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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Subregional Office for the Caribbean



REPORT OF THE JOINT CDCC/FLACSO MISSION  
RELATED TO THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
FLACSO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF APPLIED  
SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE CARIBBEAN  
5-18 NOVEMBER 1982



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INTRODUCTION

1. From 5 to 18 November 1982, a joint mission comprising the Secretary General of FLACSO, Dr. Daniel Camacho, and the Social Affairs Officer of the CDCC Secretariat, visited a number of countries in the region to present the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a FLACSO Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology in the Caribbean.
2. The purpose of the joint mission was to deliver and discuss the above-mentioned study with governments and the university authorities designated by those governments.
3. Lack of time and financial resources, however, made it impossible to visit all CDCC member countries. The countries visited were the Netherlands Antilles, Jamaica, Barbados, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. In each country contact was made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which usually directed the Mission to the Ministry of Education and the University. The complete list of persons interviewed is annexed.
4. FLACSO covered a portion of the expenses of the travel of the Social Affairs Officer, and the CEPAL Subregional Office for the Caribbean wishes to register its appreciation for this assistance.
5. Most interviews comprised a description of the FLACSO by its Secretary General and a summary of the Feasibility Study by the Social Affairs Officer. In cases where the person interviewed was not familiar with the project under discussion nor with FLACSO, these two topics constituted the thrust of the meetings. The points recorded in the Addendum refer to the reactions of the interviewees to the project-idea and to the establishment of closer relations with the Latin American Faculty.

6. In all cases the Secretary General of FLACSO invited the Governments to adhere to the Agreement creating the Faculty, delivered a copy of the Agreement and explained the procedures for adhesion. He also pointed out that the adhesion of a state to the Agreement implied that preference was given to nationals applying to the different campuses of the Faculty, but that other Latin American and Caribbean nationals from non-member states were quite welcome.

7. The Mission wishes to register its appreciation to the representatives of the member governments and of the universities visited. It regrets that lack of resources prevented contacts with the entire CDCC membership, but is confident that the reactions registered in the present addendum will assist the Committee in assessing the Feasibility of Establishing a FLACSO Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology in the Caribbean.

The Netherlands Antilles, 5 November 1982

8. The creation of a Caribbean School of Applied Social Anthropology was considered an important undertaking which should assist in overcoming the balkanisation of the Caribbean, the "banalisation" of its cultural achievements, the "minoration" of its ethnic groups and the internal fragmentation of its societies.

9. On the one hand, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, through its Minister of Education and the University, expressed its interest in the venture which was viewed as a relevant proposal for strengthening and stimulating their ongoing nation-building process and for assisting in meeting their need for closer relations with the Caribbean countries.

10. On the other hand, the Government believes that the country has favourable conditions for participation in the project. It was stressed that several achievements of the Netherlands Antilles could be used to promote social development in other Caribbean and Latin American countries. Among these was the progress in the development of Papamientu which encompasses new styles of discourse necessary to cope with public life issues. It was noted that Papamientu was probably the only indigenous language of the Americas used profusely in journalism and in parliament, indicating the degree of popular participation in structuring public opinion and the degree of circulation of ideas between the elite and the masses.

11. A decision to participate fully in the proposed project could not be made because of the need for the Netherlands Antilles to clarify, with the parties to the FLACSO Agreement, the implications of their present constitutional status. The said Agreement stipulates that only member states of UNESCO are invited to adhere to it.

12. Since the project for a Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology was of great importance for the local development of the Caribbean countries, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles wishes to register its views relating to the fact that the development poles in the Caribbean should not attract all international organisms. From the Government's standpoint, it remained necessary to diversify and distribute with equity the different specialised academic activities to allow a larger number of countries to benefit from the possibilities they offer.

13. The Government also felt that there was need for FLACSO to revise the ordinary membership contribution which may deter the Less Developed Caribbean countries from adhering to the Agreement. In relation to the scarcity of financial resources for the school, it was proposed that approaches should be made to the Regional Programmes of the European Community as well as the UNDP funds for the development of mini-states.

Jamaica, 9 November 1982

14. The Chief Education Planner, assisted by a team from the same Ministry, pointed out that the Jamaican Government was committed to the Project "Consortium Graduate School in the Applied Social Sciences in the English-Speaking Caribbean and Suriname". He noted, on the basis of a letter from Dr. Edward Greene, UNESCO's consultant to the Consortium, that the said Consortium was developing a proposal in Anthropology with the assistance of Professor Raymond Smith.

