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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES  
SINCE THE  
FIRST SESSION OF THE CDCC



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## C O N T E N T S

	<u>Paragraph</u>
Summary .. .. .	1 - 8
I IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CDCC WORK PROGRAMME ..	9 - 29
A. Technical Co-operation among Caribbean Countries .. .. .	10 - 11
B. The Agricultural Sector .. .. .	12 - 15
C. The Industrial Sector .. .. .	16 - 17
D. The Social Sector .. .. .	18 - 21
F. Education and Culture .. .. .	22 - 23
H. Transport, Communications and related services .. .. .	24 - 25
I. Marine Resources .. .. .	26
K. Regional Co-operation .. .. .	27 - 28
M. Natural Resources .. .. .	29
II GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STATISTICS, AND ADVISORY ASSISTANCE .. .. .	30 - 34
III CO-ORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES .. .. .	35 - 41
MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES .. .. .	42



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Summary

The new tasks that derive directly from the CDCC work programme may be viewed as falling into three categories - (i) items mandated for immediate implementation but for which the supporting expertise has to be sought outside the Secretariat, (ii) the conducting of studies for formulating feasible co-operation activities of the Governments, and (iii) the co-ordination of inputs from the United Nations side in support of CDCC activities.

2. Regarding the first group, the items mandated specifically required the convening of meetings of experts and academicians to formulate the Caribbean approach; and for these an outline of the preparatory activities undertaken is presented in the document E/CEPAL/CDCC/17.

3. As regards the second group, the conducting of studies for formulating feasible co-operation activities, it was recognised that the commencement of work was dependent on the provision of resources. Consequently, appropriate presentations were made to the General Assembly Thirtieth Session, and as the result of strong support by the CDCC countries' Representatives, four additional professional posts and five general service category posts were approved for the ECLA Office for the Caribbean. Recruitment to these posts was initiated early in 1976; however, it was not until November that additional staff arrived at Port-of-Spain, and even now the recruitment process is not complete. Most important, the post of Co-ordinator is still unfilled although a candidate was selected in mid-1976. Notwithstanding these delays progress has been made towards the establishment of essential infrastructure for the technical co-operation and co-ordination the CDCC envisages. In particular, a Documentation Centre has been established which is to be the vehicle for identification and exchange of technological and methodological information on the systems and processes developed to meet the particular circumstances of Caribbean countries. This is described in the document E/CEPAL/CDCC/16.

4. Concerning the third group, co-ordination of UN inputs, the decision at the first session that a meeting of all the UN Agencies should be convened to consider co-ordination in the context of the CDCC has been implemented. The meeting was held at New York Headquarters, 28-30 June 1976. The outcome from those deliberations is presented in the document E/CEPAL/CDCC/11. It should be noted that the paper was prepared as a working document, reflecting in its first part the CDCC concepts and the broad consensus that had been reached; and in its second part, presented in tabular form the identification of subject areas in which the Agencies considered they were able to make a specific contribution to the CDCC group of countries. Subsequent to preparation of the document, efforts have been devoted to obtaining more precise definition of the items in the tables, the nature and scope of the resources, and the time-frame of the activities. The objective behind this process is to be able to indicate to the Governments specific steps by which these various activities can be geared to provide greater benefit to the CDCC countries; and as part of this process, to develop specific joint programmes by the Agencies to serve the CDCC member Governments.

5. Additional to the above three categories, the CDCC mandates broadened the scope of previous activities. Accordingly, with emphasis on reorienting the substantive work of the Office so as to cope more ably with the wider range of duties and responsibilities, on-going studies were broadened, where feasible, to bring into their scope the non-CARICOM Caribbean countries. The document "Agricultural Statistics of the Caribbean Countries" (E/CEPAL/CDCC/13) reflects this effort. In addition, responding to one of the mandates in the work programme, compilation of a "Directory of Associations of Producers and Exporters" was undertaken. The progress so far achieved is reflected in the document E/CEPAL/CDCC/14.

