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Seventh session
La Paz, Bolivia

ADDRESS DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATIONS BY
MR. HAROLD M. RANDALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED
STATES DELEGATION, AT THE OPENING MEETING,
15 MAY 1957

My esteemed colleagues, the Chairmen of the Delegations of the States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America, have bestowed a high honour upon both my country and myself in designating me to reply on their behalf to the sincere and encouraging words of welcome which His Excellency has so kindly addressed to us. Replying, then, in their name, allow me in the first place, Mr. President, to thank you not only for the kind invitation, extended on the occasion of the sixth session at Bogotá, for this seventh session of the Commission to be held in La Paz, the delightful capital city of this beautiful country of Bolivia, but also, still more, for the cordial reception you have accorded us.

We are meeting here in order to exchange views and to attempt to further and co-ordinate activities in the economic field, where we all share the hope that we shall be able to make some definite contribution to the development of the economies of all the member countries. Unquestionably,

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the principal responsibility of every country is to grapple with its own problems. Nevertheless, we believe that the improvement of standards of living everywhere must be reckoned among the ambitions of every country represented here; and, moreover, that co-operation may prove a valuable means of solving some of the problems involved. The Economic Commission for Latin America is one of the organizations engaged in such work. The value of the contribution made by this Commission, through the remarkable work of its secretariat under the efficient guidance of its distinguished Executive Secretary, Dr. Raúl Prebisch, is universally acknowledged. The Commission's efforts would be fully justified even had they been confined exclusively to the studies and analyses prepared by the secretariat. But, in addition, it is our conviction that other major benefits are derived from these sessions held every two years.

On our arrival in Latin America we noted with considerable satisfaction the tendency displayed by the various countries to face and solve their individual problems. With still greater pleasure do we now witness the progress they have already achieved, thanks to their own endeavours.

Special recognition is due, Mr. President, to the zeal and devotion with which your Government has shouldered the task of solving as fully as possible the country's economic and social problems, which are always so inseparably linked. The

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whole world salutes the effort put forth by you yourself and by your fellow countrymen, and we offer you our congratulations on your straightforward, honourable and efficient implementation of a programme designed to enable your people to enjoy fuller and happier lives. It is with considerable satisfaction that we note that, alongside other international organizations, ECLA is making some contribution to Bolivia's efforts. In wishing you every success, we would assure you of our conviction that, in view of your own spirit as well as that of the people whom you lead, the outcome of your endeavours cannot be other than a resounding triumph.

In conclusion I would suggest that it is highly appropriate for this organization, whose work lies in the economic field, to be meeting here in this Republic which was founded 132 years ago, and whose independence was won with the aid of those great figures in American history, Bolivar the Liberator and Marshal Sucre; for we feel sure that they themselves, if they could see to-day this beautiful city on the roof of the world, would be content with the work that they and their companions began in their campaign for the independence of this part of the hemisphere.