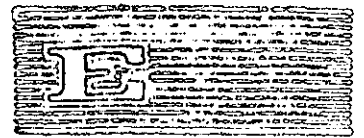


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REPORT ON THE PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME

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1. In the last few years the Economic Commission for Latin America has been expressing its interest in the wide dissemination of the secretariat's studies and reports in the three working languages of the Commission (Spanish, English and French). Thus, at its fifteenth session (Quito, 1973), in resolution 324 (XV), it stressed the need to devise "procedures . . . which will be sufficiently flexible" to enable CEPAL to issue and distribute its publications "at prices within the reach of Latin American students and readers".
2. Subsequently, at its seventeenth session (Guatemala City, 1977), the Commission took note of the report by the Executive Secretary on the new Publications Programme launched at the end of 1975 in response to the wishes expressed in this respect by the member States.
3. At that session, in addition to commending the Publications Programme in progress, the member States of CEPAL reaffirmed, in resolution 380 (XVIII), "the importance of giving appropriate publicity to the research and intellectually creative work done by the secretariat, and of informing an ever broader public of the concerns and goals of the bodies which make up the CEPAL system", urged the secretariat "to continue publishing and disseminating the results of its institutional work", expressed their "concern over the limited resources which prevent the secretariat from issuing more publications in English and initiating publications in French", and requested "the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider what measures might be taken to ensure that adequate resources are available to enable the Publications Programme of CEPAL to continue developing at a suitable pace".
4. In compliance with these mandates of the member States, the Executive Secretary adopted measures, within the limitations imposed by the human and material resources of the secretariat, to increase the dissemination in the working languages of CEPAL

of the studies and reports which are of interest to government, technical and academic circles of member countries and are included in the Publications Programme of the CEPAL system.

5. At the same time, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Administrative Management Service, the Executive Secretary has been taking the necessary measures during the last two years to bring about the full integration of the CEPAL system, which comprises CEPAL itself, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). This integration also includes that of the documents reproduction and publications services of these institutions, which should be completed shortly and has meant an increased work-load for the Publications Programme.

6. The main studies published under the Publications Programme ^{1/} are listed in the leaflet "Publicaciones CEPAL/ILPES/CELADE, abril de 1977-marzo de 1979" (document E/CEPAL/1070), which has been distributed together with the present report. This list also includes recent publications of the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES).

7. Although the majority of the publications of the CEPAL system originate at the Santiago headquarters, a considerable number are also produced by the regional offices of CEPAL, especially those in Mexico City, Buenos Aires and the Office for the Caribbean in Port of Spain. The next edition of "Publicaciones CEPAL/ILPES/CELADE" will include the main titles from this considerable output.

8. In spite of the efforts made, however, there are still some problems limiting the proper fulfilment of the mandate of the member States in relation to publications. These are mainly connected with the limited resources for the editing, translation

^{1/} Heads of delegations have been provided with a set of the most recent CEPAL publications.

and printing in the three working languages of the Commission, of the publications of the CEPAL system which are of interest both inside and outside Latin America. This insufficiency is becoming increasingly evident in the light of the inclusion in CEPAL of new English-speaking member States and the stimulus that is being given today to co-operation among developing countries and regions, in accordance with the basic principles of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Translation and editing

9. The secretariat has continued to translate most of its working documents, reports and studies into English. Likewise, its periodical publications (CEPAL Review, Economic Survey of Latin America and Statistical Yearbook for Latin America) continue to appear in this language. Three issues in the Cuadernos de la CEPAL series have been published in English, as have selected editions of Notas prepared by the Public Information Service. With the resources available however, it has not been possible to translate other publications of interest to the English-speaking member countries and of considerable use for interregional co-operation activities.

10. Publications in French have so far been only sporadic and subject to the possibilities of co-operation from Headquarters in the translation of Spanish and English originals. This situation should, however, be considerably improved, although not fully solved, when a French translator is contracted on a permanent basis in the Office of the Caribbean (Port of Spain). This post which was approved by the General Assembly at the request of the Executive Secretary, will help to palliate the lack, so often pointed out by governments and the secretariat, of basic documents in French: a language which, in addition to being that of two member States of the Commission, would enable Latin American thinking to be shared with French-speaking countries in other regions, which is most important for the development of interregional co-operation. It will soon be possible to translate into that language at least the essential working documents, and particularly those connected with

the activities of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), but even so an extensive field will still remain uncovered.

11. Because of the cyclical nature of translation work it is frequently necessary to recruit additional personnel over and above the substantive staff needed to cover the regular workload, in order to strengthen the relevant services to cope with work which is beyond their absorption capacity. Accordingly, some international agencies - and this is becoming the tendency in CEPAL - operate regularly with a combination of substantive staff which absorbs the ordinary work and personnel on short-term contracts who meet the needs which are beyond that capacity but do not justify the creation of additional posts. This gives the system great flexibility in covering the editing and translation needs in different languages without creating idle capacity. The quality is assured by using only professionals who have passed the United Nations translators' examination held periodically at the world level, and their recruitment does not alter the geographical balance since, for obvious reasons, the language staff is outside the rules covering geographical distribution within the United Nations. Any co-operation of a financial or technical nature, which member States could provide in this field would be most valuable in increasing translation possibilities.

12. Flexible administrative arrangements of this kind would go a long way towards permitting the translation and editing needs in different languages to be absorbed at the least possible cost to the organization and, hence, to users.

Internal printing

13. In compliance with member governments' wishes that the secretariat's production should reach "an ever broader public" the Executive Secretary arranged that the CEPAL printing section should be reorganized with the aim of producing printed publications in sufficient number for the broad dissemination of studies of

most interest to Latin American users. This was done without any additional recruitment of staff, in spite of the fact that the new printed publications involve much greater, more specialized and complex work than documents which are simply mimeographed. The volume of work of the printing section, the capacity of its facilities and the complex nature of its operations are now equivalent to those of a medium-sized commercial printing firm.

14. Furthermore, following a study carried out by the United Nations Administrative Management Service in which it recommended the gradual integration of the staff and facilities of the documents reproduction and publications printing units of CELADE with those of CEPAL, the Executive Secretary is taking the necessary steps to implement this recommendation with a view to the efficiency of the services, while duly safeguarding the needs of the CELADE publications programme.

External printing

15. With the purpose of expanding the dissemination at the lowest possible cost - both to the CEPAL system and to the user - of some studies of greater length whose printing would entail considerable expense for the organization if carried out unaided, the possibility has been explored of co-publishing them with well-known Latin American publishing houses. The co-publication of studies of interest to broad sectors of the region would mean far less cost to the organization than if it were to publish them itself, while moreover it would give access to the extensive publicity and commercial distribution systems available to those publishing firms.

16. In this field, too, flexible administrative arrangements would permit a more efficient and less costly solution.

Distribution of publications and documents

17. At the present time the secretariat is distributing the Spanish version of the CEPAL Review, the Cuadernos de la CEPAL and the Boletín de Facilitación del Transporte (FAL) by means of up-to-date electronic systems for the storage and printing of addresses. This system, which enables the publications to reach

the users more rapidly, will shortly be extended to the English version of the CEPAL Review, the documents for general distribution and the publications of CEPAL's Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES).