



# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

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8 February 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Committee of the Whole  
Santiago, Chile

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Hotel Carrera, Santiago, Chile, on  
Monday, 8 February 1954, at 11 a.m.

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- Address by Mr. Tobías Barros Ortiz, Chilean Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Reply on behalf of the delegations by Mr. Hugo V. de Pena, Ambassador of Uruguay to Chile
- Election of officers

/PRESENT:

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. GUILLERMO DEL CEDREGAL HERRERA	Chile
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. RAMIRO HERNANDEZ MORTOLA	Cuba
	Mr. HUGO V. DE IENA	Uruguay
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. JOSE AVILES	El Salvador
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. DE LA CRUZ GUERRERO	Argentina
	Mr. ITURRALDE CHINEL	Bolivia
	Mr. RODRIGUES VALLE	Brazil
	Mr. RUEDA MARTINEZ	Colombia
	Mr. MOREIRA BATRES	Costa Rica
	Mr. SOTO	Dominican Republic
	Mr. LUIS VILLAZAR	Ecuador
	Mr. COIFFARD	France
	Mr. MERCERON	Haiti
	Mr. GALVEZ	Honduras
	Mr. NUNEZ Y DOMINGUEZ	Mexico
	Mr. KASTEEL	Netherlands
	Mr. HERNANDEZ CAMUS	Nicaragua
	Mr. YCAZA VASQUEZ	Panama
	Mr. MALLORQUIN	Paraguay
	Mr. LORENTE DE MATRON	Peru
	Mr. STIRLING	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SANDERS	United States of America
	Mr. GONZALEZ VALE	Venezuela

/Also present:

Also present:

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. POBLETE TRONCOSO	International Labour Organisation
Mr. OSORIO-TATALL	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
Mr. LARSEN	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. ROOTH	International Monetary Fund

Representatives of inter-governmental organizations:

Mr. TAYLOR	Inter-American Economic and Social Council
Mr. TRIETO	Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

<u>Category A:</u>	Mr. VIDAL CARDENAS	International Chamber of Commerce
	Mr. FUENTES ZARATA	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
	Mr. THAYER ARTEAGA	International Federation of Christian Trade Unions
	Mr. VARGAS RUEBLA	World Federation of Trade Unions
<u>Category B:</u>	Mr. LEITNER	Agudas Israel World Organi- zation
	Mrs. FIGUEROA	All Pakistan Women's Association
	Miss CALVO	Catholic International Union for Social Service
	Mr. MIQUEL	Chilean Institute for the Improvement of Highways
	Rev. ZOTTELE	Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

/Mr. DRAKIN

Category B (continued)

Mr. DRAPKIN Mr. STEINSAPIR	Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations for Consul- tation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Mr. BARROS JARPA	Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production
Mr. EDO	Inter-American Federation of Automobile Clubs
Mr. UNTERRICHTER	International Catholic Migration Commission
Mr. MAYNARD	International Committee of Scientific Management
Mr. KRUMH	International Organization for Standardization
Mr. DRAPKIN	International Society for Criminology
Mrs. DE ELPHICK	Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations
Mr. FRIETO TRUCCO	Organization of Chilean Non- Governmental Bodies for the United Nations
Mr. IRARRAZAVAL L.	Pax Romana - International Catholic Movement for Intel- lectual and Cultural Affairs
Mr. SIMIAN	South American Petroleum Institute
Mrs. COLOMBO DE LAGARRIGUE	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Mr. FRIEDMAN	World Jewish Congress
Mr. SANTA MARÍA	World Power Conference
Miss JORQUELA	World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union
Mr. VERBAKEL	Young Christian Workers

/Secretariat:

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. COHEN	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information
	Mr. FIEBISCH	Executive Secretary
	Mr. SWENSON	Assistant Director
	Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Secretary of the Committee

/ ADDRESS BY

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILE

Mr. FREBISCH (Executive Secretary), in the absence of the Chairman of the Commission, opened the meeting and welcomed the presence of Mr. Rooth, Director of the International Monetary Fund, who had made valuable contributions to the work of the ECLA Secretariat.

He then called upon the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Tobías Barros Ortiz, to open the session.

