ADMINISTRAÇÃO DE REHABILITAÇÃO E ASSISTÊNCIA DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS -

DFC

S. DE E. DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES
SERVIÇO DE COMUNICAÇÕES
11 ABR 1945
Nº 4921

No. 8/148

Relatório da Missão da
UNRRA à America Latina.

954.(00)

O Delegado do Brasil junto ao Conselho da Administração de Rehabilitação e Assistência das Nações Unidas cumprimenta à Secretaria de Estado das Relações Exteriores e tem a honra de enviar duas cópias do Relatório da Missão da UNRRA aos paises-membros da América Latina, de Outubro a Dezembro de 1944.

Washington, em 21 de Março de 1945.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

19 February 1945

Report of Mission to Latin American Member Governments

October - December 1944

1. Purpose of the Mission

The mission was decided upon as the best means of discussing the participation in the varied activities of UNRRA of the Latin American member governments, and of informing them as well as public opinion through the press and radio about the developments of UNRRA's program. There was a widely recognized need for closer contact between UNRRA headquarters and the numerous Latin American member countries.

No better means for establishing this contact could be devised than a mission which would approach each Government personally. Not only was it important to keep those countries aware of the arrangements that UNRRA has been making to carry out its programs, and of the prospects thereof, but also it would be to the advantage of UNRRA to take the advice of Latin American member governments regarding the framing and execution of UNRRA's programs.

Moreover, conversations with top ranking Latin American Government officials would be highly profitable for a better understanding and a closer collaboration of the nations of this Hemisphere within the framework of United Nations international organizations, of which UNRRA was the first one to have come into being. Finally, it was desired that the mission make effective arrangements with newspapers, radio stations and private organizations for continuously informing public opinion with regard to the purposes and activities of UNRRA.

2. Personnel and Itinerary

Dr. Eduardo Santos of Colombia, Deputy Director General of UNRRA, was appointed chief of this mission. Dr. Santos has had a long and outstanding career in national and international affairs. He has represented his country in various diplomatic posts and before the League of Nations; he was editor of one of the great daily newspapers in Latin America, and he was Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1930 and President of Colombia from 1938 to 1942.

The other members of the mission were:

Mr. Laurence Duggan, Deputy Chief (U.S.)
Mr. Alexander Argyropoulos (Greece)
Dr. Josue Saenz (Mexico)

Dr. Manuel Perez Guerrero (Venezuela)
Mr. Carlos Garcia Palacios (Chile)
Mr. Louis Swenson (U.S.)
Miss Margaret Thompson (U.S.)

The mission left Washington 4 October and returned to Washington 22 December. It visited eleven countries, namely Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela and Cuba. Mr. Argyropoulos left the mission at Colombia, at the call of his Government, to return to Greece. Dr. Saenz returned to Mexico from Chile in order to assist his Government in developing its plans to participate in UNRRA. He rejoined the mission in Cuba. In Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Cuba, Mr. Duggan acted as chief of mission in the absence of Dr. Santos.

3. Reception accorded the Mission

In every country the mission was received with acclaim. The government, the organs of public opinion, and the people recognized from the outset the significance of UNRRA and for their part impressed the UNRRA mission with their desire to cooperate to the maximum extent possible in the realization of UNRRA's program.

The task of the UNRRA mission was greatly facilitated in each country by the personal interest and advice of each President. The mission was invariably received by the president of the republic and always profited by his counsel and guidance. The mission is deeply grateful to the chiefs of state for their understanding of the significance of UNRRA, for the time they devoted to the affairs of the UNRRA mission, and for their suggestions regarding their countries' participation in the UNRRA program.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Cabinet members and high ranking officials not only gave generously of their time but because of their keen personal interest were largely responsible for bringing about the satisfactory arrangements reached.

