
by Airmail Pouch.—  
Date: DEC 5-1950

SPEECH MADE BY GENERAL ANAPIO GOMES, HEAD OF

THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL



Your Excellencies, the President of the Republic,  
The President of the Economic Commission for Latin America,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the first place, I wish to express my gratitude  
for the honour accorded to the Brazilian Delegation which  
has been asked to address you on behalf of the Delegations of  
Latin America and of France, Great Britain and the Netherlands  
during this memorable closing meeting of the Third Session  
of the Economic Commission for Latin America held in the  
august hall of Uruguay's Legislative body, one of the  
most representative centres of Democracy and Liberty of  
our times.

Because we have just concluded our work in an atmosphere  
of harmony and understanding, this pleasure and, may we say  
with great satisfaction, this honour acquire even greater  
significance for us. This is principally because we have  
reached decisions which are of the utmost importance to

/the economic

\* This document has been reproduced in New York from the  
original issued in Montevideo.

the economic development of the Latin American countries, and to trade among these countries and between them and the rest of the world.

Let us, at this final meeting, stress a point which has been noted by various delegates as the conference progressed. For the first time, in a meeting to study the economic problems of Latin America, we have been provided with technical documentation of the highest order, which has served as an excellent basis for our discussions and decisions. We have had before us a realistic portrayal of the general outline of Latin America's economy, demonstrating that the Commission's efficiency increases from year to year. In fact, if we compare the prospects which faced us two years ago at Santiago de Chile when ECLA was first established, with the results obtained from the Second Session at Havana and this third meeting which has now drawn to a close, it can be seen at once that the Latin American countries, little by little, are finding a common denominator for the solution of their economic problems.

The resolutions approved, whilst recognizing our difficulties point at the same time to our possibilities and to our aspirations for material progress and social stability.

/One of the most

One of the most expressive tendencies of our era, in so far as relations between nations are concerned, is the ever-growing importance of the decisions taken by international organizations. In the case of ECLA, this tendency has led us to substantiate and materialize those aspirations, which are common to the community of sister republics, moulding them into principles which will best enable us to attain their basic objectives in the economic field.

In Latin America, these ideals of cooperation between nations have long since been embodied in juridical terms as a result of that spiritual affinity of which we are justly proud. It has now become evident that this affinity also exists in the world of economics and that its acknowledgment will permit us to unite our efforts in order to solve the fundamental problem of the Americas: the raising of the standard of living of our populations.

A detailed analysis of the work of the Conference would be out of place on this occasion. However, it is necessary to stress some of the far-reaching decisions which have been taken during these meetings.

It seems most appropriate to draw attention to what has so adequately been termed "The Ten Commandments of Latin America's Economic Development".

/If we agree that

If we agree that the fundamental objective of Latin America's economic development demand the expansion of real income and a better utilization of our human and material resources, reducing to a minimum our vulnerability to the effects of fluctuations provoked by foreign stimuli, we also give our assent to the most adequate solutions for attaining these objectives. Among these, it is opportune to emphasize especially the development of industry in a measure with agriculture and other activities with the object of meeting the basic economic needs of the population in each country. Therefore, measures must be adopted to stimulate and protect production and expand our exports, without endangering the terms of trade of Latin American products. In this connection attention was also drawn to problems of a cyclical origin and the possibility of establishing a policy which would prevent such disequilibrium in our balances of payments. We would thus ensure the accelerated rate of a continued economic expansion.

Nor did we overlook the role of technical assistance in programmes of economic development. It should be noted that a special conference to deal with this subject has been convened by the United Nations, the decisions of which are being awaited with interest.

/As a result of

As a result of our deliberations here, we can count in the future on the assistance of ECLA's Secretariat in this field.

An encouraging unanimity of views was demonstrated on matters connected with immigration, especially as regards the possibility of arriving at an adequate solution for the financing of large-scale immigration programmes in Latin America, taking into account the economic conditions prevailing in each country receiving immigrants.

Another of the dominant questions dealt with by the Third Session was the problem of agricultural credit which, as we know, constitutes one of the principal factors in economic development, the progress of which is of such vital importance to the Latin American countries. For this reason we place what we believe to be well-founded hopes in the agreements between ECLA and FAO, which have already led to the establishment of the ECLA/FAO Cooperative Unit. The reports submitted by this Unit have been invaluable in helping us to understand the full implications of this matter.

It is with satisfaction that we note, in connection with foreign investments in the Latin American countries, that recently the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development has shown increasing interest in the under-developed areas.

/Through the

Through the good offices of ECLA, we intend to obtain data which will enable us both to estimate the total of such investments made in Latin America and to obtain data which would enable us to circumvent one of the principal obstacles to the increase of such investments, namely, double taxation.

By dividing the problems connected with our foreign trade into two main groups, namely, those arising from trade relations in the Western Hemisphere and those deriving from our trade with Europe, we have attempted to implement the measures intended to develop such trade. Among the decisions taken with this object in view, we may cite the close cooperation envisaged with the Economic Commission for Europe, for the purpose of determining the best means of expanding trade between the Old World and Latin America on a basis that in a practical and equitable manner will consider the interests of both regions. It would be redundant to stress the importance of re-establishing normal trade relations between the Latin American and European countries.

As our work progressed, we had the satisfaction of observing to how great an extent ECLA co-operated with some of the Specialised Agencies of United Nations, and with both the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and the Organization of American States.

We should also like to mention that the Commission has not dealt exclusively with economic matters, as can be seen from the resolution determining our cooperation with UNESCO,

in its efforts to extend a far-reaching programme of cultural exchange between Latin America and the rest of the world.

This fact, indeed, causes us great pleasure since there can be no doubt of the vital need for resources with which to spread the knowledge, science and culture of our countries.

This, then, Ladies and Gentlemen, is a brief summary of the work of the Third Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Brazilian Delegation is proud to have shared in this highly constructive task, and to have worked alongside these admirable delegations, constituted by statesmen, economists and experts of the sister republics of this continent, as well as of France, Great Britain and Holland.

Nor would justice be done if we failed to pay tribute to the valuable contribution made by the economists and other members of the ECLA staff.

We are sure that ECLA, and especially its Research Centre, can render still greater services to Latin America. We feel, nevertheless, that we are already justified in asserting that from now on, no reference can be made to the fundamental economic problems of our countries, without having resort to ECLA's reports, which one of the Delegations has so aptly termed a legacy for Latin America.

/The Press

The Press circles of Uruguay have contributed greatly to the success of our labours here and we wish to express to them our very sincere appreciation.

Before closing, we desire to make a very special mention of the extremely friendly and hospitable welcome we have received from the Government and people of Uruguay. Once again we feel that we are fully interpreting the thoughts and feelings of every Delegate here present when we say that the understanding and kindness with which we have been met in this beautiful city evokes our most sincere praise and our deepest appreciation.

The work of the Third Session of ECLA has progressed in an atmosphere of cordiality in this great nation. And, I repeat the word great because a nation's greatness is not measured by the extent of its territory but rather by its culture, its wisdom, the honest toil of its population, its political institutions and its administration, by the spirit of freedom and by its influence among the community of nations. In all these respects, Uruguay is indeed a great nation, an exemplary country!

To this great country, then, to its Government and to its people, the Delegates of the Third Session of the

/Economic Commission



1. 4. 1950  
Page 9

E/CN.12/210  
Page 9

Economic Commission for Latin America wish to extend their  
vote of homage and gratitude in the few but sincere words  
of the Head of the Brazilian Delegation.