Mr. BARROS ORTIZ, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, welcomed the delegations and pointed out that their task would not merely be routine, since ECLA's mission included not only a study of economic development but also of economic co-operation between the highly industrialized and the under-developed countries. He stressed the importance of such co-operation, both in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Charter of the American States, adding that economic security was an essential factor for the maintenance of peace not only in the Americas but throughout the world. Because of their geographic situation, the countries of the American continent had a common destiny, and the prosperity or adversity of all depended on each one of them. Their joint efforts would enable a powerful American body to be built up as an example of democratic harmony. ECLA played an important role in such efforts since, by indicating the weaknesses in Latin America's economy, it was in a position to underline the main factors involved in correcting such weaknesses.

In that connexion, he referred to United Nations' statistics indicating that the Latin America countries had, in 1953, been able to purchase only 60 per cent of the goods that could have been purchased in 1870 with the same volume of raw materials. Added to that, there had been a reduction in consumption and greater impoverishment which tended to favour the industrial countries.

Referring to the problem of raw material prices in relation to those for capital and manufactured goods, he pointed out that it was not merely a matter of business, since the problem had a political aspect and influenced the security of the whole continent.

He stressed the importance of adequate capital investment in Latin America in order to strengthen its purchasing power; ECLA had already

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carefully studied that question, but another of ECLA's important tasks lay in exploring the industrial possibilities of the Latin American countries with a view to indicating which industries were more important for economic development, not only at the national level but on a broader regional scale.

He concluded by welcoming the various delegations in the name of the Government and people of Chile and stressed the hopes placed in the results of the meeting from the point of view of achieving broad economic co-operation, constituting an effective contribution to the cause of world peace.

#### ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATIONS

Mr. DE PENA (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the delegations, thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his speech and assured him of the effective collaboration of the delegations present in order to make the meeting a successful one. He referred to the support given to ECLA by its member states and, in particular, by the Government of Chile, which had sponsored the establishment of the Commission. He stressed the prestige acquired by ECLA during its six years of existence. The study of Latin America's potential natural resources and the indication of the immense possibilities opened up by their development had consolidated that prestige.

He pointed out that the Committee was meeting at a time when several adverse factors caused some anxiety. Such factors included the falling-off in prices for export products and its effect on the capacity to import and consequently upon economic development plans, which had received only slight support from foreign capital.

There were, by contrast, some encouraging aspects, and in particular the more responsible attitude adopted by the United States of America in its role as regulator of the economy of the free world, in seeking mutually acceptable formulae for solving problems arising out of its economic relations with other countries. Examples of that new approach lay in the recent goodwill visits of Dr. Milton Eisenhower and Senator Capehart.

In conclusion, he said that the Commission's sessions offered its members an opportunity to exchange views, to confront common anxieties and, above all, to make an objective analysis of economic problems with a view to formulating specific and feasible recommendations. In his view, the

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work of the Committee of the Whole was to chart a course based on the various trains of thought and to lay down some priority in dealing with the more urgent problems. This would be an effective contribution towards the success of the next session of ECLA, to be held at Bogotá in 1955. In order to achieve that objective, it was essential to have the collaboration not only of the Latin American countries but of the other members of the Commission, since the welfare of the world was becoming increasingly indivisible.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

##### Election of Chairman

Mr. YCAZA VASQUEZ (Panama) nominated Mr. Del Pedregal (Chile).

Mr. DEL PEDREGAL (Chile) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. DEL PEDREGAL (Chile) took the Chair.

##### Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. MALLORQUIN (Paraguay) nominated Mr. De Pena (Uruguay) and Mr. Hernandez Portela (Cuba) as Vice-Chairmen.

Mr. De Pena (Uruguay) and Mr. Hernandez Portela (Cuba) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

Mr. DE PENA (Uruguay) and Mr. HERNANDEZ PORTELA (Cuba) thanked the Committee.

##### Election of Rapporteur

Mr. GALVEZ (Honduras) nominated Mr. Avilés (El Salvador).

Mr. Avilés (El Salvador) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegates for their fraternal gesture in electing as Chairman the chief delegate of the host country and stressed Chile's continuing interest in ECLA's activities. He recalled that it was the Chilean Delegation which had sponsored the idea of establishing the Economic Commission for Latin America to study the economic problems of the Latin American countries and to make recommendations as to the best way of solving them.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.