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CO-OPERATION AND LIAISON ECONOMIC COMMISSION
LATIN AMERICA

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Trusteeship - Non Self Governing Territories Cooperation and Liaison Economic Commission for Latin America

UNITED NATIONS - CENTRAL REGISTRY CENTRAL NATIONS

SUBJECT:

FILE NUMBER: NO. DU DOSSIER

1/C/38/Rev.1
July 1948

FILE TITLE:

TITRE DU DOSSIER

~~135/4/02~~

NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES
COOPERATION AND LIAISON
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OR DEPENDENT
TERRITORIES

Handwritten signature

FILE BEGINS: 1 JUNE, 1948
ENDS: 31 DEC,

NOTICE: USE
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~~Trusteeship & Information from NSG~~

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135/4/02

PART ~~"A"~~ CLOSED

SEE PART ~~"B"~~

FILE BEGINS: 1 JUNE, 1948
ENDS: 31 DEC, 1949

NEW REFERENCE NO. AS OF 1 JAN, 1950: TRI-135/02(2) I.C.D.T.

MEMORANDUM

135/4/02
1ACDT

FROM W-B-

TO Mr Bright

I pass to you Mr Herron's note
& my reply.

WB

7/15

Mr. Bough
135/4/02
IACDT

Mr. Herrera

Mr. W. Benson

American Commission on Dependent Territories

14 July 1948

Thank you for your memorandum dated 13 July.

I agree that the Bogota Resolution is of importance. It further illustrates the international significance of the colonial problem. At the same time, I regret to say that I see little signs that the Resolution adopted is in agreement with the letter and spirit of Article 73. On the contrary, the activating motives would appear to be those of national expansion on the part of certain States. It is, moreover, unfortunately noteworthy that those States which are chiefly concerned have acted as though it is in their interests to keep certain territories outside the scope of Chapter XI of the Charter. It is because of the attitude of the Government of Panama that no information is now submitted in respect of the Canal Zone. The declarations of Guatemala and of Argentina with regard to other territories would exclude the international consideration of the economic and social conditions of the peoples of these territories.

Since there is no conflict between the objectives outlined in the Bogota Resolution and the proper application of Chapter XI of the Charter we should endeavor on every proper occasion to draw the attention of Latin American representatives to the possibility of pursuing their own legitimate aspirations by strengthening their support of Chapter XI. Until the Governments show some inkling of this possibility I cannot see that the establishment of the Commission can be of direct importance to us. Certainly it is not a matter in which our intervention would be permissible. On the other hand, should the Commission settle down to study the political, economic and social conditions of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the information which we receive would form one of the main sources of the work.

Thus the only action that is likely to be necessary or possible for this Department in consequence of any foundation of a commission would be to supply on request such information as we have received concerning conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In general, the whole question is of interest and importance. I trust that you will keep Mr. Bough informed of any developments during my absence. Mr. Bough will be responsible for considering any action that might be required which, however, as I indicate above is at present almost certainly to be limited to the supply of official information.

135/4/02

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

IACDT

TO: Mr. W. Benson

FROM: Mr. R. D. Herrera

SUBJECT: American Commission on Dependent Territories

Date 13 July 1948

The Resolution of Bogota on the question of the Western Hemisphere colonies is apparently a step taken in agreement with the letter and spirit of the declaration of principles laid down in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

In the above mentioned resolution, the Ninth Inter-American Conference resolved to create an American Commission of Dependent Territories. This Commission, which is to be composed of one representative of each of the Members of the Organization of the American States and is to be considered established when two-thirds (fourteen in number) have been appointed, is to ("centralize") carry on study of the problems connected with the aspirations of the people living ("subjected to") under colonial regimes, in so far as to "erase from the continent any situation of dependency, whatever its form, political, economic or juridical", is concerned.

In view of the fact that the Governments shall designate representatives before 1 September 1948, and that the site of the Commission shall be La Habana, I earnestly remind you of this international event, which may take place while you are away from the headquarters, in order that you may be in a position to cover it in any way you deem necessary.



135/4/02 IACDT

Mr. Benson.

J.A. Bough.

1 June 1948

Official Designation of Bogota Conference.

The official title of the Bogota Conference is as follows: Ninth International Conference of American States.

It convened in Bogota, Colombia, on 30 March 1948.