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## ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Second Session

COMMITTEE I

(Agriculture)

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Havana, Cuba  
on Friday, 3 June 1949 at 11.30 a.m.

**CONTENTS:** General discussion of the report of the Joint  
ECLA-FAO Working Party (E/CN.12/83)

Statement of the FAO (E/CN.12/AC.1/W.3)  
Statement by Mr. Jobim (Brazil) (E/CN.12/116)

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. URCELLES CRAMANO	Ecuador
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. INCHAUSTEGUI	Dominican Republic
<u>Present:</u>	Mr. MAYANTZ	Argentina
	Mr. VALLE ANTELO	Bolivia
	Mr. JOBIM	Brazil
	Mr. MENOCA Y BARRERAS	Cuba
	Mr. de SEYNES	France
	Mr. HUDICOURT	Haiti
	Mr. BERMUDEZ	Honduras
	Mr. de la PARRA	Netherlands
	Mr. Mc CULLOUGH	Panama
	Mr. PINSENY	United Kingdom
	Mr. KELLOG	United States of America

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Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ORR )  
Mr. ETCHATS)

Food and Agriculture  
Organization (FAO)

Mrs. THIBERT

International Labour  
Organization (ILO)

Secretariat:

Mr. CASTILLO

Deputy Executive Secretary  
of ECLA

Mr. AQUINO  
Mr. ALCAZAR

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT ECLA-FAO  
WORKING PARTY (E/CN.12/83)

Mr. CASTILLO (Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLA) announced that he had received a communication from the delegation of Honduras on the subject of soil fertilization which would be taken into account when that question was discussed.

Statement of the FAO (E/CN.12/AC.1/W.3)

Mr. ETCHATS (Food and Agriculture Organisation) recalled that the joint ECLA-FAO Working Party had been instructed by resolution of ECLA at the first session to study co-ordinated action to increase food production in Latin America and to determine supply shortages of the principal agricultural requisites. The Working Party had visited the individual countries and had worked in close co-operation with their respective agricultural experts. The suggestions and concrete recommendations contained in its report reflected the concerted opinions of those specialists. The Working Party wished to express its profound gratitude for their valuable collaboration. It was encouraging to note that although Latin America was a continent of contrasts, the conclusions reached by all those who had worked together on the problems of agricultural development were in absolute concordance.

Statement by Mr. Jobim (Brazil) (E/CN.12/116)

Mr. JOBIM (Brazil) was not in complete agreement with the analysis made by the Joint Working Party of the

causes for shortages in agricultural requisites and the low volume of food production. In particular, he could not share the view that "the environment will not be favourable to a wider use of farm requisites until the majority of Latin American countries make greater provision for research, education and above all, for extension...." through the appropriation of government funds.

The Brazilian delegation held that it was more important and more urgent to supply farm machinery and implements than to train farmers to use them. Of course, the ideal method would be to do both at the same time. But, in order of priority, the most immediate need was for farm machinery and implements at accessible prices. For that reason, Brazil had insisted that Committee I should consider industrialization in relation to the expansion of farm requisites and increased food production.

As a result of the war and the ensuing inflation, Brazil was still hampered by the difficulty of replacing machinery which had depreciated by wear and tear, by instability in the national economy and the draining of agricultural workers from the farms to the urban centres. However, important steps had been taken to expand technical training, to extend credit facilities, to manufacture fertilizers, and to develop the steel and cement industries to aid in the construction of warehouses for the storage of agricultural produce. The principal obstacle to agricultural development in Brazil was the prohibitive price of imported farm machinery and the lack of sufficient capital to manufacture farm implements on

/a large scale....

a large scale within the country.

Mr. Jobim warned that agricultural and industrial development must be balanced. The expansion of industries in regions situated near the sources of raw materials would be advantageous to both the rural and urban populations.

In particular, electrical energy should be developed in under-developed areas and financed partially by the Government, partially by private capital. Through industrialization, prices would be brought within range of the mass of the farm population, purchasing power would be increased, standards of living raised and agricultural productivity therefore would be higher. While he recognized the importance of all the prerequisites for agricultural development listed by the Joint Working Party he was insistent that priority should be given to increasing the available supplies of farm machinery and implements. The Brazilian delegation would like the Committee to adopt a resolution to the effect that the supply of farm implements should be considered the key factor in increasing agricultural production in Latin America.

Mr. ETCHATS (Food and Agriculture Organization), referring to the introduction to the Joint Working Party's report, reminded the Committee that the Working Party had always borne in mind the necessary correlation between agricultural and industrial development.

Mr. MENCAL Y BARRERAS (Cuba) was inclined to agree with the representative of Brazil that priority should be given to supplying farm implements rather than to training workers to use them.

/Mr. MAYANTZ.....

Mr. MAYANIZ (Argentina) congratulated the Joint Working Party on the excellence of its report and the very sound conclusions it had reached concerning problems of agricultural development. Although, Argentina was not a member of the FAO, it had taken vigorous measures to improve the farm situation by expanding storage facilities setting up training centres for farm workers, organizing groups of agricultural consultants for various regions and establishing experimental stations for the improvement in the selection and use of seed. It had also participated actively in various conferences on plant and cattle hygiene and was continuing to give careful study to methods of combatting pests ruinous to crops and of stamping out cattle diseases.

The delegation of Argentina agreed with the representative of Brazil that agriculture in Latin America could not be mechanized until a favourable balance had been established between the cost of farm implements and the prices of food products. It shared the view that the problem of increasing food production had to be linked with that of industrialization. In view of its urgency, immediate action should be taken to supply farm machinery, technical assistance and training. It might even be advisable to set up a special working group to lay down a concrete programme toward that end.

Mr. EUDICOURT (Haiti) noted that tendency for each country to emphasize its specific internal problems and acclaimed the report of the Joint Working Party precisely because it had considered the problems of Latin

America as a whole and had set forth an excellent long-range programme.

He agreed with the representatives of Brazil and Argentina on the need for immediate action to meet short-term needs, however, especially since malnutrition had become acute in some countries. Unfortunately, Haiti had learned from experience that it was not sufficient to appropriate funds for educational and training programmes in order to raise the level of agricultural production. The only true solution of the problem of agricultural development lay in implementing the long-term programme put forth by the Joint Working Party. Nevertheless, in view of the urgency, there should be parallel work on short and long-term requisites.

Mr. MAYANZ (Argentina) agreed on the need for parallel action.

The CHAIRMAN summed up the discussion and announced that the Committee would next study the chapter on agricultural machinery in the report of the Joint Working Party. A sub-committee might eventually be set up to formulate concrete proposals.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

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