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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE  
ECLA REGION

1953

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## INTRODUCTION

The present report, prepared for the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America, was compiled in November 1953 and does not take into account minor changes during the last six weeks of the year. It deals with technical assistance provided by the United Nations at the request of the Latin-American governments in 1953 in the fields of economic development and public administration and does not cover assistance in social welfare fields. However, projects of a social welfare nature which are concerned with construction programmes, such as housing, are included in the report, due to their close relationship to economic development.

Reports on technical assistance activities, which were presented to the Economic Commission for Latin America in earlier years, were prepared to show the fields of assistance and number of experts on a country-by-country basis. In the present case, however, an effort has been made to analyse the Latin-American programme from the standpoint of major fields of activity, in order to reveal to what extent it is serving the fundamental needs for administration and economic development of the countries. After a brief section dealing with the over-all extent of the Latin-American programme, as compared with 1952, and the financial implications of the 1953 programme, a second section is presented classifying all assistance given by fields of activity and indicating those in which aid has been concentrated. The first section of the report is supplemented by tables (Annexes A and B) giving, respectively, the number of experts, fellowships and scholarships, by country for the years 1950-53.

It will be noted from subsequent references that several regional projects were undertaken by the Technical Assistance Administration in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America. Additional information on these projects is provided for the Committee in reports by ECLA.

Co-ordination of technical assistance activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies with similar activities of other international organizations has been achieved, partly through the establishment of national  
/technical assistance

technical assistance bodies and partly through the efforts of Resident Representatives of the Technical Assistance Board. In 1953, there were Resident Representatives in Brazil, Haiti, Uruguay and in Central America serving Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua from offices in Mexico. The Special Representative of the Secretary General in Bolivia also serves as Resident Representative. In addition, there was an Assistant Resident Representative in Ecuador and the representative in Uruguay served also as Special Representative for Argentina and Paraguay.

## I. EXTENT OF THE 1953 PROGRAMME

The number of individual expert missions in Latin America under the programme of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in 1953, as shown in Annex A, was greater than in 1952. Also, the number of experts assigned to regional projects increased over 1952. In addition to the 102 experts assigned to specific countries in 1953, 28 others worked on regional projects in the fields of economic development and public administration. (Projects classified as regional are those which are designed to benefit, and are undertaken with the participation of more than one country in the area). The number of fellowships and scholarships in 1953 was only slightly less than in 1952, as may be seen in Annex B. Throughout the year, the number of requests received for expert advice and fellowships greatly exceeded the financial resources of the programme.

At the beginning of 1953, the equivalent of 1,500,000 dollars was expected to be available for the work of the Technical Assistance Administration in Latin America, with the exception of fellowships and scholarships for which additional funds were budgeted. Due to the financial difficulties of the programme, the Technical Assistance Board took the decision to reduce the funds earmarked for the agencies and it became necessary to economise on some regional programmes in the latter half of the year. Reductions in the 1,500,000 dollar programme amounted to approximately 200,000 dollars. Of the remaining 1,300,000 dollar programme, another 200,000 dollars represent activities in the social welfare field not covered by the present report. The programme includes approximately 120,000 dollars for equipment provided for economic development and related statistical projects.

/II. FIELDS OF

## II. FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

An analysis of the United Nations Technical Assistance programme reveals that the major emphasis is being laid on programming for co-ordinated economic development (both national and regional); public administration; basic industries such as transport, resource development (particularly hydroelectric power), cement etc; and statistics. About 85 per cent of the total programme covered by this report was concentrated in the above-mentioned fields, the budget being fairly equally distributed between them. A description for 1953 of activities in these fundamental fields is given below, followed by information on individual missions and projects grouped under the following headings: a) other industries; b) housing and town planning; and c) other fields of activity.

### A. Programming for Economic Development

1) Training of Economists. In the field of programming for economic development, TAA is co-operating with the Economic Commission for Latin America in conducting an Economic Development Training Programme in Santiago, which prepares economists for the work of elaborating and evaluating plans and projects within the framework of integrated national growth.

2) Central American Economic Integration Programme. Throughout the year, steady progress is evident for this programme <sup>1/</sup>, which is being carried out by the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; the Technical Assistance Administration; the Economic Commission for Latin America; the Food and Agriculture Organization; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Office. Some individual projects are dealt with elsewhere in this report, but are mentioned here due to their importance as part of the comprehensive programme for regional economic integration. Three experts were provided by T.A.A. to survey hydroelectric power requirements in the five Central American countries and three others to prepare a programme for an Institute for Industrial Technological Research. TAA has co-operated with FAO in providing

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<sup>1/</sup> See the Annual Report of the Committee on Economic Co-operation in Central America (Document E/CN.12/AC.24/5).

experts to assist the pulp and paper industries in the Central American countries, as well as the wood products industry, and to advise on agricultural economy in the region. In addition, a preliminary survey was made prior to the establishment of the Central American Advanced School of Public Administration in Costa Rica and a detailed programme and curriculum drawn up for the operation of the School. At present, the Director of the School is in Costa Rica preparing for its formal inauguration. (See also the paragraph on transport under the sub-heading "Basic Industries" in this report).

