

United Nations

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ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
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UNRESTRICTED

E/AC.21/SR.12  
11 December 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,  
on Thursday, 11 December 1947, at 3.00 p.m.

Present:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Carlos E. Stolk	(Venezuela)
	Mr. H. Santa Cruz	(Chile)
	Mr. T. Y. Wu	(China)
	Mr. J. de Folin	(France)
	Mr. K. Azkoul	(Lebanon)
	Mr. J. Alexander	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. W. Fowler	(United States of America)
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. H. E. Caustin	(Deputy Director, Division of Economic Stability and Development)
	Mr. E. Castillo	(Joint Secretaries)
	Mr. H. Daniel	

The CHAIRMAN recalled that yesterday's meeting had been adjourned in order to allow the United Kingdom representative to obtain instructions from his government as to the membership and scope of the proposed commission.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) stated that he was now in agreement with the representative of the United States of America and believed that the formula they had arrived at would be acceptable to the Committee. He then read the new text:

"Membership of the Commission would be open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America, and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Any territory, part or group thereof, within the geographic scope of the Commission's work, may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the Member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission

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by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories, may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

"The geographical scope of the Commission's work would be the countries and territories of Latin America, and the Caribbean area, which become members or associate members of the Commission."

Mr. FOWLER (United States of America) said that this wording was almost identical with that of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and noted that the formula on geographic scope followed his initial suggestion which had been amended by the representative of Chile.

As this text was agreeable to the Committee, the CHAIRMAN stated that it was approved. He also stated that the draft preliminary report now became the Committee's preliminary report. Continuing, he said that the Committee's next business was to consider how it would transmit its preliminary report to the Pan American Union and obtain that organization's views regarding the possible co-ordination of the future work of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council and of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) thought that the preliminary report should be forwarded immediately to the Pan American Union so that it would have time to consider it and enable the Inter-American Economic and Social Council to conclude the study of its future organization and functions. At the same time the Committee might renew its invitation to the Pan American Union to study jointly the distribution and co-ordination of the work of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America and that of the corresponding body of the Pan American Union. He also thought it might save time if the Chairman were authorized to deal with any queries by the Pan American Union or its Inter-American Economic and Social Council concerning the work of the Committee. Finally, he suggested that the Committee resume work early in January as this would enable it to finalize its recommendations and report to the Economic and Social Council in time for its February session.

Mr. FOWLER (United States of America) believed that the middle of January would probably be more suitable for the Committee's next meeting. He then suggested the text of a resolution authorizing the Chairman to transmit copies of the Committee's report to the Pan American Union:

"The ad hoc Committee authorizes the Chairman to transmit copies of its report to the Pan American Union for its consideration, with particular reference to the question of possible overlapping between the work of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America and the work of the Inter-American machinery in order that the ad hoc Committee may have the benefit of the views of the Pan American Union when it meets again in the middle of January 1948 to finalize its report to the Economic and Social Council."

/Finally,

Finally, he agreed with the proposals of the Chilean representative regarding the authorization to the Chairman to handle any queries raised by the Pan American Union and the renewing of the invitation to the Pan American Union.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) thought that the text suggested by the representative of the United States of America presented one drawback in that it stressed the possibility of overlapping. The Committee had seen no concrete data to substantiate this idea and he believed it would be sufficient to seek the views of the Pan American Union.

Mr. FOWLER (United States of America) pointed out that the main question which had bothered the Council was the fact that a regional economic organization had already existed. As the Pan American Union and its Inter-American Economic and Social Council had not yet had an opportunity to develop their plans, it had not proved feasible for the Committee to study the possibility of overlapping. It was his understanding that the Committee had recently decided that in order to make progress it should let the Pan American Union see its tentative recommendations as to the terms of reference of the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America, enabling it to consider this unsolved question of overlapping. He thought it fitting, therefore, that specific mention be made of the main point on which there still remained some doubt and which the Committee hoped to resolve after hearing the views of the Pan American Union.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) remarked that since the beginning of the Committee's meetings the representative of the United States of America had emphasized the question of possible duplication, but that to date no evidence of duplication had been produced. The representative of the United States of America had already indicated that the functions of the Inter-American system in the economic field were still under consideration. Thus, this gave the Pan American Union an opportunity to avoid any possible duplication. Further as the proposed Commission's terms of reference would only be drafted after the Committee had had the benefit of the views of the Pan American Union, he did not favour the proposed text. He went on to state that if any possibility of duplication existed, the Pan American Union would inform the Committee of it. There were a number of possible courses open to the Pan American Union. It might say that it contemplated giving its economic organs functions which the Committee had suggested for the proposed commission, and that therefore it might not be necessary to create the commission. Or again, it might so arrange the terms of reference of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council as to dovetail the work of that organization into that of the proposed commission. There were thus two ways of avoiding duplication. He assured the Committee that the Chilean representative in the Pan American Union would be

/as anxious

as anxious as the Chilean representative in this Committee to see that no duplication existed.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Venezuela, stated that he was not in favour of emphasizing the possibility of overlapping as it might create the impression that the members of the Committee thought that there was in fact overlapping. This view was supported by the representative of France.

Mr. AZKOUL (Lebanon) stated his impression that most of the members regarded the question of duplication as no more than a theoretical problem. If the problem turned out to be real, he was sure the Pan American Union would be the first to draw attention to it. Accordingly, he felt that a specific reference to duplication would do more harm than good.

Mr. FOWLER (United States of America) considered that the possibility of overlapping was not theoretical.

In concluding this part of the Committee's work, the CHAIRMAN stated that he would send copies of the report to the Pan American Union; he would be available to explain any queries raised by the Pan American Union concerning the work of the Committee; he would renew the invitation to the Pan American Union and its organs to participate in the Committee's next meeting; and, finally, he would call the next meeting early in January.

Speaking for the Committee, he then thanked the representatives of the Specialized Agencies and the consultant for the American Federation of Labor for their contribution to the Committee's work. Finally, he wished to express the Committee's appreciation for the excellent work of the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.