6. Consistent with the authorization and responsibilities given the Office, there was continued collaboration with the Secretariat of the West Indies Associated States (WISA), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), the East Caribbean Common Market Secretariat (ECCM), and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); and participation in various

working groups of the integration programme. These activities were supplemented by work undertaken upon specific request from Haiti directed towards facilitating consideration of matters relating to accession to the integration group. For the purpose of preparing the required dossier, which was a joint ECLA/Country activity, national economists were attached to the ECLA Office temporarily to supplement the available resources.

7. Technical assistance and requests for advisory services were rendered on an ad hoc basis. This included assistance in preparing Development Plans, revising External Trade Statistics Classifications, and preparation and publication of statistical reports.

8. The Office also continued to provide inputs to region-wide projects handled at ECLA headquarters. Indeed, the function of providing basic data on Caribbean countries for ECLA region studies continues to increase as new countries emerge to independence.

## I

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CDCC WORK PROGRAMME

9. At its first session, the Committee spelt out the scope of operations that should further Caribbean co-operation. The activities that have since been undertaken by the Office for the Caribbean within the framework of those mandates are reported below according to the classification and ordering of the work programme.<sup>1/</sup> Up to the time of preparation of this report, no specific actions had yet been initiated in the Sections E - Public Health and G - Tourism.

#### A. Technical Co-operation among Caribbean Countries

10. First efforts were devoted to pursuing the means for implementing the CDCC decisions on promotion of collaboration among the Universities and other Research Institutions by way of a meeting of Rectors of Universities of the Caribbean. This initiative is to be implemented in close collaboration with the United Nations University. Some basic preparatory arrangements have been mapped out for this meeting which.

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<sup>1/</sup> The Work Programme is at Annex 3 of the Report on the First Session of the CDCC, document E/CEPAL/CDCC/S/Rev.1.

would discuss science and technology, the production and processing of foodstuffs, and education in its relation to development.<sup>2/</sup> The date for holding this meeting is still to be decided.

11. The Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) has supported effectively the efforts of the Office to establish infrastructure that can stimulate intra-Caribbean technical co-operation and collaboration of academic centres and international organizations. CLADES prepared after consultation with relevant UNESCO and UWI officials, Conference paper E/CEPAL/CDCC/16, Documentation Centre to serve the Countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. Accordingly, the Documentation Centre was established in January 1977.

#### B. The Agricultural Sector

12. A second issue of the compendium of Agricultural Statistics for Caribbean Countries, E/CEPAL/CDCC/13, was released in August 1976. It is a revised and amplified version of the first issue and includes for the first time, data on area and production collected directly from the relevant official sources. This issue includes statistics on fisheries, shows aggregates for the CDCC countries, and contains selected graphs. These data will serve as a basis for future studies on demand for food and agricultural raw materials for agro-industries, within the broad frame-work of possibilities of specialization and complementation.

13. Within the context of the integration of the agricultural sector, the Office assists with improving the workings of the Agricultural Marketing Protocol and other instruments designed to promote production and development in this sector. As a follow-up action to the study Critical Evaluation of the Performance of the East Caribbean Common Market (ECCM) Countries under the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (AMP) and the Guaranteed Market Scheme (GMS) (ECLA/POS 74/16) the Office was requested by the Council of Ministers of ECCM Countries to participate with ECCM agricultural technicians in a study of the proposals. As a result of those deliberations, the recommendations of the study slightly

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<sup>2/</sup> The specific arrangements are at Annex 11 of E/CEPAL/CDCC/17.



modified by the agricultural technicians were presented to the ECCM Council of Ministers meeting in Antigua, 19-22 November 1975. The report was accepted and the Ministers agreed that the main recommendation to set up an AMP Liaison Group "be given early attention by ECCM Governments, since it was aimed at creating the control base for all AMP matters and so introduce a management system which is so vital to the successful monitoring of the AMP and GMS".

14. In the same line of activities the Office participated in the discussions of CARICOM Working Party on AMP, during 1976. Inefficiency in operation of the price mechanisms was considered to be one of the main constraints to development of trade under the AMP. Discussions concentrated on formulation of a new pricing system. The question of Processed Products vis-a-vis the AMP was also examined, resulting in their elimination from the AMP list of articles and the formulation of an appropriate definition of fresh produce. The Office was also requested by the ECCM Secretariat to participate in the discussions on the Food Plan and Food Corporation with agricultural technicians and officials of the ECCM countries, to help make recommendations to the Eleventh Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the ECCM.

