

Message Text

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ACTION IO-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ADS-00 OES-09 SS-15 L-03 SP-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 LABE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 ICA-15
NASA-02 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HUD-02 HEW-06 INT-05
CEQ-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 OIC-02 /139 W
-----062426 241837Z /47

P R 241525Z APR 79
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5899
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LA PAZ 3561

EO 12065: NA
TAGS: OCON, ECLA, UN
SUBJECT: ECLA PLENARY CONFERENCE: COMMITTEE II (INSTITUTIONAL
ISSUES/PROGRAM OF WORK)

REF: LA PAZ 3493

1. SUMMARY. AS OF EVENING OF APRIL 21, COMMITTEE II'S
WORK HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY COMPLETED, THE COMMITTEE HAVING
FULLY DISCUSSED THE SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE
LAST TWO YEARS, THE SECRETARIAT'S PROJECTED WORK PROGRAM
FOR 1979-81, AND HAVING CONSIDERED 25 OUT OF 26 DRAFT
RESOLUTIONS BEFORE IT. THE US DELEGATION PLAYED AN
ACTIVE ROLE AND WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING GREATER
CONCERN OVER THE NEED FOR BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE AND THE
NEED TO STOP THE PROLIFERATING NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL
MEETINGS AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF ECLA. A VERY GOOD
RESOLUTION ON DECENTRALIZATION (RESTRUCTURING) OF UN
ACTIVITIES WAS ADOPTED WHICH INCORPORATES THE CONCEPT
OF REDEPLOYING RESOURCES FROM NEW YORK TO THE REGIONAL
COMMISSION TO ENABLE THE LATTER TO EFFECTIVELY ASSUME THEIR
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GROWING RESPONSIBILITIES (TEXT TO BE SENT SEPTTEL). ONLY
REMAINING BUSINESS ON COMMITTEE II AGENDA IS CONSIDERATION
OF URUGUAYAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ENERGY WHICH IS STILL
BEFORE LATIN AMERICAN WORKING GROUP AND ADOPTION OF
COMMITTEE II REPORT WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED TO PLENARY.
END SUMMARY.

2. COMMITTEE II, WHICH WAS ASSIGNED TO REVIEW THE SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES AND WORK PROGRAM, HAS COMPLETED VIRTUALLY ALL ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA AND DEALT WITH 25 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS. IN ADDITION TO THE RESOLUTIONS NOTED IN REFTEL, THE FOLLOWING NINE RESOLUTIONS WERE ALSO CONSIDERED:

(A) COM II/19: WITHDRAWN

(B) COM II/21

SPONSOR: VENEZUELA

SUBJECT: AMENDS RESOLUTION 13

US POSITION: YES, WITH RESERVATION

COMMENT: OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE ON GRADUATION REMOVED,

US SUPPORTED CONSENSUS

(C) COM II/22: WITHDRAWN

(D) COM II/23:

SPONSOR: ARGENTINA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, EL SALVADOR,

GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROJECTIONS

US POSITION: YES

(E) COM II/24

SPONSOR: URUGUAY

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SUBJECT: DECENTRALIZATION OF UN ACTIVITIES

US POSITION: YES

COMMENT: APPROVED WITH US AMENDMENTS ON TRANSFER AND REDEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

(F) COM II/25

SPONSOR: BOLIVIA

SUBJECT: THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THE SHAPING OF

THE COMING GENERATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

US POSITION: YES

(G) COM II/26

SPONSOR: URUGUAY

SUBJECT: ENERGY

US POSITION: TO BE DECIDED

COMMENT: REMANDED TO WORKING GROUP

(H) COM II/27

SPONSOR: CUBA, GUATEMALA, MEXICO

SUBJECT: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT.

US POSITION: NO

COMMENT: US OPPOSED CREATION OF ECLA INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE. NO CONSENSUS BY COMMITTEE.

(I) COM II/28

SPONSOR: COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS

SUBJECT: METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOR THE INCLUSION
OF THE PATRIMONY OF RESOURCES IN THE SYSTEM OF
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

US POSITION: NO

COMMENT: US OPPOSED BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.
NO CONSENSUS BY COMMITTEE.

