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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Development
Fourth session
Mexico, D. F.

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at Mexico City
on Wednesday, 13 June 1951, at 11 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Report of Working Group on Immigration in relation to
Economic Development (E/CN.12/AC.12/17);

Measures in relation to international action for
conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources
(E/1906, E/1946, E/CN.12/231, E/CN.12/AC.12/18);

Continuation of the Economic Survey of Latin America and
studies in the field of economic development on a
permanent basis (E/CN.12/AC.12/19);

Programmes of economic development (E/CN.12/AC.12/14);

Statements by the representatives of the Netherlands,
France and the United Kingdom.

NOTE:

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/PRESENT:
E/CN.12/AC.12/SR.4

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MARTINEZ SANCHEZ	Cuba
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ALVARADO OLEA	Ecuador
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. GUTIERREZ	Argentina
	Mr. de OLIVEIRA)	Brazil
	Mr. de ALMEIDA)	Costa Rica
	Mr. VALVERDE VEGA	Cuba
	Mr. ALIENES	Chile
	Mr. CHAPARRO RUIZ	El Salvador
	Mr. GLOWER VALDIVIESO	United States of America
	Mr. KELLOGG)	France
	Mr. MALENBAUM)	Guatemala
	Mr. PHILIPSON	Haiti
	Mr. PALACIOS	Honduras
	Mr. BOYER	Mexico
	Mr. CRUZ	Nicaragua
	Mr. RONDERO)	Netherlands
	Mr. ZANORA)	Panama
	Mr. CATARERO	Peru
	Baron van HEEMSTRA	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. McCULLOUGH	Uruguay
	Mr. MORALES MACEDO	
	Mr. TAYLOR	
	Mr. FREYRE	

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ROUSE	International Labour Organization (ILO)
Mr. CASSERES	Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
Mr. del CANTO)	International Monetary Fund
Mr. MERWIN)	International Refugee Organization (IRO)
Mr. WENDLING	

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:Category A:

Mr. STEBELSKI	International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
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/Category B

Category B:

Mr. de JARMY

International
Organization for
Standardization

Secretariat:

Mr. NOYOLA VAZQUEZ

ECLA Secretariat

Mr. FURTADO

Secretary of the
Committee

REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ON IMMIGRATION IN RELATION TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT (E/CN.12/AC.12/17)

Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom), as the Chairman of the Working Group on Immigration, stated that that Group had unanimously approved the draft resolution before the Committee (E/CN.12/AC.12/17). He proposed that the words "or with their regional representatives" should be inserted in the fourth paragraph of the operative part after the words "Director General of ILO" in order to complete the idea.

Mr. de OLIVEIRA (Brazil) hoped that the experience of his country with regard to immigration might be useful to others. Brazil was a vast land with insufficient population; hence, the only means of bringing the uninhabited areas under cultivation was immigration. For the three centuries of the colonial period immigration had been exclusively Portuguese. After the Napoleonic invasion of Portugal, the Brazilian ports had been thrown open both to trade and immigration. The first large group of immigrants had been Swiss. Under the Empire, immigration had been partly subsidized by the government and partly

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spontaneous. Immigrants had been selected on the basis of their skill as farmers and the likelihood that they would assimilate easily. The latter condition had not been fulfilled. Southern Brazil had been settled by large homogeneous nuclei of Japanese and Germans, who had maintained their own languages and ways of life. Disturbed by that, the Brazilian Government had introduced a quota system, but had abolished it in 1945. Under the new immigration legislation then enacted, two categories of immigrants had been established: temporary and permanent. In order to avoid the formation of homogeneous groups, colonies had to contain at least 40 per cent native Brazilians and the immigrants were compelled to learn Portuguese. The population increase in Brazil had in recent years been mainly due to the rise in the birth rate, but immigration had continued to people the southern part. Italian immigration into the State of Sao Paulo had been particularly beneficial. The Italian immigrant usually brought his family with him, was a good farmer, was orderly in his habits and became rapidly assimilated. Furthermore, since the Italians themselves often spoke different Italian dialects, they had to learn Portuguese to converse with each other. In 1940 there were 286,000 Italian immigrants and more than a million Italo-Brazilians. They fell into three categories: those engaged in agriculture, those engaged in industry and those with professional skills. Colonization had been carefully planned. One novelty in the Brazilian system was the fact that the Italian immigrant was permitted to send his savings home on very favourable terms.

