

WHEREAS, the Free Countries located in Central and South America and the Caribbean are expected to experience a rapid population growth which will approach 600,000,000 persons by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, this quickening population growth and its accompanying economic growth and expansion will greatly increase the demands for new markets, new trade and new cultural exchanges; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland is fortunate in having available the great Port of Baltimore, which ranks third among the nation's seaports; the natural ports of the Chesapeake Bay with their ready access to the Atlantic Ocean and the maritime trade of the world; and Friendship Airport which has abundant facilities for international air travel and cargo; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland is similarly fortunate in having a great and divergent historic and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, it should be incumbent upon the State of Maryland to attract and foster continued and increasing trade, tourist and cultural exchanges with our neighbors to the South; and

WHEREAS, the promotion and development of Central and South American trade, tourism and cultural exchanges requires a better understanding of the cultural, educational, social and economic factors prevailing in these countries; and

WHEREAS, there exists various and diverse trade, educational and cultural programs on all levels of government, and many prominent authorities available in neighboring universities, private industries, and governmental agencies, in such degree as to make necessary the need of a commission in the State of Maryland, which could interpret, consolidate, coordinate and make full use of these diverse sources and promulgate programs lending to greater economic, educational and cultural ties between the State of Maryland and the Free Countries of Central and South America; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Governor appoint a Commission, to be known as the Maryland Commission for Latin American Affairs, to consist of five persons to be composed of representatives of business, labor, education, tourism and the public-at-large, whose tasks shall be to advise the Governor and the General Assembly upon, and to initiate and coordinate programs designed to foster, improve, increase and encourage trade, tourism and cultural exchanges between the Free Countries of Central and South America and the State of Maryland, and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Commission report its progress to the Governor and the General Assembly, with any interim information as may be required, from time to time, but at least semi-annually; and be it further

*Resolved*, That said Commission shall explore and study, and report its findings on, the establishment of a trade center which shall, among other uses, be designed to foster educational exchanges be-