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ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Fourth Session

CORRIGENDUM TO THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Monday, 9 May 1949, at 3 p.m.

From page 7, line 34, to bottom of page 8:

Delete the speech of Mr. RUEFF (France) and replace by the following text:

Mr. RUEFF (France) said that the procedure followed in studying the question raised by the Haitian Government was of great importance for the future of the Commission and probably for that of the United Nations in the economic field. The French representative had already explained his conception of the mission of the Economic and Employment Commission. In his view, it should not be an organ for research or study but an instrument for decision and action within the setting of the United Nations and under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council. In the case in point, the Secretary-General and the Government of Haiti had no doubt conformed to the letter of the relevant resolution. Nevertheless, if the Secretary-General was to be responsible for appointing the experts on the mission, if the report was addressed to him and, especially, if he was the one to discuss with the Government concerned what decisions should be taken, the question could well be asked what part was left for the Commission to play in the field of economic development.

Mr. Rueff stressed that a discussion of the theory of economic development might be of some academic interest. But the Commission was not called upon to promote the progress of economic theory; it was a political organ the existence of which was justified only if it had concrete problems to deal with, recommendations to formulate and decisions to prepare.

/Mr. Rueff

Mr. Rueff recalled that, when the League of Nations had had to deal with problems of financial rehabilitation in a number of countries after the First World War, it had sent to those countries technical missions which had submitted reports to the Financial Committee which in turn had made its recommendations to the League Council. It had not been left to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to take decisions or to formulate suggestions. Similarly, at the present time, recommendations should be made by political organs such as the Economic and Social Council and its technical bodies, of which the Commission was one.

He recalled, furthermore, that the Financial Committee of the League of Nations had as a rule met every three months and had been convened in special session whenever there had been special work to be done. Members of that Committee had frequently visited the country concerned. It was obvious that, if the Commission had concrete tasks to perform, it should adapt the timing of its sessions as well as its methods of work to those tasks.

He considered that problem to be of fundamental importance for the Commission's future. From the beginning, the Commission had fully discussed the theory of economic stability and development. The report of the mission to Haiti furnished it with an opportunity to come to grips with reality. By failing to take advantage of that opportunity it would be giving up all hope of assuming responsibility in concrete problems of economic development.

Page 10, line 31:

Delete the words "make real progress" and replace by "form theories on a realistic basis".