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THE GREATEST NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY
CONSENSUS WITH LITTLE OR NO DEBATE, BUT SEVERAL PROVED
TROUBLESOME FOR THE COMMITTEE. NO VOTES WERE TAKEN,
EVEN WHEN STRONG DIFFERENCES OF OPINION EMERGED AND
SEVERAL OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS WERE EITHER
WITHDRAWN, SEVERELY WATERED DOWN, OR PASSED TO PLENARY
FOR FINAL DISPOSITION WITHOUT CONSENSUS HAVING BEEN
REACHED. IN THIS CATEGORY WERE A SURINAMESE RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR PROCLAMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF AUTOCHTHONOUS (INDIGENOUS) TRADITIONS WHICH WAS
WATERED DOWN TO ASKING THE SECRETARIAT TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A YEAR; A BOLIVIAN RESOLUTION FOR
REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS FOR THE STUDY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES WHICH WAS KILLED IN FAVOR OF MORE INNOCUOUS
REMOTE SENSING RESOLUTION BEFORE COMMITTEE III (WATER
RESOURCES COMMITTEE), SEE SEPTTEL; A BOLIVIAN DRAFT

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ECLA TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A LATIN AMERICAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FUND WHICH WAS PASSED TO COMMITTEE I WITHOUT CONSENSUS FOR FINAL DECISION; A MEXICAN, CUBAN, AND GUATEMALAN DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CREATING A NEW ECLA COMMITTEE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS TO MEET BEFORE THE END OF 1979 WHICH WAS WATERED DOWN TO A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF FUTURE ECLA PLENARY SESSIONS TO CONSIDER HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ISSUES; AND A COSTA RICAN DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE PATRIMONY OF RESOURCES IN THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS WHICH WAS WITHDRAWN (FOR THE COGNIZANT THIS MEANS QUANTIFYING NATURAL RESOURCE ENDOWMENT AND THEN INCORPORATING THE DEVELOPMENTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF ECONOMIC GROWTH INTO NATIONAL ACCOUNTS).

3. THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE US DELEGATION IN COMMITTEE II WAS THE TWIN THEME OF BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE AND THE NEED TO SET CLEAR PRIORITIES AMONG COMPETING PROGRAMS WHICH THE US DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO INJECT INTO THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS. THIS APPROACH WAS A CONSTANT NOTE IN US INTERVENTIONS AND BY THE END OF THE WEEK SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS (MOST NOTABLY COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL) JOINED OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS OF ECLA IN SUPPORT OF US CONCERNS. THIS POINT DID NOT SEEM TO BE MISSED BY ECLA SECRETARIAT.

4. SECOND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF US DELEGATION IN COMMITTEE II WAS SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH SECRETARIAT AND URUGUAY TO COME UP WITH VERY SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION ON DECENTRALIZATION OF UN ACTIVITIES. KEY POINT IN RESOLUTION FROM US POINT OF VIEW IS THAT IT CALLS UPON SYG TO DECENTRALIZE APPROPRIATE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ACTIVITIES FROM UN HEADQUARTERS TO ECLA IN ACCORD WITH THE RESTRUCTURING RESOLUTION (32/197) AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO ECLA ADEQUATE BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH REDEPLOYMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMISSION'S CAPABILITIES.

5. A THIRD SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE US DELEGATION WAS THE AMENDMENT TO THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

RESOLUTION NOTED ABOVE. IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION (WHICH REPEATEDLY PROVED TO BE A USEFUL AND SKILLFUL ALLY IN CONTAINING POTENTIALLY COSTLY RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR NEW INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND/OR MEETINGS) THE US DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THE COMMITTEE THAT A COSTLY NEW HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMITTEE NEED NOT BE ESTABLISHED AND MEET LATER THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE ADEQUATE DIRECTION TO THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DIVISION OF THE ECLA SECRETARIAT. INSTEAD A SESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL BE CREATED DURING THE NEXT ECLA PLENARY TO WHICH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ASKED TO SEND EXPERTS.

6. OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS WERE: THE DELETION OF NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO THE PRINCIPLE OF "GRADUATION" CONTAINED IN A RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM SPONSORED BY CHILE, GUATEMALA, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA; DISCRETE US SUPPORT FOR A BOLIVIAN RESOLUTION CALLING ON ECLA TO STUDY THE CAUSE, EFFECTS, AND MOST APPROPRIATE REMEDIES FOR THE MIGRATION OF UNSKILLED LABORERS FROM THE LESS DEVELOPED TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION; AND OPEN AND EXPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT THAT THEY OPERATE UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF NO NET REAL GROWTH IN THE ECLA BUDGET.
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