Each country named a commission to discuss matters in detail with the UNRRA mission. These commissions generally included the appropriate Cabinet ministers and representatives of their staffs. The commissions spent many long hours canvassing with the UNRRA mission the various ways and means in which their countries could cooperate. They were prepared for the discussions, so that the conversations proceeded directly to the principal points of interest both to them and to UNRRA. Some commissions had made advance arrangements for the mission to meet with producers of products in surplus supply that might be appropriate for relief purposes. In the case of Uruguay, the commission, which in that case included representatives of certain of the most important aspects of economic life, arranged a splendid exhibit, attended by the producers, which enabled the UNRRA

mission not only to see samples of Uruguayan production, but to obtain from producers full details with regard to quantity, quality, terms, etc. Some commissions arranged visits for the mission to factories or to farms, where the mission could see for itself the full process and conditions under which certain goods were being produced. Such exhibits and visits were extremely helpful to the mission in gaining an accurate idea of what each country was producing in excess of domestic requirements, under what conditions, in what quantity, and at what price. The mission cannot be too grateful to the members of these comissions for the strenuous hours they devoted to UNRRA activities, for the information they supplied and the arrangements they made, and for their unfailing attention and courtesy.

The program always included conferences with the press and with other organs of public information. In each country the mission held a press conference immediately upon arrival to explain not only the purpose of its visit, but also the scope and importance of UNRRA. The mission also received innumerable newspaper men who made special calls for information with which they could write special articles. The newspapers were furnished either by the government or by the UNRRA mission with day by day information with respect to the activities of the mission. Frequently at the conclusion of the visit to a particular country, the UNRRA mission held another press conference.

The cooperation of the press was one of the most heartening and gratifying aspects of the visit of the UNRRA mission. The newspapers -- their owners, editors and journalists -- not only devoted extensive space to UNRRA and to the visit of the UNRRA mission, but cordially offered to run in their columns additional material about UNRRA whenever it was made available to them.

Private agencies of many kinds took an interest in the UNRRA mission and offered their facilities to assist the UNRRA mission. In many cases, the universities threw open their doors to a special lecture on UNRRA made by one of the members of the mission. Professional societies and cultural societies and business organizations made available their platforms to members of the UNRRA mission. The speeches before these organizations by members of the UNRRA mission not only reached the immediate audience, but in all cases were widely reported by the press and therefore served as a further means of informing public opinion about UNRRA.

The mission strongly feels that UNRRA has a responsibility to explain to contributing countries what use UNRRA is making of their contribution in goods and services. It is also decidedly in the interest of UNRRA to diffuse a wider knowledge throughout Latin America about UNRRA where, it is only fair to say, there exists considerable ignorance and misconception about UNRRA. Therefore the mission recommends that UNRRA reciprocate the cooperation extended by the organs of public information and henceforth provide a continuous flow of facts to the Latin American member countries about the activities and progress of the UNRRA program.

This can be accomplished in several ways. The most important is the continuous provision of news releases, pictures and mats to the newspapers. Another way would be through motion pictures. Special films about UNRRA could be distributed directly to the member governments or through the informational channels of certain member governments, and short sequences about UNRRA could be worked into the regular news reels from time to time. It would also perhaps be interesting to create a special fortnightly news letter about UNRRA that could be sent not only to the Latin American press but also to the many persons in government positions, private organizations, etc. interested in UNRRA.

If written materials are to have their maximum effectiveness they must be in Spanish and Portuguese. To date, there has been practically no documentation about UNRRA distributed in these two languages. This accounts in large measure for the lack of an informed public opinion about UNRRA and for the misconceptions about UNRRA held by many government officials. UNRRA cannot expect government officials busy with other matters to wade through lengthy reports in English. They do not have the time and thus lay the reports aside unread.

The mission recommends that all written materials sent to Latin America be translated except specialized reports of interest only to limited groups of experts

The quarterly reports of the Director General should be translated and, of course, all informative materials distributed on a regular basis, such as the recommended fortnightly news letter.

The mission has presented to the Public Information Division of UNRRA lists of persons in newspapers and radio stations who indicated that they would be glad to make use of whatever information UNRRA sent them. There has also been presented to UNRRA a list of government officials, of officers of organizations and of private individuals in positions of importance, to whom it would be desirable to send reports about the progress of UNRRA from time to time.

