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SUMMARY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, DR. ALBERTO LLERAS CAMARGO, AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLA, DR. RAUL PREBISCH, IN FULFILLING THE TASK GIVEN TO THEM BY THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND ECLA TO STUDY "THE MEANS WHICH THEY JUDGE NECESSARY AND ADEQUATE SO THAT COORDINATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL CAN BE ESTABLISHED ON A PRACTICAL AND SYSTEMATIC BASIS".

On 9 December 1952 Dr. Lleras Camargo officially informed Dr. Prebisch of his nomination as representative of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. Dr. Prebisch acknowledged receipt of this letter on 30 December 1952.

In a second letter dated 4 February 1953, Dr. Lleras Camargo suggested to Dr. Prebisch that he should consider as one of the possible recommendations that "the meetings of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC should take place at the same time, on immediately consecutive dates, and at the same place."

Dr. Prebisch in his letter of reply, dated 20 February, stated that he regretted that his mandate did not allow him to consider such a suggestion since both the idea of holding consecutive meetings and that of simultaneous conferences had been fully discussed at the Fourth Session of ECLA in Mexico, in June 1951, without having received a very favourable reaction. To be more precise, the resolution which was finally adopted there, recommended that OAS and ECLA should nominate representatives to consider the problem of co-ordination. This was, in fact, a result of the previous formula not having been considered acceptable.

In the same letter Dr. Prebisch hinted to Dr. Lleras Camargo that he should try to find a solution for the problem of co-ordination at the governmental level through an agreement to avoid similar dates for the meetings of IA-ECOSOC and ECLA.

At the beginning of the Fifth Session of ECLA, Dr. Prebisch received a further letter from Dr. Lleras Camargo. In it, there was a reference to

resolutions 35 and 36, on co-ordination with ECLA and the integration and duties of the IA-ECOSOC respectively.

As regards Resolution 36 the substantive section is as follows:

"To entrust to the Executive Commission, preparing a report upon the status of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, recommendations for the best means to correct the existing deficiencies and to fortify it in general terms, especially as regards the necessary financial resources to permit its normal operation". Dr. Lleras Camargo said that "since this report, which the Executive Commission is to carry out immediately, is still pending, both the suggestions in my earlier letter and those of your reply remain somewhat in suspense. In fact, the Caracas conference (the Tenth Conference of American states) in the light of this report could make recommendations involving a modification in the present statutes of IA-ECOSOC."

Dr. Lleras Camargo in the same letter stated that he supposed Dr. Prebisch would go to the United States after the Fifth Session and said: "I am still interested in discussing with you now whatever formula you consider acceptable so that we may fulfill our task. Including the opportunity provided by the study which the Council is going to make, it might be a favourable moment for us to investigate personally if there are any steps, which might be unilaterally adopted by the Council, towards future co-ordination with ECLA."