15. Besides preparation of reference material in response to specific requests by Governments and inter-governmental institutions, the Office carried out a mail survey in the Caribbean countries to gather information on Associations of Agricultural Producers and Dealers and Exporters in main agricultural and livestock products, with a view to devising mechanisms for bringing them closer together for concerted action at regional and extra-regional levels, required by the CDCC mandate. As a result of considerable response by the CARICOM countries the information was compiled and circulated among those countries for comments and revision. The survey was then extended to embrace all the CDCC countries and the information collected forms part of the Preliminary Draft Directory of Associations of Producers, Dealers and Exporters of Agricultural and Livestock Products of the Caribbean Countries, E/CEPAL/CDCC/14.

### C. The Industrial Sector

16. The assignment of an Industrial Economist, has made it possible to initiate some concrete actions consistent with the CDCC mandates. Work has started on the preparation of an inventory of expertise available in the region.

17. As regards Natural Resources, work commenced on the project identified in the CDCC Work Programme titled "Formulation of a Sub-Regional Energy Programme". During the third quarter of 1976 a draft outline for a sub-project tentatively titled "Energy Resources and Uses in the CDCC Countries" was prepared. Research material was collected and collated, and statistical tables were compiled. It is expected that work on the sub-project will be completed by the end of the second quarter of 1977.

### D. The Social Sector

18. During the period under review, activities focused on the social aspects of stimulating agriculture - Montserrat being used as a test case for the enquiry and hypothesis. A preliminary report on Mobilization of Community Interest and Efforts for Agricultural Development in Montserrat, has been completed but not yet discussed at governmental level. In addition, two macro-sociological studies by Consultants on the characteristics of Caribbean societies, needed for the formulation of integrated policies were revised. It is already evident that this research needs to be expanded.

19. A start has been made on evaluation of the Caribbean social situation. In view of the limited statistical background data, it was decided to proceed on a country-by-country basis, paying more attention to qualitative assessment. This continuing exercise has started with the smallest territories which are more in need of such overviews; the evaluation for St. Lucia will be completed shortly.

20. As the first step towards the study of non-demographic aspects of the labour force, a paper on Methodological Proposals to Measure the Supply of Manpower on the Labour Market was circulated as a restricted document among Caribbean and ECLA specialists. It is hoped that this will serve as a basis for manpower planning and for the study of the demand of labour force in different economic organizations.

21. Discussions have been held with CELADE officials but studies on migrational trends, migration of qualified personnel, inadequate educational facilities, human settlement, and on the Regional Population Programme, have not yet been initiated due to the staffing situation at the Caribbean Office. Hopefully, a more encouraging report will be put forward at the next session.

#### F. Education and Culture

22. Discussions held with UNESCO have centred on the elaboration of a medium-term programme to supplement the programme of immediate action for assistance, reflected in the Inter-Agency Meeting Report, E/CEPAL/CDCC/11.<sup>3/</sup> A UNESCO Senior Regional Adviser has been seconded to the CDCC Secretariat for a period of 3 months to develop this programme (and this secondment will be renewed periodically). It has also been possible to take profit of UNESCO's Consultant on Museum Development and to formulate a project related to the promotion, strengthening and preservation of Caribbean cultures.

23. The UNESCO/ECLA/UNDP regional project on Education and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean has been activated in the CDCC area. Through this project a study on Education and Development in the English-speaking Caribbean has been contracted, while proposals are being finalized to meet requests from two CDCC member countries.

#### H. Transport, Communications and related services

24. Some support has been given to the CARICOM Secretariat in carrying forward the pilot project in Trinidad and Tobago to implement ECLA Proposals for Collection and Processing of Regional Ports and Shipping Statistics (ECLA/POS 74/6). This consisted of evaluating results from a preliminary survey and in the amendment of the Ship Visit Report form so that the information contained could be used for planning purposes.

