ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Joint Statement by the Executive Secretaries respectively of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Latin America

The discussions of this conference have lifted into bold relief the fact that the economic problems of Latin America include many facets, each of which requires careful technical study if constructive solutions are to be found.

The scope of these problems is such that the technical staffs of ECLA and I-A ECOSOC possess equally great opportunities to make a major contribution towards a better understanding of Latin American problems and towards finding sound and lasting solutions.

In order that each of these two bodies may effectively utilize the facilities available to it, within the limits set by budgetary considerations, it is obviously necessary that there be full cooperation and coordination between the respective secretariats. Since both organizations must deal with similar problems in the same general field of research and study it is desirable that the studies made by one group supplement the results achieved by the other in such a way that the work of each will be greatly enhanced. It is our considered opinion that the test of effective cooperation lies in the net result of such combined efforts.
combined efforts. The answer to the question whether there is "unnecessary duplication" must be found, therefore, not in the similarity of titles, which identify the studies and reports, but in the degree to which different methods of compilation and analysis yield results that can be combined to produce the type of report which can effectively stand the most stringent form of examination and criticism.

In proposing a plan whereby the absence of unnecessary duplication can best be guaranteed we are conscious of a great sense of responsibility, especially if we are to make certain that collaboration between the two organizations will assure the maximum contribution toward the achievement of the objectives sought by each.

Because of the nature of economic phenomena and due to the relative lack of statistical data we believe that a great responsibility rests upon our technical staffs in their efforts to meet the high standards of analysis which are desirable. We have learned from our experiences of the past year. We hope to profit by them. In order to do so it is necessary that we develop and modify our plans, through constant correspondence and consultation, so as not to become the victims of a rigid and restrictive routine.

In our view, effective cooperation designed to avoid unnecessary duplication does not mean that our respective organizations should rigidly divide the field of economic problems into closely-defined compartments but rather that we guard against the pursuance of studies by one body which will yield nothing of value to the other, since we doubt whether
doubt whether any report can be of real value to one organization if its quality is such that it fails to supplement the work performed by the other organization.

We believe, in brief, that the problem of coordination should not be viewed in a narrow sense, that is, in a sense that would point to a rigid distribution of technical assignments through an advance classification of specialized subjects.

It is essential that both ECLA and I-A ECOSOC give support to their respective Executive Secretaries, particularly in their capacity to translate into effective action the directives approved by those to whom they are responsible. It is our opinion that the discretion extended to each of the Executive Secretaries in the administration of his office should also supply to the nature and scope of specific assignments, that the same methods of cooperation and constant consultation should apply, and that the Executive Secretaries should report at the appropriate time to their respective organizations on the manner in which they meet their responsibilities in guarding against unnecessary duplication and in maintaining effective collaboration.