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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
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SOURCES OF ENERGY AS A MEANS OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Note by the secretariat

In the document entitled "Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, with a note by the ECLA secretariat" (E/CN.12/AC.40/9), the secretariat called the Commission's attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 653 (XXIV) on sources of energy as a means of economic development, with special reference to the report on the economic applications of atomic energy (E/3005).

In this connexion the secretariat also wishes to draw the attention of the Committee of the Whole to a proposal, recently endorsed by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, that the possibility should be studied of setting up regional training centres on atomic energy, with particular reference to the needs of Latin America.

The question of establishing such a regional centre in Latin America was first discussed during the meetings of the Preparatory Commission of the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the January session of the Agency's Board of Governors, a formal proposal for a study of the subject was presented by the Governor from Brazil, supported by the Governors from Argentina and Guatemala, and the proposal was subsequently endorsed by the Board.

The Agency proposes to establish a special Working Group of experts in various fields of nuclear technology, and it is hoped that the Working Group, or certain of its members, will be ready to visit Latin America within the next three or four months for consultations with the authorities responsible for atomic energy matters in various countries of the region. In order to ensure that the study is effective, it is, of course, essential to ascertain in advance the extent to which the need for such a centre is felt by the countries of Latin America, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has therefore written to its Latin American member States and to those Latin American countries which have signed the Statute but have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification, in order to ascertain whether

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1/ See United Nations publication Sales N° 1957:II.B.2.

their Governments are, in principle, in favour of the undertaking and would be interested in receiving a visit by the Working Group.

If the response is affirmative, the States concerned have been requested to make appropriate arrangements for the visit and to provide, in advance, the technical data requested in a special questionnaire.

The preparation of the study will be one of the Agency's first important operations and priority has been given to it not only because of its direct relationship to the pressing needs of the technologically less developed areas of the world, but also because of indications that it may lead to practical results in Latin America at a relatively early date.

The secretariat believes that this is a matter of interest to Government members of the Commission and is therefore submitting it for information.