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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

COMMITTEE 4.

Study on Immigration.

Note by the Executive Secretary.

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America, at its First Session at Santiago, Chile, in June 1948, approved a resolution requesting the Executive Secretary:

"in preparing the Economic Survey of Latin America, to pay special attention to the immigration problem in all its aspects, particularly its economic aspects. The foregoing should be done in collaboration and coordination with the competent international organizations concerned with this problem, in particular the International Refugee Organization."

2. Taking this resolution into account, the Executive Secretary, in preparing the Economic Survey of Latin America, presented to the Second Session, included under Chapter V "Population", a section on immigration. The Secretariat made use of the scanty and incomplete information available in preparing this section.

3. In order to comply fully with the resolution approved at the First Session, the Executive Secretary thought it essential to make a complete study of the problem from the point of view of the economic development of Latin America. To that end, he established contact, in March last, with the United Nations Department of Social Affairs, in order

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to obtain the collaboration of the Department's Migration Section. It was agreed at that time that, in order to obtain a comprehensive study of the problem of immigration in Latin America, the competent services of the United Nations (Statistical Office and Population Division) should be consulted.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission has been in consultation with the Director-General of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council regarding the ECLA study on immigration and it is understood that this study will not duplicate in any way the Inter-American Economic and Social Council report made in response to a resolution adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota concerning the advisability of establishing an Inter-American Institute of Immigration.

4. The negotiations initiated in March took shape before the opening of the present Session and the Migration Section has begun initial work on the study. It has prepared a questionnaire for the necessary data, with the cooperation of the United Nations Statistical Office and Population Division and the following specialized agencies: International Labor Office, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Refugee Organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Arrangements for the cooperation of these services and organizations were made at the first meeting of the Technical Working Group on Migration, which operates under the authority of the

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Administrative Committee on Coordination that met at Lake Success in March 1949. Both the Technical Working Group and the Administrative Committee on Coordination took note of the above-mentioned inquiry and referred to it in their final reports. The preparatory work on the questionnaire is now completed. The questionnaires will be sent shortly to member Governments in order that they may supply the essential information.

5. In submitting this note, the Executive Secretary hopes that Governments will supply the information at their disposal within the shortest possible time, so that the technical experts instructed to prepare the study, of such fundamental importance for Latin America, may accomplish it in due course.

Havana, 6 June 1949.

