

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

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Speech made by Mr. ANGELC ARTURO RIVERA,
Minister Plenipotentiary and head of the
delegation of Guatemala, at the Final
Plenary Session.

The delegation of Guatemala wishes to make use of the limited opportunity offered during the closing meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment to bid an affectionate farewell to all who have taken part in the Conference and to extend, through them, to all the nations represented here, Guatemala's wish that they may enjoy progress and prosperity within the framework of the rules and regulations we have been able to work out in the Charter of Havana, together with world peace which we hope will not be disturbed in spite of the forbidding outlook.

The question in the mind of every delegate at the beginning of the Conference, the fear that with so many interests at stake and with the more important nations, it was suspected, anxious to preserve their overwhelming superiority over the under-developed nations, it would be impossible to reach a harmonious and satisfactory conclusion, proved to be groundless. A satisfactory response was made, and in the end the peoples have been given some fresh ground for hope. We are encouraged in our belief that in the future, when world conditions are better, it will be possible to achieve more.

Setting to one side the economic benefits and benefits in the field of trade and employment, which my delegation has appreciated, I should like briefly to emphasize some of the many advances made, the importance of which should not pass unnoticed.

1. The satisfaction, expressed on a number of occasions by our distinguished European colleagues, at having had an opportunity to appreciate at first hand the value of the Latin American countries and to find out what they think, feel and desire.

2. The great opportunity for the Latin American countries to join
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together in satisfying their needs and solving their problems, without concealing their intentions and aspirations. The result has been a warm-hearted and marked spirit of fraternity in our family consultations. It has also given a demonstration of our strength, which has not been much in evidence in the past, not as a bloc established to oppose and systematically combat its enemies, but as a genuine band of brothers, working together to put forward our needs and aspirations. We have much in common, and we hope that the nations of other continents will also work in greater unison. Our aspirations and our rights were expressed with, as it were, a single voice, instead of as a series of isolated complaints. As a result of this enforced interchange of ideas, in which there was no sign either of disloyalty or of a marked desire to take first place, it was emphasized that America is destined to be united: free, strong and friendly, a rock against which the tide of evil influences from abroad will dash in vain.

3. For the first time, the small countries, whose delegations have not before made themselves felt in large Assemblies, have not been underrated. On this occasion they have common representation which foreshadows their future union, spiritual and of similar interests, as in the case of the eight countries of Central America and the Carribean, who, from now on, wish to be regarded as a single unit in world co-operation.

With these few words, Guatemala expresses the pleasure with which it has participated in this world conference, where the worlds' aspirations and interests have been synthesized into what is so rightly called the Charter of Havana, whose precepts will, we hope, be realized in practice so that it does not remain, like so many other documents, a scrap of paper, but is converted into living reality.

I congratulate all the delegates, who, during the arduous labours of this Conference of Havana, have shown such goodwill, such integrity and such a spirit of co-operation.
