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Sec. Gen.'s trip to India 1956

Jan. 3

W. R. Malinowski (Chief, Regional Commissions Section)

— to Philippe de Seynes (Under-Sec. for Economic
and Social Affairs, UN.)

(conc. information reg. ECAFE's twelfth session)



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

3 January 1956

TO: Mr. Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs

FROM: W.R. Malinowski, Chief, Regional Commissions Section
W.R. Malinowski

SUBJECT: Information regarding ECAFE's twelfth session

The twelfth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East will open on 2 February 1956 in Bangalore, India. It is the custom for the retiring Chairman (Mr. Tatsunosuke Takasaki (Japan)), or one of the retiring Vice-Chairmen (Dr. Asmaoen (Indonesia) and Mr. Khaleeli (Pakistan)), to open the session with a short speech. At the opening meeting, it is expected that the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE will address the Commission.

According to ECAFE custom, it may be expected that the leader of the Indian delegation will be elected Chairman of the Commission. There is no indication as to who may be elected Vice-Chairmen.

..... The provisional agenda of the session (E/CN.11/411/Rev.1) is attached.

..... The following countries will be attending for the first time as members of the United Nations: Cambodia, Ceylon, Laos and Nepal. They are already members of ECAFE. A list of the members and associate members is attached.

1. Representation of China

This question will undoubtedly be raised again, probably in the form of a motion by the USSR delegation, or possibly India, calling for the exclusion of the representative of the National Government of China and for the representation of China by a delegation from the Central People's Government of the Republic of China. It has generally been the practice of the Commission to adjourn debate on this question. However, at the eleventh session, no formal motion was submitted and no decision was taken. In view of recent developments in the Security Council and the General Assembly, it is possible that stronger pressure may be brought on this matter at ECAFE's twelfth session. In this connection, it may be noted that, at ECAFE's seventh session (February 1951), the Acting Chairman (Dr. Lokanathan) ruled that the USSR motion was within the competence of the Commission to consider and therefore in order. The ruling was challenged and, on being put to the vote, was overruled by eight votes to five with one abstention.



2. Representation of Korea and Vietnam

At previous sessions, the USSR representative has protested against the "illegal presence of the representative of Syngman Rhee" and has also raised the question of the representation of Vietnam. At the last two sessions, no formal motions have been submitted on these questions and no action has been taken by the Commission.

3. Economic situation in Asia

In accordance with established practice, the first substantive item on the agenda (item 4) will be the discussion on the economic situation in Asia. This will be based on the Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955. In the past, there has been some controversy regarding the reporting by the secretariat on developments in Mainland China. This question may be raised again by the representatives of the Republic of China and the United States of America.

4. Reports of ECAFE subsidiary bodies

Agenda items 5, 7, 9 and 11, cover respectively the reports of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (ECAFE/L.97), the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE Region (ECAFE/L.95), the Committee on Industry and Trade, and the Inland Transport Committee.

Particular attention is likely to be given to the first of these reports since the activities of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning, which held its first meeting in Bangkok in November 1955, are likely to become a major feature of ECAFE's work. The report presented to the twelfth session contains conclusions and recommendations on such matters as determinants of economic growth, target setting and priorities, inter-industry relations, co-ordination of public and private sectors, external assistance, planning machinery and statistics. In view of the importance of the subject, it may be expected that the Commission will decide that a further meeting of the Working Party should be convened.

The Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification was sponsored jointly by ECAFE, TAA and the Fiscal and Financial Branch of the Bureau of Economic Affairs. The report covers such questions as the use of government accounts and the nature of the problems discussed, definition and scope of the public sector, economic classification, functional classification and cross-classification by functions and economic categories, and division into accounts.

The Committee on Industry and Trade and the Inland Transport Committee will meet in January 1956 and will approve reports for submission to ECAFE's twelfth session. The provisional agenda of the Committee on Industry and Trade included the following substantive items: report of the inter-secretariat working party on housing and building materials; report of the Sub-Committee on Iron and Steel; Activities of the secretariat in the field of mineral resources development; Activities of the secretariat in the field



of electric power; Report of the Working Party on Cottage and Small-Scale Industries and Handicraft Marketing; Activities of the secretariat in the field of trade; Report of the ECAFE/ILO/UNESCO Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development; and Programme of work and priorities.

