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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean



PROPOSED STUDY OF CARIBBEAN/LATIN AMERICAN
RELATIONS

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Background and Justification

It is generally accepted by both the Caribbean and Latin America that there is an urgent need to study more intensively the broad question of Caribbean/Latin American relations and to promote a greater interaction and exchange of ideas between Latin American and Caribbean institutions in order to increase the level of practical co-operation between both groups.

It is perhaps, not mere coincidence, but rather a simultaneous awareness of an evident need by both parties, that while CARICOM has decided to make 1981 the year of definition of CARICOM relations with Latin America and has been exploring the possibility of securing finance to carry out a study on relations between the two groups, the Economic Commission for Latin America has been pursuing the same objective in relation to the wider Caribbean as a matter of priority.

Interaction and co-operation between Latin America and the Caribbean, though spread across a broad range of institutions, has been limited bearing in mind the length of time that has elapsed since Caribbean States joined the United Nations System and therefore became members of the 'Latin American Group'. While this membership has in turn entailed participation by the Caribbean countries in the Latin American family of institutions, it has not served, so far, to identify significant areas of complementarity and co-operation.

One outcome from the recognition of Caribbean particularities and needs was the formation of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), which was created in 1975 as a subsidiary body of ECLA, to focus specifically on Caribbean concerns, while remaining a part of ECLA. There is now a general awareness that the time is right to move to a new stage. As a first step it is, however, necessary to

trace the history and growth of the relationship and to identify difficulties which have arisen as a result of the factors which shape the two groups. Against this background, the effort will be made to identify areas of commonality and mutual benefit, to make a conscious effort to identify specific possibilities for future co-operation, and to establish a more harmonious and productive relationship between both groups of countries.

It is therefore proposed to commission a study jointly with CARICOM, to evaluate the problems and the potentialities for a greater level of Caribbean/Latin American co-operation.

Objectives

The basic objectives of the study will therefore be as follows:

- (a) To provide the basis on which the subject of Caribbean/
Latin American relations will guide discussion and
A future action;
- (b) to trace the historical background with a view to
identifying those social, historical and cultural
factors of relevance to a better mutual understanding
such as:
 - (i) cultural, including language, religion,
institutional differences and approaches;
 - (ii) ethnic origins and their significance for
extra-regional links;
- (c) to identify those economic factors capable of
stimulating greater economic activity between both
groups, recognising differences in territorial size,
levels of development and resource endowments;
- (d) to analyse the geo-political situation bearing in mind
the special features of island developing States and
the existence of territorial disputes;

- (e) to study the history and growth of the relationships between the two sub-groups as it has evolved since the achievement of independence by CARICOM States, identifying difficulties which have arisen in both bilateral and multilateral relations;
- (f) to study the existing pattern of extra-regional relations (political, economic, cultural) of the two sub-groups, including importantly, the role of Latin American and/or Caribbean States in the UN system and in such inter-regional organizations as the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, the ACP Group and the Commonwealth and the impact of such extra-regional relations on the relations between the two groups;
- (g) to study the workings of regional organizations such as ECLA, OAS, SELA, GEPLACEA, OLADE in which both groups participate;
- (h) to recommend new strategies and formats for the elimination of identified difficulties and for the further development and management of Caribbean relations with Latin America at both bilateral and multilateral levels;
- (i) to identify areas of complementarity and mutual interest towards the formulation of projects which can be undertaken by Caribbean and Latin American States within the framework of ECLA and specifically the CDCC and other regional organizations such as SELA and the OAS.

Programme of Activities

The ECLA Office for the Caribbean and the CARICOM Secretariat jointly will select a consultant to prepare the study. Both institutions will be in continuous liaison with and will provide guidance to the consultant in the preparation of the study.

The consultant will interface with governments, academic institutions and inter-governmental organizations operating in the Caribbean and inter-regionally and will receive such inputs as may be deemed necessary. He will also consult inter alia with ECLA headquarters in Santiago, the SELA Secretariat and SIECA.

The consultant will prepare a study in accordance with the objectives set out in section two above, for submission to the CARICOM Secretariat and the ECLA Office for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, respectively.

The duration of the study will be for approximately four man-months.

Travel costs and per diem in accordance with UN regulations will be paid in addition to normal consultancy fees. It is estimated that a travel schedule as set out below will be necessary to complete the necessary consultations.

Proposed Travel Schedule

Barbados)	Two days in each country for initial consultations and briefing at beginning of contract with ECLA, CDB, CARICOM.
Trinidad and Tobago)	
Guyana)	
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Santiago, Chile	-	2 days, discussions with ECLA headquarters.
Caracas, Venezuela	-	2 days consultations with SELA Secretariat.
Mexico	-	2 days consultancy with ECLA, Mexico City.
Guatemala	-	2 days consultancy with SIECA.
Grenada	-	2-day visit to Grenada.
Antigua	-	2-day visit to ECCM Secretariat.
Trinidad and Tobago)	One week either in Trinidad or Guyana prior to writing his final draft for consultations with a representative of CARICOM and of the CDCC.
Guyana)	
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