

DEA - Economic & Social Council Secretariat - Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

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ECLA

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

13 February 1951

TO: Mr. G. Yates

FROM: Manuel Mesa A., Chief, Latin American Unit
Division of Economic Stability and Development

SUBJECT: ECLA Progress Report No. 3

Attached please find for your information Progress Report No. 3 of the Economic Commission for Latin America, indicating its program of work and the progress achieved in the work on various projects.

Comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Manuel A. Mesa

15 January 1951

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 3

1. ECONOMIC SURVEY 1950

Work on the Survey is progressing satisfactorily according to the following schedule: by the end of January the economists will have drafts ready for revision and coordination of texts by Mr. Prebisch, Mr. Marquez and Mr. Rey Alvarez.

During the month of February final drafts will be prepared, incorporating the last information collected for 1950.

The month of March will be devoted to editing, translating and reproduction, so as to have the study ready for distribution by the end of the month.

2. ECLA/ECE JOINT TRADE STUDY

The Study is progressing satisfactorily. Field investigation on import preferences for farm machinery and textile machinery is being carried out and will be completed by the end of January.

News has been received that Mr. Yates of the FAO staff will go to Geneva to work on the commodity studies for the ECLA/ECE Joint Trade Study.

3. ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN TRADE

Draft of this study is under revision.

4. UNITED STATES CAPACITY TO ABSORB LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCTS

The first draft of this study is expected to be ready by the 15th of February.

5. EFFECT OF THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE PROGRAMME ON LATIN AMERICA

Work on this study has been started, but the first draft is not expected before the end of March. This paper will be distributed during the Fourth ECLA Session in order to have a more complete and up-to-date report.

6. MEETING ON AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

In compliance with resolution E/CN.12/195, passed at the Third ECLA Session, ECLA's Executive Secretary and the Director General of FAO have been corresponding on the matter of convening a meeting of agricultural credit experts in one of the Central American countries.

7. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICA

During the second Latin American Regional Meeting of FAO, held in Montevideo last December, a resolution was passed requesting the Director-General of FAO to provide for the establishment of a Regional Training Center on Agricultural Programme Development under the expanded technical assistance programme.

In compliance with this resolution, the FAO has advised us of its interest in setting up the Training Center in Santiago and has requested ECLA's cooperation in carrying out this project.

As this project is of great interest for ECLA and, in our opinion, a very useful one for the region, the request for cooperation has been answered favourably, and we are corresponding with FAO as to the best way to establish this cooperation.

8. IMMIGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee will hold its Third Session in Santiago, beginning 5 February. Copies of the Agenda for this meeting (document ST/ECLA/C.1/8) and the report of the Second Session (document ST/ECLA/C.1/7) are available for perusal in room 2653.

The Committee has continued conversations with Chilean officials on the assistance to the Chilean Government.

After the Santiago meeting, it is planned that the Committee will spend a few days in Argentina in order to make some studies and have informal discussions on immigration problems with Argentine officials.

9. IMPLICATION OF EUROPEAN PAYMENTS UNION ON THE ECONOMY OF LATIN AMERICA

This study has been postponed for the time being because Mr. Prebisch, who is personally in charge of this project, is devoting his time to the study on "Theoretical and Practical Problems of Growth in Latin America".

10. THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA

This is the new title of the report on Economic Development and Planning, described in our former Progress Report. Mr. Prebisch is working actively on this project.

11. SPECIAL STUDIES

A. Productivity of the cotton textile industry

Final draft of this study is still under revision.

B. Iron and Steel industry

Replies from all countries to whom letters were sent have been received with the exception of Brazil and Venezuela. Preparation of charts and drafting of the report has been started.

12. FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

As these studies are being prepared at U.N. Headquarters, we do not think it necessary to report on their progress. However, it should be stated that in compliance with the resolution passed at the Third ECLA Session, the Executive Secretary sent a questionnaire requesting information on this matter to the Latin American Governments.

The questionnaires were dispatched on 28 December and copies of same and of the covering letter were sent to Mr. Chudson.

13. COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

In compliance with resolution E/CN.12/204 of the Third ECLA Session, the Executive Secretary, in agreement with the Director-General of UNESCO, sent a questionnaire to the Latin American Governments on supplies of educational, scientific and cultural materials. This questionnaire is available for perusal in room 2653.

The same resolution requests the Executive Secretary, within the means at his disposal and in collaboration with the Director-General of UNESCO, to take the necessary action to convene a meeting of a small working group to study and make recommendations on the same subject. No action on this matter is intended before a substantial number of replies is received.