3) Programming for National Economic Development. In Paraguay, TAA has provided an Economic Adviser for the Central Economic Development Board. He will continue the work of an earlier expert who aided in the establishment of the Board. An expert is being recruited to advise the National Board for Economic Development of Guatemala in 1954. In Bolivia, two technical counsellors are advising the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank, respectively, on problems related to general economic development plans. Mexico has requested expert advice for the Bank of Mexico in the fields of statistics, national income estimates and programming economic development; plans are under way to fill this request in 1954. An expert in industrial development is co-operating with the Industrial Institute of Nicaragua. TAA has provided an expert to advise the Government of Brazil on the development of the Northeast Region of the country. This work will be continued in 1954 through advice to both the Economic Development Bank of Brazil and the Bank for the Northeast of Brazil. In Peru an expert has advised the Development Board of Cuzco on a programme for that area and made a preliminary study of conditions in the Department of Piura. During the first courses at the Latin-American Monetary Study Centre, located in Mexico City, two United Nations' experts delivered lectures related to programming and financing economic development. One of the experts was financed by the Technical Assistance Administration. Fellowships were also provided for study at the Centre.

/B. Public

## B. Public Administration

The public administration programme included carrying out courses at the School of Public Administration in Brazil; establishment of the Advanced School of Public Administration in Central America (see above); the Workshop on Budgetary Management, held in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Latin America in Mexico City and attended by participants from the five Central American countries, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Panama and the United States of America; individual expert missions to Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay; and a special comprehensive programme for Bolivia. A considerable number of scholarships are financed, in part or in full, by the United Nations specifically for the two Schools mentioned above. The regular fellowships and scholarships in public administration offered under the technical assistance programme are increasingly related to UNTAA projects, e.g. training of future teachers at the School in Rio de Janeiro and training for tax administration in Panama. In Bolivia, assistance in the public administration field has been closely related to economic development and is provided, in part, by the recruitment of technical consultants working as Bolivian civil servants in the administration of a number of central ministries and agencies.

The general trend of assistance in public administration in Latin America has been away from the short-term expert, who makes a survey and produces a report with recommendations, towards longer-term assistance, either to establish permanent training institutions or to help both in the design and implementation of measures for improving specific government services.

Although it is too early to evaluate the long-term results of this phase of the programme, some immediate results are evident. The Workshop on Budgetary Management assisted in the improvement of the Manual for the Classification of Government Accounts, prepared and now being revised by the United Nations Secretariat. The School in Rio de Janeiro, in addition to training 388 students from Brazil and 99 from other countries in the last three years, has produced a considerable amount of teaching material in the  
/field of



field of public administration. Three public administration textbooks in Spanish, adapted to the needs of the area, are now in preparation. Several lectures delivered by experts in Bolivia on specific public administration subjects have been published.

#### C. Basic Industries

1) Resource Development. Assistance in the field of hydroelectric power was provided to Bolivia, British Guiana, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti and Peru, as well as in connexion with the Central American Economic Integration Programme. Other assistance provided under the heading of resource development included that to Bolivia in metallic minerals and oil development and to Jamaica in water resource development.

2) Transport. Assistance in the field of transport included expert advice to Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador, as well as a survey and seminar on all forms of transportation in the five Central American countries and Panama, carried out jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America and TAA with the assistance of ICAO. The report of the survey team and seminar was printed and presented to the Second Session of the Committee of Ministers of Economy of Central America, which was held in San José, Costa Rica, in October.<sup>1/</sup> The Committee approved the report, considering it a basic document for transport development of the region, which should be followed up with action on many of the specific recommendations made therein. The report contains 123 recommendations for improving transportation, some related to national considerations only and others to the mutual integration of domestic systems, including a large and detailed programme for a Central American road network. It represents an important step in the comprehensive Central American Economic Integration Programme.

3) Cement. Other examples of assistance to basic industries were expert advice given to Honduras, Paraguay and Peru to further development of their cement industries.

