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CONCISE ACCOUNT OF THE STEPS TAKEN BY MR. ALBERTO LLERAS CAMARGO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND MR. RAUL PREBISCH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA, IN STUDYING, AS REQUESTED BY IA-ECOSOC AND ECLA, "THE MEASURES THEY MIGHT DEEM NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE CO-ORDINATION AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL IN A PRACTICAL AND POSITIVE MANNER"

On 9 December 1952, Mr. Lleras Camargo officially informed Mr. Prebisch of his appointment as representative of the Inter American Economic and Social Council. Mr. Prebisch acknowledge that communication on 30 December 1952.

In a second letter, dated 4 February, Mr. Lleras Camargo suggested that Mr. Prebisch should consider it as one of the possible recommendations that meetings of ECLA and IA-ECOSOC should be "joint, simultaneous and consecutive" and should be held at the same place.

In his answer, dated 20 February, Mr. Prebisch replied that he was afraid his mandate would not allow him to entertain this suggestion, since the idea of both consecutive and simultaneous meetings had been fully discussed at the Fourth

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Session of ECLA in Mexico in June, 1951, and the response had not been very favourable. Indeed it was precisely because the above formula had not been regarded as acceptable that a resolution had finally been adopted which recommended that the Organization of American States and ECLA should appoint representatives to consider the problem of co-ordination.

In the same letter, Mr. Prebisch suggested to Mr. Lleras Camargo that a solution to the problem of co-ordination at the governmental level should be sought through an agreement for avoiding the overlapping of IA-ECOSOC and ECLA meetings.

At the beginning of the present session of the Commission, Mr. Prebisch received another communication from Mr. Lleras Camargo which referred to resolutions 35 and 36, dealing with co-ordination with ECLA and with the integration and activities of IA-ECOSOC respectively.

With regard to resolution 36, the pertinent passage of which reads: "To request the Executive Committee to prepare a report that, taking into consideration the status of the Inter American Economic and Social Council, will recommend suitable measures to correct any imperfections there may be and to strengthen every phase of it, especially in the matter of the financial resources required for it to operate properly", Mr. Lleras Camargo said that "as the survey (the report) which the Executive Commission is going to undertake forthwith is pending both the suggestions of my previous letter and those you set forth in yours are rather in suspense. In fact, the

/Caracas Conference.

Caracas Conference (the Tenth Conference of the American States) in the light of such survey might make recommendations involving a change in the present status of the Council".

In the same letter, Mr. Lleras Camargo assumed that Mr. Prebisch would leave for the United States after the Fifth Session and, to quote his exact words, said: "I am still equally interested in discussing with you any means which you may consider necessary and sufficient for the fulfilment of the mission with which we have been entrusted".