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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole

Eighth Extraordinary Session

New York, 24 and 25 January 1974

MEETING ON THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS ON THE
ECONOMIES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Note by the secretariat

74-1-0094



The "energy crisis" - which has been aggravated in recent months by the tremendous increase in the price of petroleum on the world market and by the uncertainty of its supply - has serious implications for the economies of the Latin American countries which justify the considerable concern being felt at every level, both in official circles and among the public at large.

Governments in the region have suggested to the ECLA secretariat the desirability of holding a meeting as soon as possible to begin an exchange of views on this highly important and topical subject. The secretariat would therefore like to consult the Committee of the Whole of ECLA, which is to meet in New York on 24 and 25 January 1974, about the desirability and organization of such a meeting.

Should the suggestion be viewed favourably by the Committee of the Whole, the secretariat proposes that it should be implemented along the lines indicated below, although these are indicated in very general terms owing to the urgency of the matter.

1. Purpose of the meeting

The main purpose of the meeting would be to promote an exchange of views regarding the nature and causes of the "energy crisis" and its repercussions on Latin American economies, with special attention to the problems facing countries with a petroleum deficit.

Various points of view could also be put forward regarding the various domestic measures and policies which the countries could adopt in order to meet the crisis, as well as the forms of international co-operation that could be brought to bear on its solution.

It is clear that very different attitudes and viewpoints exist, both at the worldwide and Latin American level, regarding the nature and causes of the energy crisis, and it is extremely important that the proposed meeting should be able to examine and compare them so as to identify the fundamental aspects of the problem.

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To the extent allowed by the time available before the meeting, the secretariat could also offer some statistical information to facilitate the discussions, covering such items as production, consumption and foreign trade in hydrocarbons, installed capacity and electric power generation by types of sources, effects on the balance of payments of foreign trade in fuel, etc.

To supplement this basic documentation, it would be very useful if the representatives of the States members could submit national reports or make statements on the situation in their respective countries as regards the main topics on the agenda.

The secretariat is gathering together as much background material as it can, and intends to request special contributions from various bodies: ANPEL, CIER, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank (IBRD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and ECC.

4. Organization of work

The meeting would last five working days. There would be plenary sessions for general statements by representatives of the member Governments, and working groups would be set up (in closed or open session, as considered appropriate) to deal with specific aspects of the agenda.

In line with United Nations practice, the results of the discussions would be recorded in a general report which would include - in addition to summaries of the statements on the respective national situations and of views expressed on the energy crisis - such conclusions and recommendations as the representatives of the States members may wish to make, as regards both general economic policy measures and such studies as need to be undertaken on the question of energy. These conclusions and recommendations would be very useful as guidelines for ECLA's work in this field.

5. Agenda

The secretariat has prepared a draft with its suggestions for the agenda for the proposed meeting, which is annexed to the present note for the information of the representatives of the States members of the Commission at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

/Annex

Annex

SUGGESTIONS BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING
ON THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS ON THE
ECONOMIES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

1. Natures, causes and repercussions of the energy crisis
 - (a) The nature of the energy crisis
 - (b) Basic problem: the price of crude petroleum and the reliability of its supply
 - (c) Main economic and financial repercussions on Latin American countries in the short and medium term

2. Domestic policies open to Latin American countries for short- and medium-term action to deal with the energy crisis
 - (a) With regard to the supply and demand of crude petroleum
 - (b) With regard to measures that can be taken in the energy sector
 - (c) With regard to the repercussions of the petroleum crisis on the economy as a whole

3. Action at the international level
 - (a) Forms of co-operation among countries
 - (b) Role of international agencies

HYDROCARBON STATISTICS

Country:

	Unit	1971	1972	1973	1974 Estimates
A. <u>Crude oil</u>					
Production	thous.m ³				
Refining	" "				
Imports <u>a/</u>	" "				
Id	mill.US\$				
Exports <u>b/</u>	thous.m ³				
Id	mill.US\$				
B. <u>Pretroleum products</u>					
(a) <u>Production</u>					
Liquefied gas	thous.m ³				
Gasoline	" "				
Kerosene	" "				
Gas oil and diesel oil	" "				
Fuel oil	" "				
Others	" "				
Total	" "				
Id	mill.US\$				
(b) <u>Exports</u>					
Liquefied gas	thous.m ³				
Gasoline	" "				
Kerosene	" "				
Gas oil and diesel oil	" "				
Fuel oil	" "				
Others	" "				
Total	" "				
Id	mill.US\$				
(c) <u>Imports</u>					
Liquefied gas	thous.m ³				
Gasoline	" "				
Kerosene	" "				
Gas oil and diesel oil	" "				
Fuel oil	" "				
Others	" "				
Total	" "				
Id	mill. US\$				

HYDROCARBON (conclusion)

	Unit	1971	1972	1973	1974 Estimates
<u>(d) Consumption</u>					
Liquefied	thous.m ³				
Gasoline	" "				
Kerosene	" "				
Gas oil and diesel oil	" "				
Fuel oil	" "				
Others	" "				
Total	" "				
Id	mill.US\$				
<u>C. Natural gas</u>					
Production	thous.m ³				
Pumped back	" "				
Flared off	" "				
Domestic consumption	" "				
(a) in petroleum industry	" "				
(b) others	" "				
Imports	" "				
Id	mill.US\$				
Exports	thous.m ³				
Id	mill.US\$				

- a/ Please also give the volume of imported crude, by countries of origin.
- b/ Please also give the volume of exported crude, by countries of destination.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY STATISTICAL

Country:

	1972	1973	1974 (estimates)
A. <u>Total installed capacity</u> <u>(thousands of kW)</u>			
1. In hydro-electric power stations			
2. In thermal power stations			
3. In geothermal power stations			
4. In nuclear power stations			
B. <u>Total generated (millions of kWh)</u>			
1. In hydro-electric power stations			
2. In thermal power stations			
3. In geothermal power stations			
4. In nuclear power stations			
C. <u>Fuels used for generation of thermo-</u> <u>electricity (tons)</u>			
1. Fuel oil			
2. Diesel oil			
3. Coal			
4. Others			
D. <u>Yields in generation of thermo-</u> <u>electricity (estimated national</u> <u>averages, KCal/kWh)</u>			
1. Fuel oil			
2. Diesel oil			
3. Coal			
4. Others			