#### D. Statistics

The statistical programme provided three experts for Colombia, two for Ecuador and one each for Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua,

/Panama and

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<sup>1/</sup> Document E/CN.12/356

Panama and Paraguay. In addition, an expert was sent by the United Nations to attend the National Income Seminar in Santiago, Chile. A comprehensive long-term, regional programme in Vital and Health Statistics was developed, with initiation of the first courses of the Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics in the Chilean capital. The latter project is jointly sponsored by the Government of Chile, the World Health Organization and the United Nations. In addition to training such statisticians from most of the Latin American countries, it is bringing about significant improvements in the Chilean national statistical series, which are used for in-service training after the students' six-months of academic studies are completed. In 1953, thirty-three students from seventeen Latin American countries attended the Centre.

#### E. Other Industries

In addition to assistance in the major field of basic industries described above, seven experts were provided to Latin America to advise on activities related to the following industries, in the countries indicated:

Sugar Milling	Bolivia
Industrial Cost Studies	Bolivia
Cottage Industries	Ecuador
Welding	Ecuador
Small Industries	Haiti
Printing	Mexico.

#### F. Housing and Town Planning

Both Colombia and Ecuador received advice of experts sent to those countries in connexion with housing programmes and a town planning expert was provided for Paraguay. A village planning and rural housing expert was sent by the United Nations to participate in the comprehensive programme of the Latin-American Fundamental Education Centre in Patzcuaro, Mexico.

#### G. Other Fields of Activity

Four experts were sent to Latin America in the following fields related to economic development:

Land Reform	Bolivia
Public Utilities	Colombia
Meteorology	Dominican Republic
Money and Banking	Haiti
Trade Promotion	Haiti
Agricultural Credit	Haiti.

### III. EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Now that the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme has been functioning for three years, there are encouraging examples of the results in many fields, which either reflect specific material improvements already realized, or are instances of governments taking action on recommendations of experts, or are other strong indications that technical assistance is achieving its aims. The large number of such cases, which have come to light on the basis of information readily available, indicates that the time may be ripe for a thorough analysis of achievements. Since technical assistance is requested to fill a need felt by the country concerned and is understood best by that country, from the standpoint of its own individual goals, results ought also to be considered from that aspect. This can best be done by the countries themselves. The views of the members of the Committee are invited regarding the desirability of soliciting detailed information from governments, for the purpose of compiling a comprehensive review of the results of technical assistance in Latin America.

## ANNEX A

Number of Economic Development and Public Administration  
Experts either in the Field or Appointed During 1950, 1951, 1952 and  
1953, by Recipient Countries

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Bolivia	11	5	17	20
Brazil	2	-	5	15
British Guiana	-	-	-	1
Chile	3	-	1	1
Colombia	-	6	9	6
Costa Rica	-	-	-	2
Cuba	-	-	6	1
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	1
Ecuador	5	5	14	18
El Salvador	-	7	11	1
Guatemala	-	-	2	1
Haiti	4	5	7	7
Honduras	-	-	-	1
Jamaica	-	-	2	6
Mexico	3	-	2	2
Nicaragua	-	-	-	4
Panama	-	1	2	2
Paraguay	-	-	4	7
Peru	-	2	5	5
St. Lucia	-	1	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	-	1
Sub-Total	28	32	87	102 <sup>a/</sup>
Experts provided for Regional Projects	..	..	12	28
Total			99	130

Note: In addition to experts provided for regional projects, expert-participants in such projects which had a working-group character provided advice to Latin America. In 1952, over 100 experts attended the ECLA/TAA Expert Working Group on Iron and Steel Industry in Latin America, held in Bogotá, Colombia. In 1953, 21 expert-participants attended the Workshop on Budgetary Management, held in Mexico City.

<sup>a/</sup> Includes resident representatives and their assistants, administrative responsibility for whom was transferred to TAB on 1 October 1952.

ANNEX. B

Number of Fellowships and Scholarships for Economic  
Development and Public Administration Awarded in  
1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Bolivia	1	-	-	7
Brazil	2	14	22	8
British Guiana	-	-	2	2
British West Indies	-	1	2	-
Chile	5	3	5	6
Colombia	-	1	10	14
Costa Rica	1	1	-	1
Cuba	3	5	-	-
Dominican Republic	-	2	-	-
Ecuador	5	20	17	22
El Salvador	-	2	5	2
Guatemala	-	1	1	-
Haiti	2	8	23	9
Mexico	4	3	4	13
Netherlands West Indies	1	-	-	-
Nicaragua	1	-	1	-
Panama	-	-	2	1
Paraguay	-	-	2	3
Uruguay	2	2	5	7
Venezuela	-	4	5	1
Total	<u>27</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>96</u>