

GENERAL

E/CEPAL/CDCC/54/Rev.1
4 April 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Fourth Session
Paramaribo, Suriname
21-27 March 1979

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE
(Paramaribo, Suriname, 21-27 March 1979)

VOLUME II



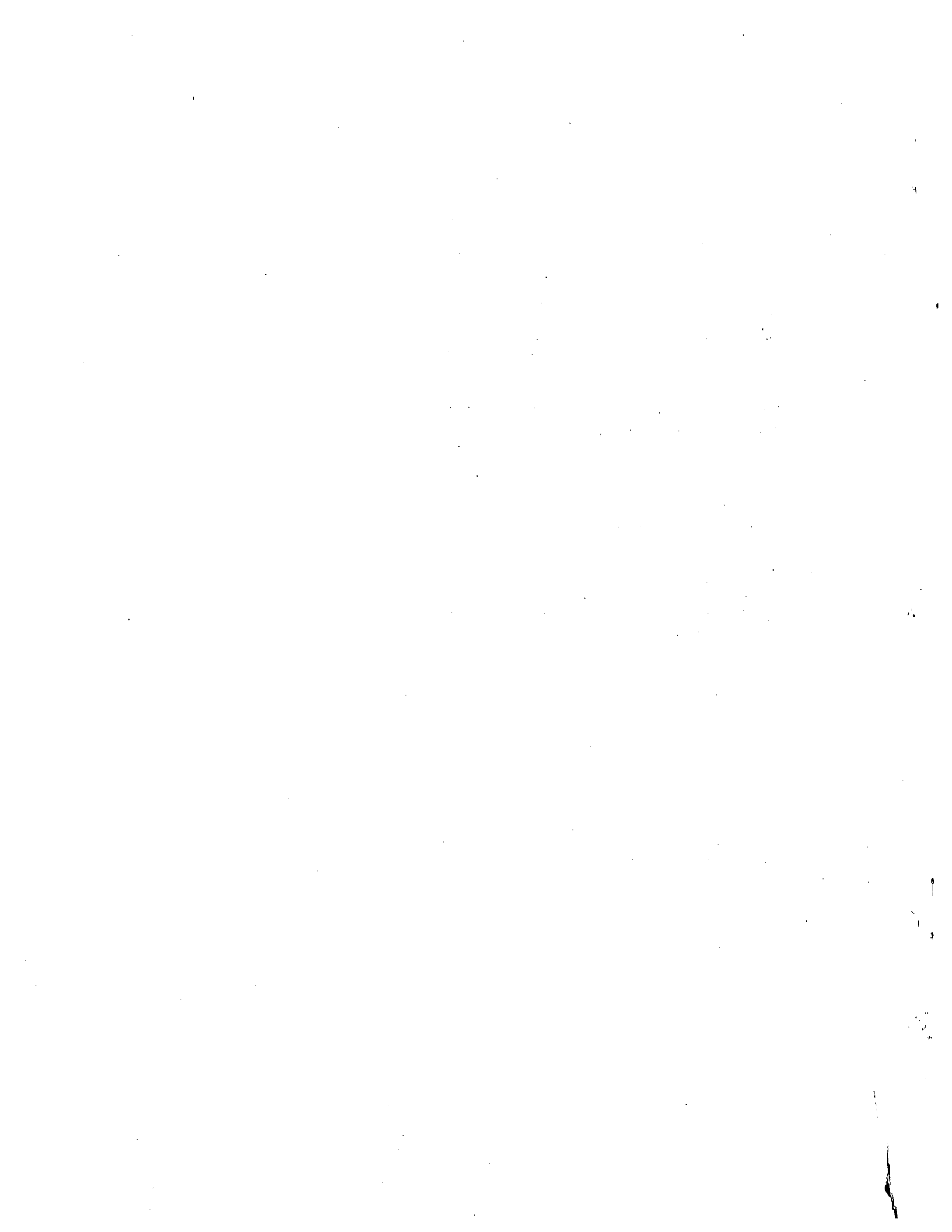
UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



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STATEMENT MADE BY MR. EGBERT GRINAGE, DELEGATE OF BELIZE, ON BEHALF
OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF BELIZE TO THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY,
AT OPENING OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Paramaribo, Suriname - 26 March 1979

Mr. President,
Mr. Prime Minister,
Mr. Minister of Economic Affairs,
Ministers of Member Countries of CDCC,
Dr. Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL,
Delegates,
Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a distinct honour for me to be here this morning to deputise for His Excellency, the Honourable V.H. Courtenay, Ambassador of Belize to the Caribbean Community, (who has been unavoidably delayed by air flight communications to Suriname), at this ceremonial opening of the Fourth Session of CDCC at the Ministerial Level.

On behalf of the Honourable Premier of Belize and my Government, I pass over the Chairmanship of this Committee to a new Chairman.

Mr. Executive Secretary, eleven short months have passed since the third session of CDCC was convened in Belize last April. Since that time two significant events have taken place which are extremely relevant to our activities in the CDCC. These are:

1. the setting up of the Caribbean Group Technical Assistance Steering Committee; and
2. the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

While I view the former as the stage where the drama will be unfolded as to whether the CDCC member countries as a group are prepared to harmonize their individual national objectives with regional co-operation, I see the latter as a test for the developed

countries as to whether "self-help" will receive the necessary international co-operation it deserves.

Mr. Executive Secretary, I will not enlarge on the above matters, as these, I know, will be topics for extensive discussions over the next two days.

My wish at this time is that this Fourth Ministerial Session of CDCC held in this fair city of Paramaribo will be as fruitful and rewarding as the third session held in Belize City last April.

I thank you.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (CEPAL), AT OPENING
OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Paramaribo, Suriname - 26 March 1979

Mr. President,
Mr. Prime Minister,
Mr. Minister for Economic Affairs,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I start my remarks by sending my deepest appreciation to the Government of Suriname for their warm support and their most generous and cordial hospitality to hold this meeting. As representative of the United Nations it is a real pleasure for me to be here, and I want to bring to you special regards from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Waldheim.

This new session of the CDCC is another step on the road that you all started three years ago when the creation of the CDCC took place in the city of Havana. In fact, we can look to these three years as years of learning, years of doing together, as years of getting some of the basic objectives that were established in that meeting in Havana. CDCC was conceived, in the first place, as a forum where all the countries of the Caribbean could meet, as a forum where all the countries of the Caribbean could strengthen their co-operation, looking ahead in victory, and also a forum in which basic infra-structural links could be established in order to make this co-operation a realistic and possible target.

When we look back in these three years, we can say that at least there had been three major achievements. In the first place, co-operation was improved and strengthened in several fields that range from education, technology to transportation, communications, information, etc. In the

second place, we started building up mechanisms for co-operation and diffusion which are very important to give channels and to give ways in which this co-operation should and must take place. And in the third place, I think that it is extremely important to note and highlight that agencies of the United Nations system were extremely co-operative in general, to join these efforts that you are undertaking and become real partners in a common exercise to which we are all very much dedicated.

This meeting that you will start today has in front of you general discussions on the different lines of action that we are working on, but also there are two major elements that should be taken into consideration, and I would like to make a very short remark with respect to them. In the first place, we are entering into a new decade of development called by the United Nations, the Third Development Decade. And in the second place, we are at a time in which the whole system is moving ahead in the implementation of the technical co-operation among developing countries and economic co-operation among developing countries. The first element to take into consideration is this new decade in front of us. As you know, United Nations has been sponsoring in the last twenty years, two decades of development as a way to improve reflection, to improve thinking on our own problems, but also as an instrument to speed up co-operation and to speed up better relations between the countries of the world. We all know about the frustrations that sometimes lie behind these sorts of exercises. We all know the limits of rhetoric, we all know the limits of good intentions, and the necessity of doing much more than was really done in the past. But, I think that these sorts of exercises have in themselves a basic contribution, and it is to keep the fabric of international negotiation alive. This is in itself, either at the world, regional and sub-regional level, one of the major targets of the United Nations, it is a target useful and good in itself. I think it is extremely important for the future of humanity, and for the future of understanding and peace that the fabric of negotiations keeps alive in work for the better of the future world.