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<sup>3/</sup> The items on which UNESCO might offer immediate assistance, listed at Table I of the document are: Study on Contemporary Cultures in the Caribbean; Concerted Programme to overcome Language Barriers; Preparatory action for the establishment of an educational network of innovative projects.

25. Preliminary discussions have been held with ITU concerning the improvement of public telecommunication services within the CDCC area, and with ICAO concerning civil aviation. The appointment of a Transport Economist has enabled some assistance to be given to CARICOM, CDB and the West Indies Shipping Corporation concerning the best route pattern and optimum vessel size for the carrier.

#### I. Marine Resources

26. The Committee authorized that work be undertaken in this area which would include adequate development of fisheries, environmental protection, and promotion of co-operation among Caribbean countries of a nature to assist them to protect their basic rights and essential economic interests in relation to the resources of the sea. Efforts have been directed to the convening of a Specialist meeting, at Expert level with primary emphasis on the establishment of a Special Régime of the Law of the Sea in the Caribbean, within the framework of the future general law of the Sea.<sup>4/</sup> The date for this meeting is still to be scheduled.

#### K. Regional Co-operation

27. In addition to the continuing task of collaborating with the CARICOM countries in analysing problems arising out of the efforts towards intensifying the economic co-operation process, the Office responded to specific requests for studies which would facilitate the taking of decisions on closer collaboration with the Caribbean Community.

28. Assistance was given to the Government of the Republic of Haiti with preparation of the document entitled Dossier for Presentation to the Caribbean Community and Common Market. The Government of Haiti upon the Office's request, sent three economists to the CDCC Secretariat to complete the study. In addition, preliminary evaluation was made of some of the implications for Haiti of accession to CARICOM, including a comparative study to appraise the revenue effects which would result from the adoption of the CARICOM Common External Tariff (CET). A summary

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<sup>4/</sup> A draft Agenda and notes on the items are presented at Annex I of the document E/CEPAL/CDCC/17.

of the findings of this analysis has been submitted to the Government of Haiti.

#### M. Natural Disasters

29. In response to appeal to ECLA and to the UN Secretary-General by the Government of Grenada, the Office for the Caribbean was required to make an evaluation of the rainstorm damage of 9 November 1975. Field work and preparation of the report was carried out during the month of December 1975. The report Evaluation of Damages caused by Grenada Rainstorm and Implications for Economic Development Programmes, (ECLA/POS 75/9) E/CEPAL/CDCC/9 was submitted at the end of December, and subsequently circulated to CDCC members and other ECLA member states.

## II

### GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STATISTICS, AND ADVISORY ASSISTANCE

30. The Office contributed Country Notes to the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1975, for Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies Associated States. A summary giving a brief view of general economic trends in the Caribbean Common Market Area was also prepared and the document Economic Activity - 1975 - Caribbean Community Countries, (ECLA/POS 76/6) E/CEPAL/CDCC/15, was published. Work started during the last quarter of 1976 on the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1976.

31. Despite the continued lack of a specialist Statistician, attention was given to statistics, especially external trade statistics in the West Indies Associated States. Data were collected and compiled for ECLA (Caribbean Office and Santiago) projects.

32. Proposals have been incorporated in a paper, Amendments to the Standard External Trade Statistics Classification for the East Caribbean Common Market Countries (ECLA/POS 76/1), arising from adjustments to the ECCM Common External Tariff. In addition, some progress has been made on a Statistical Bulletin for the area covered by the Caribbean Office, this work being at an advanced stage on the section dealing with Retail Prices. Work has also commenced on the Demographic

Statistics section of this bulletin. Specific assistance has been given to Governments in response to ad hoc requests. For example, the Government of Antigua was assisted with the preparation and publication of their second Abstract of Statistics, and their 1975 External Trade Statistics Report. Similarly, the Office provided to various governments statistics on Retail Price Indexes, External Trade in Petroleum and Petroleum Products and other subjects.

