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REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ECLA/TAA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

### Origin of the Programme

The Economic Commission for Latin America, at its Fourth Session held in Mexico in May 1951, recognized the need for all Latin American countries to carry out fundamental research and to prepare economists from the region in the field of economic development, the necessity to formulate general and co-ordinated plans and programmes, and the lack of economic experts capable of drawing up and putting such plans into practice.

In order to satisfy these needs, the Commission requested the Secretariat, through resolution 4 (IV) (Document E/2021) to adopt general measures for establishing an ECLA study centre for economic development, and in collaboration with the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration, to make the financial and administrative arrangements in regard to the activities necessary for the training of a professional body of economic experts at the Centre.

### Agreement with the Technical Assistance Administration

In fulfillment of the Commission's mandate, the Secretariat reached an agreement with the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration whereby facilities were made available at ECLA headquarters for the training of economists. The principal reason for establishing the Centre in the ECLA Secretariat lies in the nature of the latter's work, consisting largely of research and the solution of the problems arising from economic development. Thus, the participants have the opportunity to work in close permanent contact with ECLA's economists, whose background and work particularly lend themselves to professional training based on "learning by doing". TAA, for its part, has an active interest in creating opportunities for the training of experts in the field of economic development, and in assisting economists and government officials from Latin America to clarify and solve some of the problems related to development.

As the type of training selected cannot be given on a large scale, it was decided to restrict it to those Latin American economists who had previous experience or who might later take part in the practical solution of the problems of development in the region, and who might eventually

/make original

make original contributions in their research and interpretation.

According to the agreement, both TAA and ECLA would cooperate in the elaboration of the Programme, and, in addition, TAA would be responsible for the financial arrangements and ECLA for administration.

#### Preparation of the Programme

Once the agreement with TAA was reached, the preparation of the Programme started in January, 1952. This was a difficult task in view of the very broad scope of the field of economic development and of the fact that there was no previous comprehensive experience elsewhere that could serve as a guide.

Economic development requires experts in planning, statistics, fiscal policy, resources surveys, industrial, agricultural and transports economics, administration, agronomy, engineering and so on. None of these experts are found in any great number in Latin America, but within this general scarcity, experience has shown that what is mainly required is the type of specialist having an overall perspective of the economic problems of his country and who is capable of integrating policy decisions and recommendations made by the various technical experts, within a consistent programme or plan for economic development. This is the specific aim of the Training Programme.

After several discussions with the technical staff of the Secretariat, it became evident that a professional specializing in the preparation of economic development plans should have a sound theoretical background and experience in dealing with practical problems, and that his post-graduate training should enable him specifically: a) to analyze the obstacles that hinder the economic development of a given country or region; b) to judge what proportion of a country's resources can be dedicated to economic development, without provoking inflationary or balance of payments problems; c) to indicate how these resources should be allocated so as to achieve the maximum rate of growth of real per capita income; and d) to point out the most suitable measures of economic policy for attaining the aims of economic development.

#### Implementation of the Programme

It was decided that the best way to carry out a training programme of the nature suggested by the proposed objectives, was by means of selected and intensive reading, lectures, round-table discussions, and practical research.

/Readings should

Readings should provide, together with lectures, individual consultation and round-table discussions, the theoretical framework necessary for an intelligent interpretation of the problems of the participants' field of specialization and should also supply the tools for analysis. Practical research teaches the application of these tools and familiarizes the economist with the development problems of his own country.

The selection of reading material was made in order to cover the following topics: a) national income and social accounting; b) interpretation of economic development problems; c) economic development projections and analyses; d) financing; e) preparation and evaluation of investment programmes; and f) organization for economic development programming.

The chief of the Programme visited the United States and Canada in March, 1952, to discuss the syllabus and readings with experts in the United Nations Headquarters, North American and Canadian Universities, and various agencies of the United States Government. With their advice, 5,000 pages of reading material was selected.

#### Participants in the 1952 Programme

On 28 March, 1952, the Director General of TAA advised the Governments of the agreement, and shortly afterwards the Secretariat of ECLA sent official invitations to the Foreign Ministers to nominate candidates for the Programme to be inaugurated on 1 June 1952.

Eleven nominations were received for the eleven available fellowships, but only ten were finally awarded and distributed as follows: Brazil, three; Chile, two; Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay, one each.

All the participants belonged to institutions which are connected, in one form or another, with the problems of economic development. Those from Brazil were officials of the National Economic Council, the Getulio Vargas Foundation and the Industrial Association of Sao Paulo; those from Chile belonged to the Development Corporation and the University of Chile; the Cuban participant was an economist from the Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank; the one from Ecuador belonged to the Development Corporation; the Mexican was an economist from the Bank of Mexico; the Paraguayan came from the Land Reform Institute; and the El Salvadorian was an Adviser to the Minister of Economy.

/All the participants

All the participants remained in Chile for eight months, with the exception of two who spent only seven months in the country. However, all deserved the Certificate of Participation granted to those fulfilling the requisites of the Programme.

The reading programme was completed by all the participants and in some cases it was supplemented by additional references on subjects of special interest to individual participants.

As it had been planned, regular lectures and round-table discussions were held throughout the eight months of training, about 150 hours in all being devoted to this work. In addition, several special lectures were also delivered both by members of the ECLA technical staff, and experts from other institutions. Among the latter were economists from the Development Corporation of Chile, from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Central Banks of Guatemala and Honduras, the National Economic Board of Nicaragua, and the United States Department of Commerce.