A. Provision of Personnel

Since it is the policy of UNRRA to build up its staff from citizens of all of the forty-four member governments, one of the purposes of the UNRRA mission was to conclude arrangements for securing qualified persons for service in UNRRA.

In every country, the government, and frequently the university authorities and sometimes representatives of cultural organizations, were informed fully of the personnel needs and requirements of UNRRA. Everywhere there was enthusiasm for making available trained and experienced persons in the various fields required by UNRRA. Since many of these countries lack the financial resources to make large contributions in cash and kind, the opportunity to contribute personnel was welcomed by them. They have trained experts and technicians in the main categories desired by UNRRA. Moreover, they have probably a larger proportion of

younger men in these categories than many other countries precisely because they have been intensively pushing the training of specialists and technicians in such fields as medicine and public health, engineering, agriculture, transportation, and government administration. They were therefore in a position to offer the services of their citizens with the training and experience, and within the age limitations specified by UNRRA.

In conversations with respect to personnel, the interesting point was made that specialists from the other American republics should prove especially adaptable under difficult working conditions with limited and even inadequate equipment, since they themselves have been accustomed to such conditions. They have learned to improvise, and to get the most out of limited equipment and resources. The medical profession was pointed to as an example. Most physicians are general practitioners. They have not specialized. They are accustomed to working in all the main fields of medicine. For these reasons, Latin American doctors should prove particularly adaptable and effective when working under adverse condtions, with inadequate technical assistance and equipment.

Several countries desired to make available the services particularly of medical personnel as part of their contribution. Their idea was that the salaries of this personnel should be paid in local currency out of the contribution, and that travel and subsistence expenses be met by UNRRA out of funds available for administrative expenses. The UNRRA mission believes that this is an interesting idea. It would permit countries short in products in surplus supply to balance appropriately the contributions given in money or in kind with a valuable grant in services.

Moreover, the interest of Latin American countries in making technical personnel available to UNRRA can hardly be underestimated, since those technicians would be all the more useful to their own countries, after having acquired additional experience in their respective fields. It would be to the credit of UNRRA to have been an instrument for helping provide those countries with persons having international experience, an achievement that would greatly facilitate the desired constructive collaboration among professionals of the various countries. Furthermore, the mission believes that the employment by UNRRA of persons noted for this outstanding knowledge and contribution would have an indirect advantage of considerable import. It would constitute an international recognition of their work and would greatly enhance their prestige at home. This would inevitably give encouragement and incentive to persons to go into their professions, some of which, like agronomy, nursing and social welfare, are not well known and still lack standing.

Arrangements were made in the countries visited for the dissemination of information with regard to the personnel opportunities of UNRRA, for receiving and reviewing applications, and for transmitting them with recommendations to UNRRA headquarters in Washington.

Despite its enthusiasm for the addition of Latin Americans to the Staff of UNRRA, the mission believes that UNRRA must exercise restraint and caution in offering positions to trained persons living in countries lacking trained and experienced technicians. The need in some countries for trained public health doctors, agriculturalists, nurses, and social workers is so acute that UNRRA would be committing a disservice to take such persons away. It is not possible to lay down general rules; each particular case will have to be determined on its merits with reference to all pertinent circumstances.

Bearing this caveat in mind, the UNRRA mission states its opinion that the possibilities of adding to the UNRRA staff qualified citizens of the other American republics are great. There are more qualified technicians in Latin American than is generally thought. If there are less than needed to meet the local needs, the willingness to send a few abroad for service with UNRRA is a proof of their real faith in UNRRA. The mission urges that whatever steps are necessary be taken at once in order that the UNRRA headquarters in Washington may cooperate properly and efficiently with the agencies designated in the countries visited for handling personnel matters.

UNRRA is the first operating United Nations activity designed to promote peace and general welfare. All of the forty-four nations share the responsibility for its success. The UNRRA mission believes that one of the most important ways in which this responsibility can be felt and shared is through actual participation in the administration of UNRRA by citizens from all of the forty-four countries.