The strategies, the basic instrument that the United Nations has now in its hands, is the basic instrument to reflect on our own situation in terms of regional and sub-regional situations, and it is of course a wonderful instrument to revise what has been done and what has not been done in the field of international economic order. Latin America, as one of the major regions of the world, has a definite commitment which is a strategy and we have been entrusted with the responsibility at the Economic Commission for Latin America to help towards the building of a new strategy at the world level by doing in the region our own exercise and our own work. This work will cover basically three major challenges: One is to reflect on our internal achievements - what really has been done in Latin America in the field of growth? What are the real limits of growth in itself without having its basic social components? What are the real ingredients of the so-called integrated development approach that needs to be taken into consideration in these major questions? We must grow but whom are we going to, and for what and to whom is this progress intended. So, I think one of the major ingredients of the new strategy is to reflect, to make our own work inside of our countries to be exactly what has been perceived, and which are the major challenges in front of us in the next decade.

We have a second challenge - which is to re-examine regional co-operation, to see what were the failures, the frustrations, but also to revalue the major challenges in front of us to think that one of the major engines of our growth will be co-operation at the regional and sub-regional level. There is no other alternative - the special conditions of the world, the difficulties that the world is encountering in economic and social matters - we will have to rely basically on the strengthening of our regional and sub-regional capacities and of co-operating among ourselves.

Thirdly, we have to deal with international matters. We have to see why things are not working well, what are the major elements of unrest, of uneasiness, of this sort of malaise that is now in the world around the economic issues and what can be done, and done together, making really a point that the famous aphorism of the past that whatever was good for the north was good for the south now should also be looked at the reverse - whatever is good for the south is also good for the north because jointly we can perform much better as united nations.

This exercise of the new decade is an important challenge to all of us - to the Economic Commission for Latin America and to our sub-regional activities. I would like to invite this Committee to give some thinking of this to see how better the CDCC can co-operate with this exercise of looking ahead, how you can give your own thinking, your own contribution with the regional ingredients, the sub-regional ingredient, to see what are the major challenges that the Caribbean has in front of us, in front of yourselves in the coming decade, what can be done to examine, to think about them in and around this idea of how we can better influence our actions and orient our activities to the CDCC.

I hope, Mr. President, that this basic challenge in front of us would be and should be an important area of discussion in your Committee today.

The second area in which the CDCC might like to get involved is the whole question of technical co-operation among developing countries. The conference in Buenos Aires that took place a year ago was a very important step in the road of giving self-reliance a real meaning. Self-reliance is not a magic word. It is an invitation to look to our own capacities of co-operation among ourselves to give a new influence, a new engine to co-operation. I think that we have there a real challenge. The developing countries have potential to work among themselves. This is not done against anybody, it is done just for ourselves. That means that we have something in our hands, that means we must explore new ways

of co-operation in which the governments take place as the major actors together with the United Nations organization, but basically, the governments themselves analyze which are their own capacities and stemming from these capabilities to look ahead for future ways of meeting this co-operation.

In the same line, UNCTAD is now moving ahead in their next session in Manila, to give a very important trend to economic co-operation among developing countries. All these are new wheels in the United Nations, new instruments of looking ahead to the future and new instruments to speed up and to accelerate our internal efforts. I hope again that this Committee will give some attention to this matter and will make of the co-operation among developing countries a basic issue, a basic target for the work of CDCC.

This is, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, what I wanted to leave with you today. I am very confident that the CDCC will grow in its relevance in the region, that the CDCC will become a real instrument of co-operation among all the Caribbean countries, that the CDCC can be also a very important forum for communication and for better co-operation between the Caribbean and Latin America, and in this respect I think this new session of CDCC can play a very important and historical role. I thank you very much for all your co-operation, for your presence here, and I wish the best luck in the course of your deliberations.

Thank you.