15. In respect of the agreement emerging at a recent meeting convened by UNESCO and FLACSO in Panama, that FLACSO would represent Latin America, while the Consortium would do the same for the Caribbean, the Secretary General of FLACSO emphasized that the Panama meeting gathered experts in their personal capacity and could therefore not take decisions on behalf of the Governments. He further suggested that the text of the said agreement should be examined.

16. It was pointed out that the merit of the project idea under consideration and which should be emphasized, consisted of creating an opportunity for understanding between the Caribbean and Latin America, by allowing students from one subregion to study within the other subregion under the tutorship of lecturers from the host subregion.

17. The Chief Education Planner stated that he was not aware of a fundamental change in the structure of FLACSO, consisting of a shift in emphasis from the South Cone countries, diversifying by subregions and placing the Secretariat in San José, Costa Rica. Traditional relationships of the Caribbean with Central America were elaborated upon.

18. The basic policy of the Jamaican Government was stated: the Government was interested in mechanisms for co-operation with Latin America and in finding complementary systems of operations. From this point of view the Carrington Report on the feasibility of establishing the said graduate school was found attractive.

19. It was stressed that the Government was not in any way negative towards FLACSO. The mission was informed that consideration had already been given to eventual relationships with the Faculty. The matter had been turned over to the University but did not seem to have progressed.

20. The Jamaican Government was interested in ensuring collaboration between the two projects, i.e. the Consortium Graduate School and the CDCC/FLACSO proposal. The mission was advised to meet with Dr. Leslie Robinson, Pro-Vice Chancellor in Charge of Planning and Development. The mission was also advised to meet with Mr. Hugh Cholmondely, Head of the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean, and Dr. E. Greene, UNESCO Consultant to the Consortium. These meetings did not materialize due to lack of time or to the absence of the above-mentioned personalities.

Barbados, 10 November 1982

21. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education enquired about the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of the FLACSO Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology in the Caribbean, and on the structure and characteristics of FLACSO. He expressed satisfaction that the CDCC Secretariat had directly informed the Ministry of Education on projects within the Ministry's competence.

22. The relevance of the Project entitled "Consortium Graduate School in the Applied Social Sciences in the English-Speaking Caribbean and Suriname" was stressed. The present economic circumstances in the region, which were not favourable for the development of these disciplines, were elaborated upon.

23. The joint Mission was advised by the Permanent Secretary that the proposed Caribbean Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology should form part of the Consortium Graduate School in the Applied Social Sciences in the English-Speaking Caribbean and Suriname.

24. The Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for FLACSO acknowledged receipt of the documentation which was regularly sent to the Ministry. She emphasized, however, that lengthy documents in Spanish were not easily processed by the Ministry.

ISER/Cave Hill Campus, 12 November 1982

25. The need for developing social anthropology in the Caribbean and establishing institutionalised exchanges with the Latin American countries was acknowledged by the Deputy Director of the Cave Hill branch of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). The discussions evolved basically around three subject matters:

- the opportuneness of FLACSO's intervention in the region,
- the proliferation of new institutions at a time when there was the need to strengthen existing ones, and
- the incidence of the proposed undertaking on the sources of funding available for up-grading ongoing post-graduate ventures.

26. It was pointed out that the interest of FLACSO in the Caribbean was enshrined in the intergovernmental agreement creating the Faculty. Relations within the Region, nonetheless, have become more visible with the changes in the constitutional status of the Caribbean territories. For instance, these relations were still minimal in the case of countries or territories which were not members of UNESCO. Finally, modifications in the structure of the Faculty were also important to understand its present efforts at regionalisation.

27. The Faculty has sent missions to the area and information on its activities were made available to the governments on a regular basis.

There was need to overcome the language barrier and it was suggested that the campuses of the Faculty, located in Spanish-speaking countries, should offer refresher courses for non-Spanish-speaking candidates, while an eventual campus offering courses in the English language, should extend a similar facility to non-English-speaking candidates.

28. It was established that in the present circumstances, the graduate schools of social sciences in the English-speaking countries and Suriname were in need of support and strengthening of their structure. The suggestion was made that the governments of the region could request FLACSO to assist in this venture instead of considering a new project in the area.

