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Committee of the Whole Meeting
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WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES FOR 1953
(Statement by the Executive Secretary)

The Commission at its Fourth Session recognized the necessity for utilizing available resources in the most economic manner and for coordinating its activities with other United Nations bodies. Accordingly the Commission, acting on the directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, classified the work projects approved at the Mexico Meeting as follows:

- A. Continuing Projects on which the responsibility of the Secretariat in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference is of such a nature that studies and reports should be presented on an annual basis although such reports and studies differ and supplement each other from year to year in substance (different aspects of major problems) and scope (country coverage).
- B. Ad Hoc Projects are special studies or other activities on which work may be completed within a specified period of time but which may have the same order of priority as Continuing Projects. For budgetary reasons some projects which would normally require a continuing approach are dealt with on an Ad Hoc basis.
- C. Projects which might be deferred or eliminated having a relatively low priority are to be undertaken only if it becomes desirable to do so because of changed circumstances, should the resources of the Secretariat permit.

The Commission recognized that in adopting a definite programme according to an order of priorities, that the Executive Secretary should
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have a certain amount of discretion in adapting the programme to circumstances as they may arise and to the staff and other resources available to him. He was authorized to modify or eliminate projects or establish different priorities should developments not foreseen make this desirable in his opinion. This has proven to be a desirable provision, and it is recommended that in accordance with sub-paragraph (f) of paragraph 11, of the Report of the Co-ordination Committee (document E/2121), the Executive Secretary should continue to have discretion as to the scheduling of work within the broad programme authorized by the Commission.

The Report of the Co-ordination Committee to the Council, which has been brought to the attention of the Commission, again emphasized the constant need for concentration of efforts and resources, and made a recommendation that was approved by the Council that all its subsidiary organs should follow the procedures as stated in paragraph 11. (See E/2121 attached to document E/CN.12/AC.16/12). It will be noted that the grouping in the Co-ordination Committee's Report is essentially the same as that used by the Fourth Session of ECLA.

In proposing the following changes in the programme for 1953, the Executive Secretary has followed the general principles laid down by the Commission at its Mexico meeting that the basic work programme of the Commission should be continued from year to year with a view that the objectives and scheduling of the work can be systematically planned over a period of years.

Taking into account available resources and relative importance of the various projects, the Executive Secretary proposes that the following changes be made in the Work Programme:

(a) Because of their close relationship to the long-term economic development problems which are being analyzed by the Secretariat, to include in the Continuing Projects (See A above), the following projects which are now included in the Ad Hoc Projects:

Study on monetary and fiscal policies relative to the requirements of economic development (including meeting of experts);

Means for increasing the rate of domestic capital formation and for directing savings into productive channels;

(b) To carry forward into 1953 two Ad Hoc projects which will still be /incomplete at the

incomplete at the end of 1952:

Survey of technological research and training in Latin America (pilot study in at least one country will be completed in the course of 1952);
Study on maintenance of purchasing power of foreign exchange balances accumulated during emergency period (including meeting of consultants).

[This project will be undertaken only if circumstances make it desirable.]

(c) A preliminary inquiry on operation of the Free Zone of Colon, Republic of Panama, has been made by the Secretariat. Inasmuch as resources are not available to make a thorough study of the operation of the Free Zone of Colon this year, it is proposed to carry this project forward into 1953 as an Ad Hoc Project - previously classed as a project which might be deferred.

(d) To defer certain projects which have been previously allocated a comparatively high priority; viz:

Appraisal of economic aspects of immigration projects;

Study on the relation of immigration to economic development;

Study on measures relative to the system of price-fixing in foreign trade;

Study on organisation and structure of capital markets in Latin America;

Study on effects of trade barriers and shipping charges on the development of the lumber industry in Latin America;

UNESCO/ECLA study on measures to increase the availability of supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials.

(e) With respect to continuing projects as established at the Mexico meeting, the Executive Secretary proposes to broaden the study of alkalis to include the chemical industry as a whole.

Because sufficient resources have not been available, the Secretariat has not initiated the study on food processing industries, which was requested at the Fourth Session. However, as a result of consultation with FAO, it is planned to undertake a joint ECLA/FAO study of the food processing industries, beginning in 1953.

(f) To eliminate from the Work Programme the "Inquiry on facilities for training of economists in Latin America".

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The above recommendations are related to Appendix A of the Progress Report (E/CN.12/AC.16/2/Rev.1) which lists and classifies all projects

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as approved at the Fourth Session. A new listing and grouping of projects will be made in the Annual Report to the fourteenth session of the Council, based on the decisions of the Committee of the Whole.