All participants carried out one or more research projects, completing a total of nine, viz: 1) Projections of the Gross National Product for Chile, 1952-57; 2) Demand and production goals for foodstuffs in Chile; 3) the National Accounts of Brazil, 1949; 4) Projections of the Gross National Product and Investments in Brazil 1952-57; 5) the economic development of Paraguay, 1926-50; and 6 to 9) Projections of the capacity to import of Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico.

The purpose of the studies on projections was to estimate the amount of foreign exchange resources that will probably be available to the different countries to maintain given levels of investment, and to evaluate the probable expansionary effects of such investments.

In addition, four more studies were begun, which will be completed by the trainees participating in the Programme in 1953. One of these studies is concerned with the establishment of a tyre factory in Central America and another with criteria for establishing priorities. The other two studies refer to the sources and uses of investment funds in Brazil and Chile.

To complete their regular activities, the students visited the industrial area of Concepción in Chile, making detailed inspections of the steel plant, coal mines, port facilities, and glass, chinaware and

/textile factories.

textile factories. The students who showed interest also spent some time studying the organization of the Development Corporation and credit institutions of Chile.

At the end of 1952 an agreement was reached with TAA to consider within the General Fellowships Programme of the United Nations, and subject to the approval of the Governments concerned, the award of two fellowships to allow two outstanding participants to continue their training in Great Britain, the Netherlands and Sweden for a further year. The Secretariat has accordingly recommended for the consideration of the United Nations Fellowships Committee the names of one Brazilian and one Chilean participant in the 1952 Programme.

#### Co-operation with other Training Programmes

The Fourth Session of the Commission requested the Secretariat to collaborate with other organizations which might grant facilities for professional training, a mandate which was fulfilled by taking an active part in the Latin American Seminar on National Income Analysis held in Santiago, from 5 - 16 January, 1953. Moreover, the Chief of the Programme is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Training Centre on Economic and Financial Statistics, which under the auspices of the Inter-American Statistical Institute of the Pan American Union and the University of Chile, has been functioning in Santiago since the beginning of 1953.

In addition, the Secretariat has maintained direct contact with the Organization of Latin American Universities and it is hoped that ECLA's work on professional training may in future also be undertaken through the lecture rooms of Schools of Economics throughout the region.

#### Programme for 1953

Twelve Latin American economists have been invited to participate in the 1953 Programme, which will begin on 15 April.

In addition to the increase in the number of participants, other important changes will be introduced this year. In the first place, the reading list on the theory of development will be reduced, and substituted by readings on economic policy, the gap in theory being filled through discussions and conferences. Secondly, it is hoped that at least one well known international expert on development problems can be invited to Chile

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for a given period to deliver lectures and to analyze the problems of his specialty.

Lastly, the participants will be enabled to maintain much more active contact with ECLA's economists by discussing with them the techniques of economic development and the principles of its interpretation, which problems are the constant concern of the Secretariat.

It is hoped that with these changes and with the experience already gained, the 1953 Programme will be even more satisfactory.

aspects of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, including a country-by-country review of the assistance provided up to the end of 1951 to the various countries which requested such assistance, may be found in the Fourth Report submitted by the Technical Assistance Board to the Technical Assistance Committee which as a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council reviews and supervises the activities under the Expanded Programme.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES UNDER  
THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN COUNTRIES  
IN THE ECLA REGION AS AT 1 JANUARY 1953

| COUNTRY AND PROJECT SUMMARY   | STATUS       | EXPERTS  | FELLOW-SHIPS | OTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING DOCUMENT REFERENCES   |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| <u>BOLIVIA</u>  |              |  |              |  |
| <u>United Nations and Technical Assistance Board.</u><br>(UN and TAB)   |              |  |              |  |
| Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who also acts as TAB Resident Technical Assistance Representative (RTAR); appointed 1 February 1952. Advises the Secretary-General in the selection of candidates for administrative assistant and expert posts, liaison and development of the programme between the Secretary-General of UN and the President of the Republic and Ministers, advises the Coordinator General of the Programme appointed by the Bolivian Government, for effective execution of the programme. Also advises Board and Participating Organisations on their projects of technical assistance in Bolivia. | In operation | Special Representative in field                          |              | TAB/R.131  |
| <u>United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.</u><br>(UNTA)  |              |  |              |  |
| 1. <u>Economic Development.</u><br>A comprehensive 17-member technical assistance mission of the UN, in cooperation with ILO, FAO and UNESCO, surveyed Bolivia's needs and resources in 1950. In implementation of its proposals, the Government requested UNTAA's assistance in obtaining 10 administrative assistants as integral members of the Bolivian Civil Service for periods of 3 to 5 years, and the services of technical experts in various fields, as well as technical training of 30 Bolivian nationals, and equipment. A technical assistance agreement was signed for this purpose on 1 October 1951. Under this agreement UNTAA agreed:       | In operation | 6 administrative assistants in field, 4 to be appointed. |              | Further information may be found in Fourth Report of TAB to the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) of ECOSOC (E/2213, Vols. I and II), & in Report of United Nations Mission of Technical Assistance to Bolivia. (ST/TA/K/Bolivia 1-1951). |
| a). to assist in the selection and recruit-   |              |  |              |  |