29. No university degree in applied social anthropology was granted in CDCC member countries and the initiative of the Consortium Graduate School in the Applied Social Sciences in the English-Speaking Caribbean and Suriname to consider a "major" in this field was modest and had not yet materialised. It was suggested that the Consortium Graduate Faculty could modify its structure to accommodate a few Latin American nationals in the field of anthropology in order to satisfy the possibility of exchange with the Continent implied in the CDCC initiative.

30. In this eventuality the Consortium Graduate School would have to cater for a larger number of students. Moreover, the other nationals from the CDCC member countries which are not parties to the Consortium Graduate School would have to be considered as a group distinct from those of the Continent. Finally it would be necessary to examine whether the students majoring in anthropology would be able to fulfil the same functions foreseen for the holders of a full-fledged degree in applied social anthropology.

31. With regard to the international sources of finance, and most particularly to UNESCO and UNDP, the CDCC project could, if implemented, reduce the availability of resources eventually earmarked for the Consortium Graduate School. It was then suggested, taking into account the present situation of the Graduate School in the Applied Social Sciences in the English-Speaking Caribbean and Suriname, that the CDCC project could refrain from approaching UNDP and UNESCO to facilitate the Consortium Graduate School to get off the ground. These sources of funding represent in the



total budget of FLACSO a proportion inferior to 10 percent. In any event, the School of Applied Social Anthropology should eventually try to remain within the same limits.

32. The suggestion for the eventual Caribbean School of Applied Social Anthropology was that the host country would bear the bulk of the expenses. A proportion of the fellowships - 33 1/3 to 40 percent would be earmarked for nationals of the host country, while a similar proportion would be granted to other Caribbean nationals and the remainder made available to candidates from the Latin American continent.

Suriname, 15 November 1982

33. The proposal which resulted in the elaboration of the Feasibility Study of the Caribbean Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology was put forward by Suriname and seconded by the Netherlands Antilles. Conversations with the representatives of the Surinamese Government at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education and at the University revealed the great interest of the country in the proposed school.

34. The project-idea, if implemented, would assist the country in solving urgent national needs. The implications of cultural pluralism and the need to accelerate the Surinamese nation-building process was stressed. It was also emphasized that the country had large sectors of the population living in the interior and that they had to be integrated into the modern society. The process of migration of these populations to urban centres, added to the attraction by Suriname of other Caribbean nationals were increasing the urgency of formulating and implementing development policies giving due attention to the anthropological aspects of these rearrangements.

35. The proposal was also seen as very attractive in the framework of the foreign policy followed by the country. The need for "regionalising" Suriname, and for institutionalising its relations with the Caribbean countries and Latin America was emphasized. Suriname was making more and more efforts to get involved in regional issues, to entertain close relations with sister countries and to break its isolation.

36. It was mentioned that the country had applied for the headquarters of the Consortium Graduate School in the Social Sciences in the English-

Speaking Caribbean and Suriname. The hosting of the Caribbean School of Applied Social Anthropology would, however, constitute a firm step in the establishment of scientific relations with the region and Latin America, and would enhance ongoing efforts to eliminate inherited barriers.

37. It was emphasized that the University was undergoing a process of deep restructuring and redefinition of its relationship with the society as a whole. In this process there was even the need to reformulate the curricula of social sciences, economics and legal studies. (The assistance of FLACSO was requested for this purpose). Within the present circumstances the Institute of Economic and Social Research (IESR) was understaffed. It was pointed out that a large proportion of research in Suriname was carried out by expatriates and had no impact on the country, the results being exported to metropolitan institutions.

38. It was suggested that the proposal for the Caribbean School of Applied Social Anthropology could be implemented outside the University structures as obtained in Latin America, and as the restructuring would be completed, the recommendations of the Carrington Report referring to having the School within the framework of a local University would be implemented.

39. Through the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Government of Suriname stated that, in principle, it wished to host the Caribbean School of Applied Social Anthropology. Consultations with the Ministry of Finance and the Council of Ministers to find the necessary funds would have to take place before a commitment could be made. The Permanent Secretary further informed that Suriname intended to sign the FLACSO Agreement, and that final decisions would be conveyed in a special letter to the CDCC Secretariat.

