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Fifth Session  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

COMMITTEE VI

COORDINATION WITH THE INTER AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Rapporteur's report

The Committee met on 14, 15 and 21 April, Mr. Manuel Noriega Morales being in the Chair.

The following countries were permanent members of the Committee: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Before presenting this report the French delegation wishes to apologize for the absence of Mr. Lionel de Tinguy du Pouet, head of the delegation, who was recalled to France before the end of the session in view of the imminent municipal elections. With the Chairman's permission I shall present this report.

The Committee's debate was based on the following documents:

Co-operation and co-ordination with the Inter American Economic and Social Council (E/CN.12/311); Concise account

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of the steps taken by Mr. Alberto Lleras Camargo, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, and Mr. Raul Prebisch, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, in studying, as requested by IA-ECOSOC and ECLA, "the measures they might deem necessary and sufficient to ensure co-ordination at the government level in a practical and positive manner" (E/CN.12/311/Add.1/Rev.1); report of the fourth meeting of the Co-ordination Committee at the Secretariat level of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC (E/CN.12/320).

After a general debate the delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, submitted a draft resolution which noted with satisfaction the decisions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to the effect that the Economic Commission for Latin America should be given permanent status and its activities expanded; stated that co-ordination between the two bodies at secretariat level was proceeding adequately; and conveyed the Commission's views concerning co-ordination at government level to the Executive Secretary so that he might take these into account in his conversation with Mr. Lleras Camargo, Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

The contents of this draft resolution were discussed at length. The principal issue was whether the Executive Secretary should be given a precise indication of the Commission's views concerning the means of achieving co-ordination at government level.

A number of delegations were apprehensive lest, by giving

/the Executive

the Executive Secretary indications on these lines, the full freedom he needed in his conversations with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States might be limited. By contrast, the majority thought that he should be given such indication, since he had requested the Commission's views so that he might know whether his position met with its approval. Mr. Prebisch was anxious to know ECLA's point of view because Mr. Lleras Camargo had earlier suggested to him, as a possible solution, that the meetings of ECLA and LA-ECOSOC should be held consecutively at the same place, a suggestion to which he (Mr. Prebisch) had been unable to accede, partly because he felt that he was not authorised to do so by his terms of reference, the same solution having been held to be unacceptable earlier, at ECLA's fourth session.

Since it was impossible to reach full agreement on this point it was decided to set up a working group to submit a revised text of the aforesaid draft resolution at the Committee's next meeting.

The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, United States of America, Haiti and Mexico were members of this Working Group. It met on 17, 18 and 20 April, Mr. Manuel Noriega Morales, Chairman of the Committee, presiding. In addition, the representative of France, as the Committee's rapporteur, attended the Group's meetings.

The Working Group unanimously approved a new text which did not substantially modify the original draft resolution, and submitted it to the full Committee at the meeting of 21 April.

/The Committee

The Committee considered the draft resolution paragraph by paragraph. A few delegations suggested amendments which altered the substance of the draft; these amendments were rejected. Finally, after a long debate which gave delegations an opportunity to examine the problem from every angle, the Committee approved the draft resolution in the form reproduced in the Annex to this report (E/CN.12/AC.23/1). The following delegations voted in favour of the text: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay. The delegations of Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela abstained. The text as finally approved was identical with that previously approved by the Working Group, subject to a few drafting changes. The representative of Cuba explained the reasons for his abstention, and his explanations are reported in the summary record of the meeting.

The proceedings of the committee meetings are reported in the summary records (E/CN.12/AC.23/SR1, SR.2, SR.3).