5. Contributions

The Latin American member countries visited by the mission have thus far pledged funds aggregating more than $41,000,000 for UNRRA relief programs. The generosity of this total contribution was influenced by two considerations. First, was the knowledge that the contribution did not have to be advanced all at once. The possibility of making the contributions in instalments over two or three years undoubtedly resulted in some countries giving larger contributions than would have ordinarily been the case. The other consideration was the clear understanding that 90% of the contribution was to be used for the procurement of locally produced materials. Although the UNRRA convention is precise on this point, it had not been fully appreciated in all quarters probably because of lack of translations of the basic UNRRA documentation. It is much easier for most countries to advance local currency than foreign exchange. Moreover, the fact that 90% of the contribution is going to be used to procure local products naturally meets with the support of national producers.

In addition to these two considerations, which were persuasive in all countries, there were others which weighed heavily with certain countries. For instance, some thought that the UNRRA program could be utilized to stimulate

new types of local production thereby raising their low standard of living. Others thought that the distribution in Europe and the Far East of products conspicuously marked with the name of the country of origin would help to make their products known in countries that heretofore had not been markets.

Brazil made the very generous contribution of $30,000,000. This is the largest contribution proportionate to national income made by any of the forty-four UNRRA member nations. UNRRA contemplates a procurement program totalling approximately $18,000,000 for 1945 in Brazil. The 1945 program includes 45,000,000 yards of cotton piece goods at an approximate value of $10,600,000; 50,000 tons of beans valued at $3,750,000; 150,000 bags of coffee valued at $1,900,000; 6,000 tons of canned fish at an estimated value of $1,170,000; 18,500 tons of cottonseed cake worth about $665,000; and 1,000 tons of soap at a value of $154,000. The remainder of Brazil's contribution will probably be made up of 300,000 to 400,000 bags of coffee, a considerable quantity of cottonseed oil and cottonseed cake, castor beans, and additional quantities of textiles.

Because of economic conditions, Mexico was reluctant to make a final commitment regarding its contribution to UNRRA. Recent floods have devastated large areas of agricultural land, causing suffering to the people and damage to the production of food crops. At the present time, there are practically no surpluses of food products. Mexico made an initial pledge of 18,000,000 pesos, or $3,704,760, which has been approved by the National Congress. They will probably be able to contribute limited quantities of textiles, chickpeas, huaraches (footwear), dried salt shark meat, typhoid vaccines, and petroleum products during 1945.

Colombia proposes to contribute 4,083,000 pesos, equivalent to approximately $2,326,493. Practically the entire contribution will be in supplies of coffee. It is estimated that over 150,000 bags of coffe (50,000 bags per year) will be contributed by the people of Colombia to the relief needs of central and eastern Europe.

Venezuela's contribution of $1,000,000 has been approved by the President. This amount is to be budgeted over a period of three years; the 1945 quota will be available in the near future. Its available products are coffee, hides and leather, canned fish, medicinal products and petroleum.

Ecuador has stated that it plans to seek approval from the constituent assembly for a contribution of $150,000. The contribution will probably be used to procure rice. Because of the world shortage of rice due to the fact that 85 per cent of the rice production is in the hands of the enemy in the Far East, it is possible that UNRRA may purchase limited quantities of rice in Ecuador with its free funds, which would of course be in addition to Ecuador's contribution.

Peru made a total contribution of $1,000,000 (6,500,000 soles). UNRRA has already made a firm commitment for the purchase of 4,000 tons of beans in Peru out of the Peruvian contribution. Salted fish, sulphate of quinine, cocaine, and perhaps a small quantity of raw wool, will constitute the other products to be procured as part of the total Peruvian contribution.

The Government of Chile proposes to contribute supplies to a value of 66,666,000 pesos, or approximately $2,150,000, over a period of two years. The Chileans have indicated their desire to supply a variety of products. The Commission set up by the Chilean Government to negotiate with the mission indicated its preference that at least 50 per cent of Chile's contribution be in the form of agricultural products. Chile is in a position to supply considerable quantities of beans, rice, brined fish, lentils, oats, dried fruits and grass seeds. The government is also desirous of supplying copper wire and sheeting, a considerable quantity of which UNRRA had indicated it will accept at prices current elsewhere for similar products. The rest of Chile's contribution will be made up of sodium nitrate.

