

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Thursday, 16 October 1947, at 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman: Mr. Carlos E. Stolk (Venezuela)

Mr. H. Santa-Cruz (Chile)

Mr. T.Y. Wu (China)

Mr. J.P. Cubillas (Cuba)

Mr. T. de Clermont-Tonnerre (France)

Mr. J. Encinas (Peru)

Mr. H.M. Phillips (United Kingdom)

Mr. L.D. Stinebower (United States of America)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. W.G. Casseres (FAO)

Mr. E. Arenales (UNESCO)

Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status:

Mr. S. Romualdi (AFL)

Observers for Specialized Agencies:

Mr. G.E. Hill II (WHO)

Mr. E. Lopez-Herrarte (International Bank for
Reconstruction and
Development)

Mr. G. Williams (International Monetary Fund)

Secretariat: Mr. H.E. Caustin (Deputy Director, Division of
Economic Stability and
Development)

Mr. E. Castillo (Joint Secretaries)

Mr. H. Daniel

In opening the meeting the CHAIRMAN welcomed the representatives and
observers from the Specialized Agencies, and noted that following the
/Committee's

Committee's instructions at its first meeting, he had written to seven of these agencies inviting them to express their views on the proposal to establish an Economic Commission for Latin America. He would now like to have the Committee's views regarding an invitation to the Director-General of the Pan-American Union to attend the Committee's meetings. His own view was that the representation of the Pan-American Union at as early a meeting as possible would be valuable. He then drew attention to the two papers prepared by the Secretariat, Working Paper No.1, "Factors Bearing upon the Establishment of an Economic Commission for Latin America", and "Survey of Current Inflationary Tendencies in Latin America". The latter paper was part of the data referred to in item 4 of the Agenda (Document E/AC.21/1/Rev.2).

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) agreed with the Chairman on the usefulness of an early meeting with the Director-General of the Pan-American Union. He then stated his belief that item 5 of the Agenda "Consideration of factors bearing upon the establishment of an Economic Commission for Latin America within the framework of the United Nations", was the really essential part of the Committee's work and that items 1 and 6 of the Secretariat Working Paper No.1 were of great importance. It was essential that there should be no duplication of the work of the Pan-American Union or of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. In that regard there should be close and continuous consultation with the Director-General of the Pan-American Union, and, as was provided for in the Council's Resolution, consultation with the Bogota Conference.

Mr. SANTA-CRUZ (Chile) agreed with the remarks of the delegate of the United States and stated that the Committee should explore fully the possibilities of co-operation between the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America and existing inter-American organizations.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee whether it wished him to refer specifically in the invitation to the Director-General of the Pan-American Union to the problem of avoiding duplication with the machinery of the Inter-American system.

Mr. SANTA-CRUZ (Chile) thought that the invitation should be in the broadest terms without any limitations.

Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) expressed his agreement but thought that the Pan-American Union might be asked to prepare a paper on the terms of reference and accomplishments of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. Such a paper might be of special use to the non-American members of the Committee.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) felt that the matter should be dealt with informally by the Chairman and that it would be for the

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Director-General of the Pan-American Union to decide whether he should speak for the Inter-American Economic and Social Council or bring with him other representatives including an officer of that organization.

The CHAIRMAN in concluding the discussion on this point stated that the invitation to the Director-General of the Pan-American Union would be in general terms and that the Secretariat would be asked to prepare a paper on the terms of reference of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council.

Mr. SOTO* (Chile) drew attention to the paper prepared by the Secretariat, "Supporting Statements by Other than Latin American Countries in Committee II of the General Assembly" (Document E/AC.21/7), and thought that a similar paper covering the Fifth Session of the Economic and Social Council would also be helpful.

Mr. CAUSTIN (for the Assistant Secretary-General) noted that in preparing this document the Secretariat had specifically limited itself to Committee II but that it would be glad to prepare a further paper.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that there should now be a discussion of item 5 of the Agenda (Document E/AC.21/1/Rev.2).

Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) noted that the Secretariat paper "Survey of Current Inflationary Tendencies in Latin America" had now been circulated but doubted that it would be possible to discuss item 5 until other documents prepared by the Secretariat were in the hands of the delegates.

Mr. CAUSTIN (for the Assistant Secretary-General) stated that the Preliminary Report on Economic Development in Several Countries of Latin America would he hoped be available in about ten days but that he could not give a definite date for the study "Economic Conditions in Central America and Some Caribbean Countries". He regretted the delay, and noted that the decision to have the documents printed had been made in order to avoid the mimeographing bottleneck. However, the great pressure on the documents staff during the General Assembly had caused serious delay in completing the work.

The CHAIRMAN considered that the Committee's next meeting should be arranged when the documents referred to were ready.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) agreed that the Committee could not go very far in its work without documents but that it would not be necessary to wait for all the documents. There was one point he would like to clarify. At the last session of the Economic and Social Council it had been thought by some delegates that the United States delegation looked with a jaundiced eye on the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America. He wished to correct this impression. His delegation had an open mind and wanted a clearer picture of such a Commission's functions and terms of reference. In that connection he wondered if some members of the Committee interested in the

* Who had replaced Mr. Santa-Cruz.

creation of an Economic Commission for Latin America might care to prepare a paper covering these aspects of the subject. Such a paper, plus an analysis of the economic situation would greatly aid the Committee's work.

Mr. CUBILLAS (Cuba) thought that in the circumstances the meeting should be adjourned. This motion was supported by the delegates of Chile, the United States and Peru.

Mr. SOTO (Chile) drew attention to the document which his delegation had presented to the last session of the Economic and Social Council outlining the scope and functions of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America (Document E/468). He was willing to prepare a similar document for this Committee.

In closing the meeting the CHAIRMAN announced that the next meeting would take place in about ten days, and that in the interim the Secretariat would endeavour to distribute the two studies on Latin American economic problems. It would also prepare a paper on the terms of reference of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council. The Chairman also said that an invitation would be addressed to the Director-General of the Pan-American Union, and commented that it would evidently be helpful if some of the Latin American countries would prepare a document similar to that suggested by the delegate of the United States.

The meeting rose at 4:40 p.m.