5. Reports of specialised agencies

Item 14 is the report of FAO (E/CN.11/417) and item 15 the reports of other specialised agencies (E/CN.11/418). No special problems are likely to arise on these reports.

6. Report of Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East

Item 9 is the report of the Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East (E/CN.11/415) which was held in Bandung, Indonesia, in November-December 1955. The Seminar was organised by the Technical Assistance Administration and the Population Branch of the Bureau of Social Affairs in collaboration with ECAFE and the International Social Science Council. Invitations were issued by TAA to countries within the geographic scope of ECAFE. It is possible that the Australian delegation may raise the question why Australia was not invited to the Seminar. Australia, which is a member of ECAFE, is not within the geographic scope of the Commission.

The main aim of the Seminar was to throw light on the demographic situation of the region in connection with plans for economic and social development. In discussions of population research and training, proposals were endorsed for the establishment of a regional centre for demographic research and training.

7. Reports on secretariat activities in specific fields

Items 6, 12 and 13 cover reports of secretariat activities in the fields of Statistics (ECAFE/L.99), Flood Control and Water Resources Development (E/CN.11/414), and Agriculture (ECAFE/L.98), respectively. There are no ECAFE standing subsidiary bodies dealing with these subjects. As regards agriculture, it may be noted that FAO has requested ECAFE's collaboration in a joint ECAFE/FAO study on timber trends; this would have financial implications for ECAFE.

8. Inter-regional trade consultations

The question of inter-regional trade consultations (item 10) originated in resolution 5(IX) of ECE which was considered by the Economic and Social Council at its eighteenth session. At that session the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a technical report on the practical conditions under which effect might usefully be given to the ECE resolution. This report was communicated to the three regional economic commissions for their opinion



before it was submitted to the Council at its twentieth session. While ECE, as the originator of the proposal to extend trade consultations beyond the region covered by its mandate expressed itself favourably, both ECAFE and ECLA adopted a cautious attitude to such consultations. ECAFE, in a resolution of its eleventh session, endorsed the concept of trade consultations in principle but believed that methods and procedures should be more fully explored, and felt also that such consultations should not be limited to members of the three regional commissions. ECLA recommended that, in addition to the method of consultations by experts, the Council should examine other methods and procedures which would contribute towards raising the level of trade.

At its twentieth session, the Council considered the report by the Secretary-General (E/2674) as well as the opinions of the three regional commissions and decided that, if at least two of the regional commissions agreed to hold such consultations, the Secretary-General should undertake the necessary preparatory work and to convene such consultations among interested governments participating in the work of the regional economic commissions and interested states members of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies (resolution 579 B(XX)).

At its sixth session, ECLA took note of the Council's resolution (579 B(XX)) and decided, in resolution 105(VI), that the Executive Secretary should report to the Commission on developments in this sphere and that he should transmit the text of the resolution to ECE and ECAFE. This resolution, in fact refrained from expressing an opinion on such consultations but kept the matter open so that a future meeting of the Commission might take action if one or both of the other regional commissions decide in favour of trade consultations.

ECAFE will thus have before it as its twelfth session the resolution of the Council as well as that of ECLA. The attitude of ECAFE will therefore determine whether the ECE proposals are to be put into effect. If ECAFE does not take favourable action or, like ECLA, simply refrains from taking action, consultations cannot be convened since, under the terms of the Council's resolution, at least two commissions must decide that such consultations be held. On the other hand, if ECAFE were to take favourable action, the way would be open for such consultations, since ECE, as the original sponsor of the proposal, would be likely to support it at its next session (April 1956).

The Executive Secretary has submitted a note on this subject (E/CN.11/413).

9. Technical assistance activities in the region

Under item 16, the Commission will have two reports (E/CN.11/420) before it, namely (a) a note by the TAA on United Nations Technical Assistance in Asia and the Far East, 1950-1955, and (b) an information paper prepared by the TAB Secretariat on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in the ECAFE Region.