33. In the general area of Advisory assistance for development planning, the Regional Economic Adviser began preparation in May 1976 of an Agricultural Development Sector Plan for Grenada covering the period 1977-1981. The Expert has been working in close collaboration with field staff in the Ministry of Agriculture who have been providing basic data for plan preparation. Data collection is now complete and draft copies of some of the chapters have already been submitted to the Government. It is expected that the Plan will be finalised by May 1977. Similarly, the Government of Montserrat requested advice on a Draft Economic Development Plan for the period 1977-1981 which was already in process of preparation. The Regional Economic Adviser carried out the mission and his report has been submitted to the Montserrat Government.

34. An exploratory mission was undertaken by a representative of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) with the object of identifying the specific programme of assistance that should be developed for CDCC countries, and ideas are crystallising around a proposal for establishing a focal point of ECLA/ILPES in the Caribbean.

### III

#### CO-ORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

35. Response to the needs of the CDCC work programme has demanded a higher level of collaboration with United Nations bodies than was traditionally required. Most of the actions taken have been directed towards identifying the inputs that the Specialized Agencies and other UN bodies are able to make towards supporting the initiatives of the

CDCC. The definitive starting point was conducting, under ECLIA auspices, of a United Nations Inter-Agency meeting to consider co-ordination in implementing the CDCC work programme, New York Headquarters, 28 to 30 June 1976. The document E/CEPAL/CDCC/11 reflects the outcome of deliberations at that meeting modified by the subsequent comments from the Agencies' headquarters.

36. Subsequently there have been consultations with Agencies regarding implementational aspects. The subjects covered included extensive discussions with the Vice-Rector (Planning and Development) of the United Nations University regarding the preparatory phases for, and organization of the proposed meeting of Heads of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutions, to which reference has already been made. UNESCO, ITU, IMCO and UNEP have sent officials on missions to the ECLIA Caribbean Office to develop their supporting programmes, and this has been supplemented by further conversations with ILO and ITU officials based in the Caribbean, and short-term assignment of UNESCO personnel to the CDCC Secretariat. The outcome of these deliberations are included in the programme of activities.

37. An important point of focus in the collaboration with UNESCO has been towards the development of an integrated strategy to meet the CDCC priorities. A special UNESCO mission permitted discussions on the establishment of a network system of educational innovations where experiences from new developments in the formal educational systems in the region can be shared by the Member countries. The presence of a UNESCO Senior Adviser in the CDCC Secretariat permitted the formulation of basic programmes to stimulate intra-Caribbean technical co-operation. They refer to support of the Caribbean Documentation Centre, to a Programme for the Removal of Language Barriers, to the creation of two Councils - one for Science and Technology and the other for Social and Economic Development, to a Pre-feasibility study on Communication for Non-formal Education, and to a strategy for the promotion, strengthening and preservations of Caribbean cultures.

38. In addition to the foregoing, there was continued support for the work of other bodies. A series of discussions were held with World Food Programme Officials for whom selected background data was collated on

Antigua, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, in connection with proposals for supplemental feeding projects in those countries. A staff member visited Antigua regarding the UNDP/ECCM statistics project, and ECLA CDCC work programmes with special emphasis on the area of statistics.

39. Similarly, support was given to the work of Regional inter-governmental bodies, in some cases through direct participation as with the CDB/CARICOM/ECLA mission on development plans for the less developed countries of CARICOM. The Regional Economic Adviser represented ECLA on this mission and was a member of the team led by an Official of the CDB which visited Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia. The purpose of this mission was to assist the Governments in preparing development plans for the period 1977-1981, with a view to determining the levels of capital expenditure proposed in each year and resulting increases in the recurrent budgets of these territories. The ECLA contribution in these exercises was confined to the Agricultural Sector.

40. Special care has been taken in establishing and strengthening relations with academic institutions and social researchers within the region. The Office was invited to and participated in the Eighth Colloquium of the Caribbean Association of Historians held at Fort-de-France, Martinique. It has requested assistance and obtained it from researchers at the Departments of History and Sociology at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, for the preparation of the Montserrat paper; and is able to inform of some support given in the preparation of a Contemporary Reader in Caribbean Sociology, by the University of the West Indies. Furthermore, a Voluntary Association partially devoted to anthropological activities and cultural promotion has searched for some assistance which the Office has been able to offer. The Office was also invited to participate in the Seventh Regional Monetary Studies Conference held in Georgetown, Guyana, 13 to 15 October 1975, under the auspices of the University of the West Indies and the Bank of Guyana. A document has resulted from the notes prepared for this Conference titled A Note on Inflation.