STATEMENT MADE BY MR. MICHEL BONNET, DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF PLANNING,
AND HEAD OF HAITI DELEGATION, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE DELEGATIONS AT
OPENING OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Paramaribo, Suriname - 26 March 1979

Mr. President,
Mr. Prime Minister,
Mr. Minister of Economic Affairs,
Executive Secretary of CEPAL,
Director of CEPAL's Office for the Caribbean,
Distinguished Members of the Surinamese Government,
Distinguished Representatives of international
and regional agencies and institutions,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Great honour has been bestowed on the delegation of Haiti by appointing it to speak on behalf of its colleagues on the inauguration of the Fourth Ministerial Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

The delegation of Haiti is proud for this and feels great gratitude toward its colleagues for selecting it to undertake this mission.

On behalf of all delegations and on our own, we are deeply thankful to the Government and people of Suriname for the very warm welcome extended to us, their fraternal hospitality and all the facilities offered us to make our stay a pleasant one, and thus contribute to the success of the Committee's Fourth Session.

Suriname, as we all know, has, for some years now, been master of its own destiny, one of faith and strong will under the aegis of a democracy in accordance with its peoples' legitimate aspirations: a people of varied ethnic origins but united by a common ideal, that is, work by all and for all in dignity.

We have been able to see and admire some of the country's beautiful landscapes, as varied and lovely as its population, in this, one of the latest offsprings of the CDCC.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this Fourth Session, on the one hand, shall allow the Committee to assess the results of the activities performed in between sessions and, on the other, decide upon which actions should be undertaken in the future interval. First of all, we would like to take this opportunity to convey through their distinguished delegation our feelings of gratitude to the Government and people of Belize for the very warm reception extended to us in the Committee's third session.

Your Excellency, Mr. President of the Republic of Suriname, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, Director of CEPAL's Office for the Caribbean, distinguished members of the Surinamese Government, distinguished representatives of international and regional agencies and institutions, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, people are the makers of history and only history will pass judgement on them. The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee can feel proud for having written a page of Caribbean history. And it is not a matter of pure history, but of its direct or indirect participation in the region's process of economic and social development.

Because of our participation in the third session of the Committee and in this Experts' Meeting, I would like to call your attention to two important concepts characterizing and conditioning the very existence of the CDCC, that is, co-ordination and co-operation.

The CDCC is not only a forum for member countries, but rather and above all, a catalyst and co-ordinator of assistance to the region. It is a meeting place to concentrate efforts for a better and joint awareness of their possibilities for joint actions aimed at decreasing their dependence on rich countries. The CDCC tries to guarantee the best possible co-ordination of the many Caribbean programmes in order to allow our countries to extract the greatest

benefits. It attempts to better guide and channel technical and financial assistance of international organizations to the countries of the area. Thus, it is important for the member countries' governments to understand it and support it.

Likewise, it becomes necessary for regional Caribbean bodies such as CARICOM, the CDB, etc., to work in this line and include in their programmes of action the CDCC member countries that are not members of their organizations. It is within this context that there should be a greater understanding of horizontal co-operation which has always been the centre of the Committee's debates. This can be achieved through the exchange of experts between our countries in specific fields such as mining and industrial engineering, as well as in the fields of economics, education, sociology, agriculture, etc.

Therefore, I put these thoughts to the distinguished delegates and agencies' representatives who will soon start their work at the Ministerial Level in this Fourth Session and express my hopes for work to develop in an environment of great mutual understanding, culminating in an achievement for the CDCC and its member countries.

I would not like to conclude without expressing, on behalf of all delegations and my own, our gratitude to the Secretariat of CEPAL's Office for the Caribbean for the many sacrifices made in organizing this Fourth Session and preparing the documents needed for its implementation.

Thank you.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE LUDWICH C. ZUIVERLOON,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SURINAME, AT OPENING OF
MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Paramaribo, Suriname - 26 March 1979

Excellencies,
Dr. Enrique Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to address you on the occasion of the opening of this Fourth Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

Excellencies, delegates and representatives of the various organizations who came from abroad and who, during the course of this session, will be our esteemed guests, may I, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Suriname, bid you a hearty welcome.

