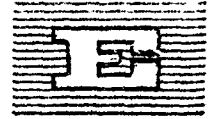


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Ad Hoc Committee on International
Trade
Fourth session
Mexico, D.F.
Item 6 of the agenda.

PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN TRADE

Panama: Draft Resolution

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA:

CONSIDERING the usefulness of free customs zones as a means facilitating the interchange of goods within the Latin American areas as well as between the Latin American countries and countries outside the area, and

CONSIDERING the practical problems arising from the need for the construction of facilities in free customs zones that have already been created or may be created in the future by various Latin American republics, and

CONSIDERING the request expressed to the Commission by the Government of the Republic of Panama for assistance in connection with the problems of bringing into maximum operation the Free Zone of Colon, Republic of Panama, created in 1948, and

CONSIDERING the contribution that could be made by the maximum operation of the Free Zone of Colon, Republic of Panama to the lowering of maritime freight rates applicable to that Republic, and

/CONSIDERING

CONSIDERING the detrimental effects on the cost of essential imported goods in the Republic of Panama which result from the deficiency of cargoes and the consequent high level of maritime freight rates,

TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION of the announcement by the Executive Secretary of the opening of an office of the Secretariat in Mexico City to deal especially with the problems of the countries in the northern part of the Latin American area, and

REQUESTS the Executive Secretary to make a preliminary inquiry through the new Mexico City Office of the Secretariat into the problems of bringing **into maximum operation the Free Zone of Colon, Republic of Panama**, in order to determine the kind of study necessary to evaluate the economic effects of the operation of that zone, with special emphasis on its relationship to the high level of maritime freight rates applicable to Panama; and to recommend to the Government of Panama the most practical means of carrying out such a study, bearing in mind the possibility of securing the assistance of United Nations agencies that might be concerned with this problem.