Mr. RONDERO (Mexico) said that immigration must be related to increased economic development. Some countries had experienced a demographic pressure disproportionate to the increase in their available economic resources. Immigration plans should therefore be framed at the same time as industrialization plans in order to provide immigrants with adequate employment. In Mexico the death rate was falling owing to the increasing efficiency of the public health services; the live birth rate had increased by from 21.6 to 28.8 per thousand over the 1939-1947 level. Every opportunity should therefore be taken to profit by the experience and advice of the experts of the Technical Assistance Administration, the ILO and the Population Commission of the United Nations, relating demographic to economic and social problems. The International Bank should also be consulted concerning the best methods of using immigration to stimulate domestic markets. The problem of immigration should always be regarded as a technical rather than a political one.

Mr. MORALES MACEDO (Peru) was glad to note that the draft resolution approved by the Working Group incorporated the substance of two Peruvian proposals, one on the better adaptation of immigrants and the other on colonization in mountainous areas and the need for scientific studies before colonization was planned.

Baron van HEEMSTRA (Netherlands) noted with satisfaction that due attention had been paid to the importance of co-operation between the governments and the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the Directors-General of the ILO and the FAO.

/Mr. CANTARERO

Mr. CANTARERO (Nicaragua) said that one of the principal obstacles to his country's economic development was the inadequacy of the economically active population. Nicaragua was unable to subsidize immigration and very few immigrants had means of their own. The assistance of the international Bank would thus be invaluable.

Mr. BOYER (Haiti) said that his country could not do anything effective to implement the draft resolution owing to the fact that it was very densely populated and there was no room for immigrant colonies.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (Argentina) expressed warm support of the draft resolution. The sound planning of immigration was of great concern to Argentina, a country of vast spaces and small population.

The draft resolution on immigration problems submitted by the Working Group on Immigration (E/CN.12/AC.12/17) as amended, was adopted unanimously.

MEASURES IN RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL ACTION FOR CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF NON-AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES; ITEM REFERRED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (E/1906, E/1946, E/CN.12/231, E/CN.12/AC.12/18)

Mr. BELLOGG (United States of America) said that he would support the Brazilian draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.12/18). His government was naturally sympathetic to any plans for conservation and would co-operate in them. Nevertheless, it was very strongly of the opinion that conferences in that field required very thorough preparation. They should not be held until all the preparations had been completed, since they were expensive and took up the time of experts who could rarely be spared.

Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico) observed that annual reports would be hardly

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feasible for studies in the field of economic development, since the principal factors changed very slowly. Moreover, the vast documentation involved would require staff and funds far greater than those at the Executive Secretary's disposal. The Executive Secretary might be given discretion regarding useful intervals for publication.

Mr. KELLOGG (United States of America) supported the Mexican representative's view and proposed that the word "periodically" should be substituted for "in the same manner as in the past". Furthermore, the list in paragraph 2 of the operative part might be unduly restrictive; the word "including" should be substituted for "covering".

Mr. ALIENES (Cuba) accepted those amendments.

The Cuban draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.12/19), as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Section B of the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council (E/1946) also dealt with the conservation of agricultural resources. Furthermore, at the recent Denver Agricultural Conference, a committee had been set up composed of representatives of the FAO, the Organization of American States and the Torrealba Institute to carry on similar work. Any regional conferences that were planned, should co-ordinate their work with that of that committee.

Mr. de ALMEIDA (Brazil) supported the United States representative's view.

Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) observed that any such conference as was proposed in the draft resolution held in the near future might duplicate and make more difficult the work of the Raw Materials Conference currently meeting at Washington.

The Brazilian draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.12/18) was adopted unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF THE ECONOMIC SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA AND STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON A PERMANENT BASIS (E/CN.12/AC.12/19)

Mr. ALIENES (Cuba), introducing his delegation's draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.12/19), explained that the Working Group had inadvertently omitted to draft a resolution formally requesting the Executive Secretary to continue the Economic Survey of Latin America and the studies in the field of economic development. The Commission should also give the Executive Secretary specific guidance with regard to the latter.

Replying to Mr. ZAMORA (Mexico), he explained that the words "in the same manner as in the past" implied annual reports.

PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E/CN.12/AC.12/14)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution on the programme and general problems of economic development, approved on 10 June 1951 by the Working Group (E/CN.12/AC.12/14), and in particular to the new text of paragraphs 6 and 7 proposed by that Group. These paragraphs read as follows:

"6. RECOMMENDS to interested governments that they consult with the Executive Secretary with a view to presenting appropriate requests with regard to the formulation of over-all development programmes to the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration;

"7. REQUESTS the Executive Secretary to co-operate with the

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interested governments and with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in the preparation of such over-all programmes and to work out, in consultation with the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration, the necessary administrative and financial arrangements".

Mr. CASSERES (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that the FAO attached great importance to the preliminary phase of preparing requests for technical assistance and was anxious to collaborate with governments in that regard. He therefore suggested that the words "and whenever appropriate with the specialized agencies", should be inserted in paragraph 7 after the words "the Executive Secretary".

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) proposed that, in the interests of uniformity, the word "formulation" in paragraph 6 and the word "preparation" in paragraph 7 should be replaced by the same term.

It was decided that the words "preparation and formulation" would be used in both cases.

Mr. de ALMEIDA (Brazil) said that his delegation interpreted the amended draft resolution to mean that, whenever the Executive Secretary was called on to assist in the preparation of request for technical assistance and did not have adequate funds at his disposal, he would be able to obtain such funds from the Technical Assistance Administration.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

STATEMENTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM

Baron van HEEMSTRA (Netherlands) said that his country had from the first taken a great interest in the Technical Assistance Programme, and was anxious to make to that programme as large and effective a contribution as possible. That would at the same time be to its own advantage, as it would gain added knowledge and experience.

For a number of years, the Netherlands had been in close contact with several Latin American countries, with benefits to both sides. Netherlands experts had easily adjusted themselves to living and working conditions abroad; they had in fact practiced, with considerable success, the ideas inherent in the Technical Assistance Programme.

The Netherlands had experts in a number of fields: public administration, livestock breeding, agriculture, -including tropical agriculture- forestry, architecture, construction and hydraulic engineering. Those experts were all highly qualified and deeply interested in their work; and it was the intention of the Netherlands government to send only men of such high calibre abroad to lend technical assistance wherever it might be required.

Furthermore, the Netherlands was prepared to offer training facilities to nationals from other countries who wished to acquire a knowledge of its techniques. It offered a number of scholarships and fellowships to foreign students in science, sociology and commerce. It was establishing an international academic institute which would serve as a centre for the study of the social, cultural and psychological problems arising from the accelerated development to be

expected in under-developed countries. There would also be an agricultural study centre, dealing with agriculture in all climates and latitudes, to which foreign students would be admitted. Lastly, there would be an international training centre for aerial survey, which would be of particular interest to students from Latin America, a continent which still had vast unexplored areas with tremendous possibilities.

In order to co-ordinate all the various activities connected with technical assistance, the Netherlands government had established, under its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an International Technical Assistance Office, which would collect data concerning the needs for technical assistance of the under-developed countries and co-ordinate plans for granting such assistance. The Office would be primarily at the service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, but would also be prepared to assist individual countries which so requested.

He added that a national commission had been formed to ensure proper co-ordination among the various public and private agencies which were also capable of providing technical assistance.

It would be seen that the Netherlands took the subject of technical assistance with the seriousness which it deserved and was prepared to contribute its full share.

Mr. PHILIPSON (France) said that, like the Netherlands, France was prepared to offer technical assistance to Latin American countries. As the list of available facilities was too long to recite, he would

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submit a memorandum for circulation to delegations, describing in detail the various technical training courses open to foreign students and the fields in which France was ready to supply highly-qualified experts.

Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) said that, in his government's view, the main difficulty in the way of technical assistance was finding not funds but experts; it would consequently to its utmost to get the best possible experts for the Technical Assistance Programme, and had already set up a special recruiting centre for such experts. It would greatly simplify the task of assigning the right men to the right jobs if governments requesting experts would give a detailed list of the qualifications required, in the order of their priority.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives of the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom for their helpful statements.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (Argentina) supported by the representatives of the United States and Brazil, warmly thanked the Chairman for the admirable manner in which he had conducted the Committee's debates to a successful conclusion.

The CHAIRMAN thanked all the members of the Committee for their unwavering support and co-operation.

He then announced that the Committee had completed its work.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.