It is expected that Mr. David Owen, Executive Chairman of TAB, and Mr. Arthur Goldschmidt of TAA will be present at the twelfth session and will introduce this item and remain for the debate.

10. Programme of work and priorities

Under item 17, the Commission will consider and approve its programme of work and priorities for 1956-7, for submission, as part of the Annual Report, to the Economic and Social Council. It is possible that the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Industrialisation and Productivity, to be held in Bangkok shortly before ECAFE's twelfth session, may make it necessary for the Executive Secretary to suggest certain modifications in the draft work programme (ECAFE/L.100), although this is by no means certain since the Economic and Social Council will not yet have considered the recommendations of the secretariat, arising from the Working Party. It would seem likely that reference will be made to the Secretary-General's proposals for strengthening the ECAFE secretariat, and other related matters, based on the report of the Survey Group on the Organisation of the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary has mentioned this question, as well as the steps he has taken to establish a social affairs unit in the ECAFE secretariat, in his introduction to the Proposed Programme of Work and Priorities 1956-7 (ECAFE/L.100). It is understood that he is circulating copies of the Survey Group's report, or appropriate extracts from it, to heads of delegations at the twelfth session.

11. Date and place of next session

In connection with this item (18), it may be recalled that at ECAFE's last session, the USSR delegation stated that its Government would welcome a session of the Commission to be held in the USSR, in Moscow or Tashkent, when circumstances permit. Previous ECAFE sessions have been held in China, the Philippines, India, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia, Ceylon and Japan.

..... Note: A list of the senior officials in the ECAFE secretariat is attached.

Cochran

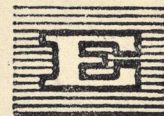
UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.11/411 Rev.1
15 December 1955

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Twelfth session
2-14 February 1956
Bangalore, India

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Document

1. Opening addresses
 2. Election of the chairman and two vice-chairmen
 3. Adoption of the agenda E/CN.11/411 Rev.1
 4. Economic situation in Asia Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East, 1955
 5. Report of the Working Party on Economic Development and Planning (first meeting) E/CN.11/412
 6. Technical assistance activities in the region " /420
 7. Activities of the secretariat in the field of statistics ECAFE/L.99
 8. Report of the Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region " /L.95
 9. Report of the Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East E/CN.11/415
 10. Report of the Committee on Industry and Trade
 11. Inter-regional trade consultations " /413
 12. Report of the Inland Transport Committee
- / 13. Activities of



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13. Activities of the secretariat in the field of flood control and water resources development E/CN.11/414
14. Activities of the secretariat in the field of agriculture ECAFE/L.98
15. Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations E/CN.11/417
16. Reports of other specialized agencies (International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) E/CN.11/418
17. Programme of work and priorities ECAFE/L.100
18. Date and place of the next session
19. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council



Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

Members ^{1/}

Afghanistan (1953)	India	New Zealand (1948)
Australia	Indonesia (1950)	Pakistan (1948)
Burma (1948)	Japan (1954)	Philippines
Cambodia (1954)	Republic of Korea (1954)	Thailand
Ceylon (1954)	Laos (1955)	USSR
China	Nepal (1955)	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	United States
		Vietnam (1954)

Associate Members ^{2/}

Hong Kong

Malaya & British Borneo

Geographic scope

"The ECAFE region" includes:

Afghanistan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, the Federation of Malaya, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Nepal, North Borneo, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sarawak, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

^{1/} Year in parenthesis indicates year of admission into full membership. Where no year is given, this indicates initial membership.

^{2/} Associate members have the right to vote in ECAFE's subsidiary bodies but not in the Commission.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

ECAFE Senior Officials

Executive Secretary : Dr. P.S. Lokanathan
Deputy Executive Secretary : Mr. Albert Dollinger

Division Chiefs

Research and Planning: Mr. John H.G. Pierson
Dr. H.D. Fong (Deputy Chief)

Bureau of Flood Control
& Water Resources Development: Dr. Shen-Yi

Industry and Trade: U Nyun

Transport: Mr. M.S. Ahmad

ECAFE/FAO Agriculture
Division: Dr. Mohinder Singh (Acting Chief)

Division of Administration: Mr. Chi-Yuen Wu

Information Officer: Mr. William Tanzer