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STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF ECLA

On behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce I extend a greeting to the delegations of all countries of the vast Latin-American continent, now meeting at Quitandinha on the outskirts of the beautiful capital city of Rio de Janeiro, the pearl of South America.

All Latin-American countries have met in the Economic Commission for Latin America to discuss their economic problems and immediate future, in accordance with the programme carefully laid down by the ECLA Secretariat under the very competent direction of its distinguished Executive Secretary, Mr. Raul Prebisch.

From the very first the International Chamber of Commerce which in the course of its forty-five years' existence has, through its national committees, represented the chief economic interests of the world as a whole, has worked in co-operation with all official and unofficial bodies seeking to improve the economic life of the world, a life which in

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latter years has been seriously disturbed.

Its relations with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe are of the closest. In reply to a request from that Commission that we should undertake enquiries through the channel of our national committees, we submit to it all documentary information on the results of our work. The Economic Commission for Europe take cognizance of the recommendations made by the ICC and its counsels are sometimes of considerable weight in the official deliberations of the Commission.

A similar position exists with regard to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).

The ICC recently set up a Regional Commission for Asia and the Far East. The first session of that commission which was held at Calcutta last January, was a complete success in the opinion of economic circles in the countries concerned. Thus, through the good offices of ICC, the wishes jointly expressed by economic interests in Far Eastern countries will be brought to the attention of ECAFE for its future guidance through a single channel.

ICC is now beginning to direct increasing attention to Latin-American countries. Both its existing national committees and those in process of establishment may prove of great value to the work of ECLA.

Indeed, only through the close co-operation of private economic interests in constant touch with every-day life can work of official bodies achieve practical results. Without  
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the aid of private economy, the work of even the leading official organizations cannot attain its greatest possible success.

It is for these reasons that ICC offers you its help and co-operation.

On behalf of ICC, I wish you the utmost success in the session now beginning and take this opportunity of paying my respects to all the economic interests of Brazil, the magnificent country which has so great a part to play in world economy and which has extended to us such generous hospitality.

All this I do in the interests of world economic stability, the foundation of that lasting peace which we all so ardently desire.