The ability of Bolivia and Paraguay to contribute to UNRRA is limited because of the economic depletion which these countries suffered by their unfortunate war over the Chaco territory. Bolivia contributed 4,000,000 bolivianos or approximately $95,000, consisting principally of tin and sulphate of quinine. The Paraguayan Government is considering a total contribution of from $30,850 to $37,020. The products to be procured with these funds in Paraguay will be raw cotton, canned meats, hides, tannin extract, and possibly small quantities of sugar and rice.

In no other country visited by the mission were economic conditions so favorable as they were in Uruguay. The Uruguayan economy has developed on the solid foundation of modern industrial efficiency, quality and stable prices. This, plus the fact that there is a large middle class with a comparatively high standard of living and no insoluble problems of under-consumption, bad nutrition, or housing, has enabled Uruguay to adapt its economy to the war and have reasonable hopes of an easy postwar adjustment.

Prior to the trip of the mission, Uruguay had indicated its intention to contribute $500,000. At the time of the visit of the mission, there were grounds for hope that the Government might augment this contribution. Since that time the congress has appropriated $500,000. Although the language of the appropriation would seem to indicate that this is Uruguay's full contribution, the mission still hopes that in view of the favorable economic conditions, the Government will review its contribution in the future in the same way that several other governments agreed to do.

The visit of the mission to Cuba which was curtailed because of a transportation delay, coincided with the advent of the Christmas holidays. Nevertheless a commission appointed by the Cuban Government worked diligently with the UNRRA mission to canvass the amount of possible contribution by Cuba and the

products which Cuba could furnish. This commission rendered its report promptly to the government Ministries concerned, but there was insufficient time for the government to act upon it prior to the departure of the mission. The mission left Cuba gratified by the ample and generous spirit with which it was received by both the Government and the people of Cuba and in the knowledge that Cuba will contribute generously to the resources of UNRRA.

The mission was very gratified that many countries considered the contributions offered as preliminary and minimum. These countries expressed their willingness to increase their contributions in the future if the fiscal and economic conditions permitted. Since its return, the UNRRA mission has been glad to learn that the legislatures of some countries have already approved the contributions and that in other countries the question of approval is now pending.

The mission recommends earnestly that if UNRRA decides to use free funds for the purchase of supplies, it utilize so far as practicable that part of its free funds contributed by Latin American for purchases of supplies in Latin America. Furthermore, the mission recommends that UNRRA in its reports make no attempt to figure the percent of national income that these contributions represent. Estimates of national income did not exist in many countries and in others they were only rough guesses computed from inadequate statistics. Figures showing the percent of national income represented by most contributions would be sheer speculation. Their use might do a very real injustice. It seems preferable to omit this type of computation altogether. The mission also recommends that UNRRA not be too rigid in its attitude toward the types of goods offered as contributions. The range of goods that can be secured is not wide. In some countries, it is limited to a single product. Since it is important that all the member governments make contributions, UNRRA must exercise its ingenuity to find ways and means for using to a good purpose the goods that can be spared from these countries of limited surplus products.

The Latin American countries are struggling to extricate themselves from a colonial type economy. In general they have suffered from monoculture which has exposed their economic life to developments in world markets over which they had no control. Their standard of living has lagged behind the industrial nations, despite the abundance of national resources and manpower with which to develop a well-rounded economy drawing strength not only from agriculture and mining but also from industry. They have had a tremendous struggle to overcome illiteracy, malnutrition and disease.