The Republic of Suriname is greatly honoured to host this Fourth Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, thereby becoming a focal point of the work and activities which the organization annually performs to promote socio-economic development and co-operation in the Caribbean region.

As we obtained our independence at the end of the year 1975, it is only a relatively short period of time that we have been in a position to join the forum of the United Nations system, and to work together with the peoples of the international communities towards improvement of economic and social conditions in the world.

By obtaining membership of the United Nations and of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Republic of Suriname can participate in the actions at international and regional level towards realization of the objectives of the International Development

Strategy, the establishment of a New International Economic Order, and the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

The Government of the Republic of Suriname has therefore already declared on these fora, that it will fully support and actively contribute in the work of these organizations to help promote economic growth, social progress and social justice in the developing countries and also make the necessary changes in world structures in reaching these goals.

We will bind forces together with the peoples of the developing world to assure that the resources of our countries are fully utilized to benefit the welfare and well-being of our peoples, and to increase the standard of living.

Under prevailing conditions, there are millions of people in the developing world, including our region, who live in the cities and rural areas under conditions which cannot be regarded as acceptable. These people are deprived of adequate education, social provisions, health care and any form of recreation, with little prospect for improvement of their fate.

It is the duty of the leaders of the international communities to dedicate themselves on all fora to the task of creating a new order of economic and social life in the world, so that those people can look towards a better future.

The people of the Republic of Suriname are very grateful that since their independence they had the opportunity to work together with other independent nations to the realization of these goals.

We have always had great expectations of the activities of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a forum for the countries in the Caribbean region to make their contribution to these goals, and even before our independence, at the very beginning, when the organization was initiated at the Sixteenth Meeting of CEPAL in Port of Spain in 1975, we had expressed our full support.

With our independence we were able to join the CDCC and participate in the work and activities of the Committee, performing the tasks agreed upon by the governments of the member countries.

We are aware of the many difficulties experienced so far to reach the aims set forth in the work programme and progress - particularly as regards the selected priorities - was delayed, due to various circumstances, such as unavailability of resources.

The Committee has, however, until now contributed - and I believe we are all convinced of that - in a significant way to strengthening solidarity between the countries of the region in their efforts towards development and co-operation.

We hope that the many obstacles encountered by the Committee will be removed through concerted efforts of participating member countries, in co-operation with UN agencies and other organizations.

We do trust that this Fourth Session of the Committee in Paramaribo, will be very constructive as regards decisions taken and the formulation of future programmes of work and actions. I wish the Committee a most successful meeting.

In conclusion, Excellencies, Delegates and Representatives from abroad, I do hope that during the course of your work you will find a little time for relaxation and to enjoy yourselves in our friendly and beautiful country. I wish you a very pleasant stay.

Thank you.

STATEMENT MADE BY MR. MANUEL TORRES MUÑIZ,
HEAD OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION, AT FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

In the name of the members of the Cuban delegation and in my own name, we welcome your appointment as Chairman of our sessions, and through you, Sir, we express our thanks for the attention and cordiality which the Government and the sister nation of Suriname has granted us. In like manner, we wish to congratulate the organizers of this Fourth Session of the CDCC, and particularly, to convey to the CEPAL Secretariat our gratitude for the documents prepared, which are most useful to our work.

While meeting on this occasion to further the tasks we have set ourselves, and to approve the future work programme of the CDCC aiming at increasing the level of living of our people, events which provoke our repulsion and most vigorous denunciation are taking place. The people of Vietnam, innumerable times victim of hegemonist and expansionist attacks of imperialism during the last centuries, have been once more assaulted; their territory usurped and devastated by the new mandarins of Peking, who are spreading death and desolation in this sister country. This has given rise to the most resolute condemnation from the nations of the world, demanding an end to the criminal actions of the aggressors.

These facts, which endanger international peace and security, are taking place at a time when a global examination of the international situation reveals positive balance for the forces of progress and peace. Important centres of aggression have been eliminated in the context of a change in the correlation of forces, increasingly favourable to the progressive forces and whereby the popular cause continues to triumph and tyrannies which during long years have oppressed our peoples are crumbling.