41. Discussions were held with officials from the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), Antilles and Guyane Regional Services based in Martinique. As a result of these discussions, areas of possible collaboration were defined and arrangements to exchange documentation have been implemented.

#### MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Office personnel participated in the following meetings:  
Regional Symposium on the Implementation of Social Development Policies in the Caribbean (Jamaica, 11-14 November 1975); Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Participation in National Development in small territories (organized by Commonwealth Caribbean Centre for Youth Work) (Dominica, 16-21 November 1975); Special ECCM Council Meeting (Antigua, 18-22 November 1975); Meeting of Working Party on the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (Barbados, 23-28 November 1975); Heads of Government Conference (St. Kitts, 7-11 December 1975); Seventh Common Market Council Meeting (Guyana, 22-25 January 1976); Discussions on CARICOM Food Plan and position of ECCM Countries (Antigua, 4-8 March 1976); Eighth Meeting organized by Centre of Regional Studies "Antilles Guyane" on cities in the Caribbean (Martinique, 4-9 April 1976); Discussions with CARICOM Secretariat regarding ECLA/UNESCO project within the framework of ECLA/UNESCO collaboration on CDCC Work Programme (Guyana, 29-30 April 1976); Preparatory Meeting of 8th Common Market Council Conference and 8th Meeting of CARICOM Council (Grenada, 22-25 April 1976); CARICOM Meeting of Ministers responsible for Transportation (Guyana, 29-30 April 1976); Meeting of Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Finance and Meeting of Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (St. Kitts, 8-13 May 1976); Discussions with Caribbean Development Bank of proposals for stimulation of Agriculture in Montserrat (Barbados, 17 May 1976); 11th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference (Dominica, 19-24 May 1976); Advising Government of Grenada on formulation of Economic Development Plan and Programme (13-29 May 1976; 6-19 July 1976; 12 September-2 October 1976); Inaugural Session of Seminar on Administration of Multinational

Integration in Latin America (Barbados, 24 May 1976); CDB/CARICOM/ECLA Team on Planning Assistance to LDC's (Barbados/St. Vincent/St. Lucia/Grenada, 10-25 June 1976); Working Party Meeting on Treatment of Processed Products AMP and Final Meeting of AMP Working Party on Price Fixing (Guyana, 27 June-2 July 1976); Inter-Agency Meeting (New York, 28-30 June 1976); Consultations with CDB, Central Bank of Barbados, and Caribbean Tourism Research Centre in connection with CDCC Work Programme (Barbados, 16 July 1976); 15th Meeting of Agricultural Marketing Protocol (Guyana, 26-28 July 1976); Meeting of Officials on AMP Price Fixing for November/April Trading Period (Guyana, 21 September 1976); CARICOM 9th Meeting of Common Market Council of Ministers (Guyana, 24-25 September 1976); Assistance in preparation of Development Plan for Montserrat (Montserrat, 24-30 October 1976); Consultations with ECCM Secretariat (Antigua, 30 October-2 November 1976); Consultations with CDB and British Development Division (Barbados, 2-4 November 1976); Consultations with CARDATS Team in connection with Development Plan for Montserrat (Grenada, 4-6 November 1976); Meeting of ECCM Council of Ministers (St. Lucia, 18-19 November 1976); Preparatory Meeting of Officials and Meeting of Standing Committee of Transport (Guyana, 17-19 November 1976); Meeting of Regional Co-ordination Committee on 1980 Population Census (Barbados, 22-23 November 1976); CARICOM Meeting on Livestock Sub-Committee of Regional Agricultural Planners, Regional Agricultural Planners and Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture (Guyana, 21-26 November 1976); ECCM Seminar on Foreign Trade Statistics (Antigua, 24-30 November 1976); Monetary Studies Conference and Consultations with CDB Officials (Barbados, 1-3 December 1976).



