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Eighth Session
Panama City, Panama, 14 May 1959

COMMITTEE III

(General Business)

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Guillaume Georges-Picot (France)

Insert the following immediately after the heading of section III.
Programme of work and priorities:

Examination of 1959-60 work programme

(i) Various delegations pointed out that the work programme and priorities placed practically almost all of the projects in a high priority category.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the secretariat should give top priority on all projects related to the common market. In this connexion it was also agreed that the greatest importance should be given to the Central American Integration Programme in the work of the secretariat.

It was emphasized that the work on the common market, together with economic development, should be the basis for the main efforts of the secretariat.

/It was

It was felt that several projects should be downgraded in priority, especially certain projects of relatively long standing and for which the secretariat had not been able to start work, or which required an unusually large amount of resources in relation to those available to the secretariat. After considering a number of individual projects it was agreed to recommend the assign of various projects (Conference Room Paper No. 28) lower priority. Note was taken of the importance which was placed by one of the delegations on the institutional aspects of industrialization.

Some delegations wished to be certain that the survey on water resources would not be affected by the decision to lower the priority on the establishment of a planning centre for integrated hydroelectric development in Latin America.

(ii) The Committee agreed that at future sessions a working group should be constituted at the beginning of the session to review the draft work programme so as to provide a better basis for evaluation of amendments and additions to the work programme emerging from the resolutions of the current session.

(iii) The representative of the secretariat read out statements on the financial implications prepared by the secretariat. In answer to a question by a delegation, the secretariat explained that the financial implications brought to the attention of the Committee reflected only the additional resources required as a result of the decisions taken at the current session, and therefore did not preclude other additions which were under consideration by the Secretary-General. The secretariat was complimented on presenting a frank estimate of its additional requirements.

/Some delegations

Some delegations expressed their sympathy in regard to these requirements, but pointed out that regional commissions had no authority to make financial commitments and would therefore have to consider the requirements of the ECLA secretariat together with other requirements of the United Nations at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

Many delegations reaffirmed the provision included in the introduction to the work programme to the effect that the Executive Secretary was authorized to modify, delay or suspend certain projects should unforeseen circumstances so require.

The Committee unanimously recommended the work programme, as mended, for approval by the Commission.