During the past year, we welcomed in the area the recent proclamation of independence of Dominica and St. Lucia, and while we welcome this happy event, we hope that in the future they will join our efforts at co-operation, which impose themselves more and more in the present world, governed by the respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of each state. Since the Seventeenth Session of CEPAL up to this date, through many worldwide and regional fora, the deepening of the worldwide economic crisis, its negative effects on developing countries, as well as the persistence of unfair international economic relations with their consequent deterioration of the terms of trade and the notable increase of the external debt of these countries have become manifest. In this respect, we think it convenient to reiterate our words uttered during the Belize session: "the creation of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee has not been an isolated fact. The sovereign states which comprise it, overcoming the artificial barriers imposed by the colonial past and which still continue to be nurtured by neo-colonial interests, have been able to set up their own mechanisms for co-operation aiming at promoting the economic and social development of their people. This is why, it must always exercise solidarity among its members, particularly against any economic action, pressure or coercion against the permanent sovereignty over the natural resources and the economic activity of each country."

This must always be consistent with the struggle which has been, and is being carried out by the developing countries in their efforts to make a reality of the postulates of the New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of the States. We are on the threshold of the Third Development Decade of the United Nations with the need to ensure that the next International Development Strategy be based on those principles.

For this endeavour, the region must offer its strongest support, as was pointed out this morning by Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Executive Director of CEPAL.

The CDCC stands to achieve this objective as a valuable instrument of co-operation together with SELA, an adequate organ to assist the region in asserting its positions with respect to third countries or groupings of countries. We feel it is opportune to reiterate the necessary linkage which should exist with SELA in order to have our efforts united with the joint action undertaken by all countries of Latin America.

In SELA, the Caribbean must and can play a more active role than hitherto, the Action Committees being the adequate channels for such purposes.

The economic collaboration we can propitiate in the CDCC jointly with SELA, is an economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, and this explains why we grant special attention to the activities proposed in this respect in the framework of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

There is no doubt about the role which the latter has played and is playing in the development of the work programme of the CDCC, but it is necessary to increase this activity, giving it a further orientation toward the fostering of economic and technical co-operation among our countries.

Our own efforts and effective contribution to the basic activities of the Committee should not be alien to this. Even though we are a small country without great resources, subjected during twenty years to a brutal blockade, we have been for several years offering technical assistance and collaboration to developing countries.

Our physicians, builders, teachers, agricultural and multiple other technicians are to be found by the thousands in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean in an answer to the call of the countries which have requested them. Today, more than 4,500 construction

workers are abroad offering their services of co-operation in the building of airports, roads, hospitals, hotels, bridges, houses and other projects as can be evidenced in Guinea and Vietnam. Thousands of our technicians are co-operating in education, as in the case of Angola, where we have already sent the second contingent of youths from the "Che Guevara" Teaching Brigade, who are working as teachers in the basic secondary schools.

Our physicians have worked and are working in Asia, Africa and in the Caribbean countries, and the demand for them and for health technicians is increasing extraordinarily as a result of the prestige achieved. We have physicians in more than seventeen countries, such as Tanzania, Ethiopia, Congo, Guinea, Algeria and several others.

In the Caribbean area, our collaboration is increasing as in the case of Jamaica, Guyana, among others, where our technicians are being sent. Thousands of young people of the so-called third world are in our country being prepared at different levels as technicians, and are receiving secondary and higher education.

Our position is known according to which, if the countries which request our collaboration cannot pay for it because of their poverty, they are not debited, and if they possess important economic and natural resources, they pay an economic compensation.

This modest effort is being offered by our country to the cause of international solidarity and co-operation, and the Caribbean is no exception. In view of all this, we consider that economic and technical co-operation among our countries constitute in itself an action in defence of our interests. The Secretariat of the CDCC should increase its efforts towards this aim.

Mr. Chairman, four years have elapsed since the creation of the CDCC and progress can be appreciated. The initial effort of the Committee has been directed - basically - to the implementation of studies which have allowed an adequate level of knowledge of our countries, and even though the results of these studies should be disseminated more fully, we estimate that in what has been achieved up to now, there are sufficient elements for us to initiate a more effective collaboration among ourselves.