Given the formidable task that confronts them and their meager capital savings, the magnitude and generosity of the contributions which they made to UNRRA become evident. These contributions are a real sacrifice. They represent funds which otherwise would be spent in programs designed to raise their own standard of living - often no higher than that existing in some nations to be recipient under the UNRRA program. They made these contributions because of the clear understanding that the peace and welfare of the Western Hemisphere is dependent upon the recovery of those countries devastated by war and their

participation once again as constructive members of the family of nations. They know that unless this recovery takes place there will be unemployment and suffering and unrest at home. They therefore make these contributions gladly, even though this requires using funds set aside for utilization in programs designed for other purposes. However, the principal reason for the attitude of the Latin American countries is the desire to help the peoples of the friendly countries which have suffered most in the war. The broad spirit of international cooperation which has inspired them ever since the time of their independence has manifested itself once again in generous and practical help to the peoples who have been victims of totalitarian aggression.

Plans for the procurement of supplies have progressed furthest in Brazil. Brazil has established a Mixed Commission for UNRRA Procurement to administer the funds contributed by that country for purchases of local supplies. The Commission is composed of three members, two appointed by the Brazilian Government and one by UNRRA. Dr. Jayme Guedes, former head of the National Coffee Department, has been appointed as Chairman of the Mixed Commission by the Brazilian Government. The other members are Mr. Luiz Souza Gomes, who also represents Brazil, and Mr. Edward J. Bash, Chief of UNRRA's Liaison Office of Procurement in Rio de Janeiro.

The Commission operates under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance, and has full authority for using the funds contributed by the Government of Brazil for the procurement and shipment of UNRRA supplies. Although all purchase orders covering quantities, kind, specifications and prices of supplies originate with the UNRRA headquarters, the procurement must be made through the Mixed Commission in accordance with the supply situation and local economic conditions. The primary purpose of the Commission is to coordinate purchases in such a way that the transfer of supplies to UNRRA will not deprive the civilian consumers of Brazil of their needs, will not result in increases in prices, will not interfere with normal trade or with other United Nations purchase programs, and will not create postwar maladjustments in the production and sale of commodities for export markets. In other words, the Mixed Commission through the continual study and adaptation of UNRRA's program to local needs will help to secure supplies needed by UNRRA for relief purposes as they become available, with the least possible disturbance to the international economy.

The other Latin American governments in their discussions with the UNRRA mission have expressed their desire to create similar commissions for the administration of their contributions. The mixed commissions will also serve to bring these countries into active participation in the UNRRA program since they will be the point of contact with each government. Where the governments have made only initial contributions, these commissions will be helpful in making the detailed arrangements for such further contributions as the governments may desire to offer.

The UNRRA mission considers the formula of mixed procurement commissions an interesting example itself in international cooperation. It provides a convenient and efficient means for adjusting the needs of UNRRA to the economic possibilities of each country. It provides a way whereby the UNRRA procurement program can be utilized to cushion the curtailment of war purchases and to help bring about orderly readjustments to peacetime economy. Finally, it draws each country into the administrative responsibility of operating UNRRA and gives it a greater sense of sharing in the solution of the tasks that confront UNRRA.

6. Refugees

In every country visited, the UNRRA mission received calls from European refugees who escaped the grasp of the Axis and fled to the Western Hemisphere. The situation of these refugees is dependent upon a variety of conditions. Some of them put down roots and would like to stay and bring to their new homes their families and relatives. This is the case of the majority of those who settled in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Peru and Colombia. Some, far fewer in number, would like to return to Europe. Usually, these have private financial resources and property in Europe which they hope to recover. Then there are a good number who would like to emigrate from the country which gave them refuge to another of the American republics. This is the category into which fall the refugees in Cuba, most of whom want to emigrate to the United States. It has been estimated that only 10 per cent of the refugees in Cuba do not have relatives in the United States.

Those refugees who wish to return to Europe expressed the hope that UNRRA could assist them by providing travel documents, making the transportation arrangements, etc. To them the UNRRA mission invariably made clear that UNRRA's first task was to return to their homes the tens of millions of displaced persons in Europe and the Far East. Moreover, it pointed out that according to a resolution of the Montreal meeting, it was UNRRA's policy to give preference to groups of congregated persons rather than to individuals.

Some governments also mentioned to the mission their hope that UNRRA could assist in bringing about either the repatriation to Europe or the movement elsewhere of the refugees in their territories who because of local laws and regulations are not permitted to engage in the only occupations for which they are qualified. The point was made that the Latin American countries are contributing funds to UNRRA for the repatriation of displaced persons and therefore it only seemed just that a small part of these funds be used to repatriate to the countries from which they had fled the refugees to whom they had given asylum, or to move them elsewhere in the western hemisphere.

The mission refers to the appointment at the Montreal meeting of the ad hoc subcommittee of the Standing Technical Committee on Displaced Persons to compile statistics and report on problems of displaced persons in the western hemisphere.

The mission urges that this committee immediately undertake this study and present at least a preliminary report on its findings and recommendations to the next meeting of the UNRRA Council. Since several governments are interested in the repatriation of refugees to Europe or their departure to other countries in the western hemisphere, the mission believes that UNRRA owes to these countries that gave asylum to these refugees the small service of studying the problem confronting them and recommending what can be done about it.

7. Colonization

There are several countries in Latin America which have extensive areas of unoccupied state-owned land believed suitable for agricultural development. Some of these lands were depicted to the UNRRA mission as being peculiarly fitted by rainfall, fertility, temperature and accessibility to transportation to settlement. They therefore hoped that UNRRA would cooperate with them in arranging for the migration and settlement on these lands of bona fide farmers from Europe. Some countries offered to give public lands to UNRRA as a part of their contribution. Others offered to give the lands directly to the settlers. All governments were prepared to extend such facilities as exemption from taxation, free entry for materials and equipment, free transportation from Europe to place of settlement, etc., in order to help the settlement project to get under way. Some governments were ready to provide financial support for a certain period of time, and others until the settlers became self supporting. The countries primarily interested in colonization were Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and Venezuela.

The UNRRA mission explained that it was not one of the functions of UNRRA to arrange for the emigration to the new world of persons from the liberated areas of Europe and the Far East. It therefore was unable to accept lands as part of the contribution. It offered, however, to inform the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees of the interest of certain countries in receiving experienced farmers and of offering them lands and other assistance in order to help them get started in life anew.

The mission is of the opinion that this offer of land merits careful consideration, since undoubtedly there will be a residue of displaced persons unwilling to return to their former homes and desirous of emigrating to the Western hemisphere with the hope of starting life afresh.

8. Importance of continuing liaison in the Latin American countries.

The keen desire of the Latin American republics to participate in UNRRA was extremely gratifying. They demonstrated with the utmost sincerity their desire to contribute to the success of UNRRA, with personnel, with funds and with

supplies. The details of these arrangements still remain to be elaborated if they are to produce the fruitful results desired both by the countries concerned and by UNRRA.

The mission therefore was happy to learn upon its return that UNRRA is considering the establishment of a section that will continue to work with the Latin American countries in developing the details of their plans for cooperation in UNRRA. It urges that these plans be carried out as soon as possible so that none of the impetus gained from the visit will be lost.

9. UNRRA mission to Central America and the island republics in the Caribbean.

The results attending the UNRRA mmssion suggest the desirability that a further mission make a trip to those countries not visited - namely, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

While the mission was in Mexico, Mr. Duggan paid a brief courtesy call on the first six countries named above. Although he spent only one day in each one of these countries, he encountered a very cordial reception for UNRRA, and reported the sincere desire of each one to cooperate in the UNRRA program. It is therefore believed that a visit of two or three officials proceeding on the basis of a loosely organized itinerary permitting change should be able to make final arrangements with each one of the governments with respect to their contributions and to the products to be procured. Such a visit should require no more than six to eight weeks. It is urged that notice be given to the governments to be visited as long in advance as possible of the general plans. Nofification with respect to the exact time of arrival could be made by the mission as it proceeds from country to country.

With the conclusion of the mission to Central America and to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, all of the Lation American member governments would have been visited.

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The warm reception that the Latin American Governments and peoples gave to the UNRRA mission and the deep understanding they showed in the work that UNRRA is called upon to perform is a vivid proof of the interest of Latin American countries in international cooperation and constitutes a definite pledge of their full participation in the framing of a war-free world where social welfare will be achieved in an ever increasing measure.

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