Trinidad and Tobago, 18 November and 28 December 1982

40. The structure and history of the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO) and the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a Caribbean Graduate School of Applied Social Anthropology were described in some detail. The Officers of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education requested several clarifications on the autonomy of the proposed school with respect to its counterparts in Latin America, its relations with the host country and the proposed sources of financing for the project.

41. It was explained that while the General Assembly of FLACSO, comprising the representatives of the member states parties to the agreement, was the maximum authority within the organisation, at a second level of decision-making, the Superior Council of FLACSO, formed mainly by representatives of host countries and of the Academic Community of the region, considers and makes recommendations on the general policy of the institution. In their every day ruling, the various graduate schools of the Faculty were autonomous entities. Consultations with the host countries assisted in the designation of the directors of the said schools and in the establishment of their budgets. Similarities between the administrative structure of FLACSO and the process of restructuring within the University of the West Indies were outlined.

42. The importance of the proposed Graduate School for the development of intra-Caribbean relations and for exchanges with the Latin American Continent was elaborated upon.

43. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine) pointed out the eventual contribution of the project to the strengthening of social sciences in the region. He noticed that such a project would be of interest to several Caribbean Governments.

44. In relation to the idea of merging that project with the UNESCO-sponsored Consortium of Graduate Faculties, he mentioned an obstacle arising from the fact that the said Consortium has not yet satisfactorily solved its legal definition. It would appear that the Consortium of Graduate Faculties would in fact have to entertain relations with the University similar to those of the Institute of International Relations (UWI, St. Augustine). Until the legal personality of the Consortium were clarified, the establishment of contractual relations with individual lecturers or other institutions in the field of social sciences could not be envisaged in realistic terms. Therefore to merge both project ideas would not necessarily be an easy task at this point in time.

45. The Pro-Vice Chancellor foresaw no major difficulties in recruiting graduate students for the intended School of Applied Social Anthropology, since candidates would not originate exclusively from social science faculties. The Pro-Vice Chancellor, however, called attention to the incidence of the CDCC/FLACSO project and that of the Consortium (if both were implemented) on the actual pool of available lecturers. He expressed the opinion that competition between the projects was more likely to emerge from this angle, rather than from efforts made in obtaining financial support. Reference was made to the possibility of attracting Caribbean scholars posted abroad, but the Pro-Vice Chancellor did not think that this would eventually guarantee a solution to that problem.

LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED  
BY THE JOINT CDCC/FLACSO MISSION

Netherlands Antilles

Mr. J. Veeris, Minister of Education  
Dr. R. Romer, Rector of the University of the Netherlands Antilles  
Drs. E.N. Kleinmoedig, Director of Foreign Relations Bureau  
Mr. Tico Croes, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Miss Vilma E. Labega, Legal and International Affairs, Ministry of Education  
Drs. Rose Mary Allen, Bureau of Culture, Ministry of Education  
Drs. R.E. Tjou A. Tsien, Psychologist, Ministry of Education

Jamaica

Dr. Ross Murray, Chief Education Planner, Ministry of Education  
Mrs. Dorian Powell, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, U.W.I., Mona  
Miss Pam Morris, Assistant to the Chief Education Planner, Ministry of  
Education  
Miss Winsome Gordon, Ministry of Education  
Miss Thelma Stubbs, Ministry of Education  
Miss Barbara Bramwell, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Barbados

Mr. Walter Burke, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education  
Dr. Joycelyn Messiah, Deputy Director, Institute of Social and Economic  
Research, U.W.I., Cave Hill

Suriname

Drs. Glen Sankatsing, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Acting  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Drs. Kolader, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education

Drs. E.A. Brunnings, Member of the Board of the University of Suriname

Mrs. Siegmien Staphorst, Director, Cultural Relations, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jan Lachmi Sing, Caribbean Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Wilfred Poseval, Secretary of the Board of the University, Head,  
Section of Sociology

Mr. Jack Menke, Head, Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISEO)

Mr. Arthur ten Berge, Lecturer, Sociology

Ms. Astrid Elstak, Assistant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Julia Terborg, President, Association of Students

Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Jerome Jones, Latin American Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Patrick V. Dyer, Acting Chief Education Officer, Ministry of Education

Professor L. Braithwaite, Pro-Vice Chancellor, U.W.I., St. Augustine

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