We consider that the CDCC is entering a stage of higher preparation, which will allow us to reap in the near future the fruits of our collective action. The Secretariat ought to develop a systematic and continuous effort aimed at promoting the activities enunciated in its work programme, allowing through it, the member states to gain a greater knowledge of action undertaken by the Secretariat, to fulfil it, at the same time, allowing it to link them (the states) more to its activities. On the other hand, in our region, there still exists untapped possibilities of co-operation, on which the Secretariat should deploy greater efforts. These efforts should be combined, in turn, with those of the other Latin American co-operation organizations whose collaboration would constitute a valuable support to the CDCC. GEPLACEA, OLADE, and NAMUCAR constitute organizations whose objectives are oriented towards the defence of our interests. CARICOM and the Caribbean Development Bank, constituted by the English-speaking Caribbean countries can also be considered as supporting agencies. But this is not sufficient; likewise, it becomes necessary for our governments to exercise the political will necessary to define our own objectives, our priorities, and to adopt joint actions that are responsive to the interests of our peoples and which, redound to the benefit of the Caribbean.

Let us consider as positive the ~~steps~~ undertaken by the CDCC, and aimed at endowing itself with instruments of support and complementation for its work, such as the Caribbean Documentation Centre. The many meetings held to identify mutual interests of co-operation among our countries have been held with this objective.

In this regard, we wish to express the satisfaction of the people and Government of Cuba at having hosted, a few weeks ago, the delegates attending the First Meeting of Caribbean Planning Experts sponsored by the CDCC. We hope, from the agreements emanating from that meeting, that there would develop an effective action plan that would permit the satisfaction of the needs discussed in this field. Our country is in a position to offer support within its power, and to place at the disposition of the countries in the area, its modest experience in the field of planning.

Mr. Chairman, in the last meeting at Belize, the Cuban delegation referred to the constitution of the Caribbean Group for Collaboration and Economic Development.

In this regard, we have been informed of the holding of other meetings of the same Group, as well as the creation of a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the UNDP.

Cuba reiterates her position in so far as concerns the fact that the activities of this Group cannot exclude any member state of the CDCC, necessitating therefore, the definitive elimination of any discriminating practice.

On that occasion, we expressed, and it is still valid, the fact that "to actions tending to lay obstacles in the path of our collaboration, we must respond with a closer union and with efficient joint action in favour of the economic and social development of our peoples and of the sub-region as a whole."

In this regard, we view with approval that in the meeting of Experts which preceded this meeting, the member countries of the CDCC have arrived at a consensus that tends to reaffirm and put into practice the Belize agreements.

This confirms to us once more that the spirit of solidarity and defence of the postulates of the NIEO (New International Economic Order) constitutes the main bastion of our work.

Likewise, we consider fruitful the results of the work done by the Group of Experts, oriented towards the strengthening of the future activities of the CDCC and the Economic and Technical Co-operation between our countries.

We are thankful for the support offered by the countries of the region and by the UNESCO for the activities of CARIFESTA which will be held in Havana in July of this year. The cultural fraternalization that CARIFESTA 1979 will have as a framework, is embedded in the socio-cultural objectives enunciated by the CDCC, and will constitute one more index of the solidarity between our peoples.

We cannot omit to refer also to the very important event that will take place this year - the Sixth Summit of Non-Aligned Countries - an event of transcendental importance at which about one hundred countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean will be represented. These countries today constitute one of the main forces in the world and will sit in the city of Havana in the month of September. Our people are preparing with enthusiasm and joy, to give the warm welcome that is deserved.

These events, distinguished delegates, constitute an expression of a daily increasing tendency towards the union of our peoples, in which co-operation and solidarity constitute the fundamental traits of the principles that characterize them.

As we reiterate our approval for the work of the meeting of experts and as we subscribe in general to its results and agreements, let us give visible form to what was expressed by our Chief of State and Government, Commander-in-Chief, