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Economic Commission for Latin America
Fourth Session
Mexico City
28 May 1951

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening Addresses

This is a session of an organ of the United Nations and will, therefore, be opened by the Chairman, who will call upon the representative or representatives of the Mexican Government to deliver the address or addresses of welcome to the Commission. This will be followed by addresses by the Chairman and the representative of the Secretary-General.

2. Election of Officers

The rules of procedure provide for the election of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. Upon his election, the Chairman will, at once, take over the conduct of the Session, and he may wish to make some remarks. Upon the election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur, the First Meeting will probably be adjourned.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The first business of the Second Meeting will be a statement by the Executive Secretary. The Commission will

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then adopt the Agenda on the basis of the provisional one prepared, according to the rules of procedure, by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

4. Recent Developments and Trends in the Economy of Latin America

The Economic Survey of Latin America 1950 prepared for this session is a study on recent trends and developments in the region; it covers the period from the end of the war to 1950 and, to the extent that it was found possible, comparison is made with war and prewar years.

The Survey is divided in three parts: part one is an Introduction in which an attempt is made to describe and analyze the most important economic happenings of the postwar years in Latin America; in doing so it goes into the fields of agriculture, industry, mining, inflation, the balance of payments and foreign exchange.

Part two analyzes recent trends and developments on a country by country basis, including studies on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Part three consists of a series of studies on certain basic raw materials, limited for this year to some minerals of primary importance.

It should be explained that even if the emphasis of this study is on recent events, the economic problems of the region

/are considered

are considered throughout the study in the light of the basic structure of the economies of the Latin American countries and are interrelated generally with the studies on economic development prepared by the Secretariat.

The study of "Effects of the United States Defense Programme on Latin American countries" analyzes the effect of this programme on Latin American trade, with special emphasis on the availability of capital and other essential goods for the economic development of the Latin American countries.

5. Economic Development Problems

The Secretariat has prepared for the consideration of the Commission several studies related to the most important problems of Economic Development. The preparation of a series of studies on Economic Development in Latin American countries which was started in the past years has been continued, covering for this session, Bolivia, Cuba and Guatemala. Last year's studies included Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

The studies on Economic and Legal Status of Foreign Investments are also a continuation of those presented at the Third Session. The studies submitted last year included the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Uruguay, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela. The studies for this session cover Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru and Paraguay.

"Theoretical and Practical Problems of Economic Growth" is

/a study in

a study in which special consideration is given to the problems of programmes for economic development.

The study on Productivity of the Cotton Textile Industry in Selected Latin American countries was undertaken as a special project in an effort to establish the facts and analyze the factors affecting productivity in under-developed countries.

The report on the Technical Assistance Programme describes the progress made in the field of Technical Assistance in Latin America and has been prepared at the special request of the Commission at its Third Session.

The Commission at its Third Session also requested the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and other specialized agencies concerned, to set up a Working Committee at the Secretariat Level to study the relation between economic development of Latin America and Immigration and to assist the Latin American countries, at their request, in the promotion of economic development through immigration.

6. Foreign Trade Problems

The Study of Latin American-European Trade was undertaken at the request of the Commission at its Third Session in a resolution asking for a study on ways and means to expand trade between Latin America and Europe, on bases which are practical and equitable to the interests of both groups of countries. This study analyzes the factors that have affected long-term

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developments of European-Latin American trade and present problems of payments. It also analyzes triangular trade relations between Latin America, Europe and the United States. The Survey will present a series of commodity studies to show the variations in the share of European supplies coming from Latin America.

The report on United States capacity of absorbing American Products is an attempt to analyze the influence of economic activity in the United States on imports from Latin America.

7. ECLA-FAO Joint Work Programme

ECLA and FAO have continued cooperating in the field of food and agriculture in Latin America and in November 1950 a new and comprehensive agreement was signed by the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the Director General of FAO. A note by the Executive Secretary gives an account of the new agreement and of the common activities in the region.

8. Measures to increase the availability of supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials

The Commission at its Third Session passed a resolution requesting the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Director General of UNESCO in the study of measures to increase the availability of supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials. A note by the Executive Secretary reports on the action taken on this matter.

9. Measures in relation to international action for conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources

suggested that this item be considered during the latter part of the Session.

The Executive Secretary intends to present in the course of the session a statement which will include continuous projects, projects already started and new projects contemplated. In accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, he will indicate what are the financial implications of the Commission's decisions, in order to facilitate the considerations of the Work Programme of the Commission from the point of view of the most economic use of available resources and of priorities attached to various projects.

14. Review of Regional Economic Commissions by the Economic and Social Council

It should be recalled that the Economic and Social Council included in the Commission's terms of reference the following paragraph:

"Not later than 1951 the Council shall make a special review of the work of the Commission with a view to determining whether the Commission should be terminated or continued, and if continued what modification if any should be made in its terms of reference".

The General Assembly at its Fifth Session adopted resolution 409 (V) which reads:

/"The General Assembly

"The General Assembly

Takes note with satisfaction the Economic and Social Council's decision to undertake in the near future a complete review of its organization and operation and that of its Commissions; and

Expresses the opinion that the Regional Economic Commissions should be maintained, although their organization and terms of reference may have to be revised in the light of the experience acquired since their establishment."

The Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session decided to review the work of the Regional Economic Commissions at its Thirteenth Session to be held in July 1951 and appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee to report to the Council on the organization and operation of the Council and its Commissions. Document E/AC.34/6 contains a statement prepared by the Executive Secretary of ECLA implementing a suggestion made by the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs at the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee, which the Committee approved. This statement had to be presented to the Ad-Hoc Committee of the Council prior to the Commission's Fourth Session.

The Commission may wish to review the Executive Secretary's statement and present fully its views and recommendations in connexion with the Council's review of the regional commissions. It is expected that these views and recommendations would be incorporated in the annual report of the Commission to the Council.

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The Commission may wish to consider items 14 and 15 of the Agenda together.

15. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report of the Commission to the Thirteenth Session of the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with paragraph 12 of Terms of Reference the Commission should present its Annual Report to the Council. The preliminary draft of the Report will be circulated by the Executive Secretary during the Session.

16. Date and Place of the Fifth Session of the Commission

In accordance with paragraph 15 of the Terms of Reference and rule two of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission shall at each session, with the concurrence of the Secretary General decide upon the place of meeting for its next session, with due consideration for the principle that the countries of Latin America be chosen in rotation.
