

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Eighth Session
Panama City, Panama, 14 May 1959

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Panama City, Panama, on Saturday, 24 May 1959,
at 5.50 p.m.

CONTENTS:

- Date and place of the ninth session
- Consideration and adoption of the Commission's annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.12/530)
- Draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council
- Closing speeches

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ELETA	Panama
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. MARTY	Chile
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. MUSICH	Argentina
	Mr. HAUS SOLIZ	Bolivia
	Mr. LATOUR	Brazil
	Mr. FRANCO	Colombia
	Mr. BATRES	Costa Rica
	Mr. GINEBRA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. YEROVI	Ecuador
	Mr. MORALES	El Salvador
	Mr. GEORGES-PICOT	France
	Mr. FUENTES MOHR	Guatemala
	Mr. SAFONT-TRIA	Honduras
	Mr. GARCIA REYNOSO	Mexico
	Mr. VAN PHILLIPS	Netherlands
	Mr. CARLES	Panama
	Mr. CHAMORRO	Paraguay
	Mr. CERRO CEBRIAN	Peru
	Mr. BARNES	United Kingdom
	Mr. RANDALL	United States
	Mr. PONS	Uruguay
	Mr. D'ASCOLI	Venezuela

ALSO PRESENT:

Observers from Member States
non-Members of the Commission:

Count D'ALTENA	Belgium
Mr. RICHARDSON	Canada
Mr. HOKS	Czechoslovakia
Mr. ENGLES	Federal Republic of Germany
Mr. HOLLAI	Hungary
Mr. MAJOLI	Italy
Mr. NINOMIYA	Japan
Mr. JELEN	Poland
Mr. SANCHEZ BELLA	Spain

/Mr. BAZIKIN

Mr. BAZIKIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. EL TAHRE	United Arab Republic

Representatives of
specialized agencies:

Mr. VANDRIES	International Labour Organisation
Mr. AQUINO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. PENNA	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Mr. LASSO	International Monetary Fund
Mr. PERRY	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. SCHROEDER	World Meteorological Organization

Representatives of
inter-governmental
organizations:

Mr. FANIEL	European Economic Community
Mr. EPINAT	Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration
Mrs. KYBAL	Organization of American States

Secretariat:

Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary
Mr. HEURTEMATTE	Commissioner for Technical Assistance
Mr. MALINOWSKI	Director of the Regional Commissions Section
Mr. SWENSON	Deputy Director of the Commission
Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Secretary of the Commission

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSION

Mr. SANTA CHUZ (Secretariat) explained that ECLA always held its biennial sessions before the Economic and Social Council session. He suggested that the ninth session should take place in April 1961.

It was so agreed.

Mr. D'ASCOLI (Venezuela) invited the Commission to hold its next session at Caracas.

Mr. BOTI (Cuba) proposed that the invitation be accepted.

Mr. YEROVI (Ecuador) and Mr. GARCIA REYNOSO (Mexico) seconded the proposal by the representative of Cuba.

It was unanimously agreed to hold the next session at Caracas.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (E/CN.12/150)

Mr. MARTY (Chile), Rapporteur, submitted the annual report for consideration.

Mr. MUSICH (Argentina) proposed that the sentence "which had recently begun negotiations for partial integration" should be eliminated from paragraph 139.

Mr. MARTY (Chile) seconded the proposal.

It was so agreed.

Mr. D'ASCOLI (Venezuela) wished it to be recorded that his delegation had not expressed any preference for either way of establishing the common market, i.e. on the basis of sub-regional groups or of the region as a whole.

The annual report was adopted with the proposed amendment.

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (Page 115 of the annual report)

The draft resolution for approval by the Economic and Social Council was adopted unanimously

/CLOSING SPEECHES

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Mr. GARCIA REYNOSO (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the delegations, thanked the Government and people of Panama for the hospitality which they had extended to the participants, and the Chairman for his able guidance of the discussions. He also paid tribute to the efficiency of the press services. The secretariat had not spared itself in its efforts to make the session a success and had obtained beneficial results with respect to two different aspects: (a) the preparation of systematic studies and the undertaking of surveys and research work, and (b) the circulation of information, through the intermediary of officials who, after profiting from the experience gained by ECLA, returned to their own countries to direct development policies. He considered that one of the most important resolutions adopted by the Commission at its eighth session was that on the common market, since it marked the fulfilment of one stage in the establishment of such a market. It ought not to be forgotten, however, that the common market was not a panacea for Latin America's problems; solutions also had to be sought for the structural problems deriving from a long period during which no far-sighted policy had been adopted.

Count D'ALTENA (Belgium) expressed his appreciation of the opportunity that had been given to him to attend the meetings as an observer, and his hopes for the prosperity of Latin America.

Mr. FANIEL (European Economic Community), who spoke on behalf of the non-governmental organizations, thanked the delegations for having enabled him to express his views without constraint at the meetings. He praised the work of the Chairman of the Commission and of the Committee Chairman, and congratulated the secretariat on the efficiency with which it had prepared and distributed the documents.

Mr. PREBISCH (Executive Secretary) thanked the delegations, on behalf of the secretariat, for their heart-warming words. He was profoundly encouraged by the decided stimulus which the session had given to two of ECLA's fundamental activities namely, the common market project and assistance to Governments in the field of economic development. With respect to the first aspect, he considered that the Trade Committee would shortly have at its disposal sufficient information to be able to recommend

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the most suitable solutions to Governments; it would not be an easy task since there was no question of arriving at a specific formula but rather of drawing up a common market policy.

As regards the second aspect the resolution adopted by the Commission formalized what had already become a regular practice in recent years and meant that the secretariat was fully committed to take specific action, which was extremely important for the future of the organization.

The representative of Mexico had described the secretariat as a nursery from which men had gone out to play an increasingly outstanding part in the economic development of the Latin American countries. During that very session, they had seen and listened to some of those men, who had worked with the same enthusiasm and devotion that they had displayed while in the secretariat. They were clearly united by a spiritual force and a profound conviction that the moment had come for Latin America to shoulder its own problems by means of its own resources and people and abandon once and for all formulas that it had inherited from other parts of the world.

But apart from the spirit that infused the work and the selective principles on which the staff had been chosen, there were two powerful factors which explained ECLA's vitality. One of them was its independence. The regional secretariat enjoyed the same independence as that granted by the United Nations Charter to the Secretary-General in all that concerned the study and consideration of Latin America's problems. Without that freedom of action, within the limits of the individual responsibility and collective judgment of the member Governments, many important questions might never have been brought up for discussion at the Commission's sessions. Furthermore, it ought not to be forgotten that ECLA was responsible to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and that due recognition should be given to the value of being able to consider Latin America's problems within the framework of the world problems dealt with by the United Nations.

More than once, the delegations' concern over the question of Latin America's trade with the rest of the world had been clearly manifest.

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It had been pointed out that the common market would not harm the fundamental interests linking Latin America to other countries. Such preoccupations could no doubt be best dealt with by a regional organization operating within a general framework. For that reason as well, he felt profound satisfaction that representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration, the European Economic Community and the European Coal and Steel Community had been present at the meetings.

Lastly, he thanked the Government of Panama, on behalf of the Secretary-General and in his own name, for their hospitality and co-operation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegations for the honour which they had conferred upon him in electing him as Chairman, and for their co-operation and that of the secretariat in the fulfilment of his task. He considered that his country had gained valuable experience from the discussions that had taken place on subjects of great importance for Latin America's economic future. He declared the eighth session of the Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.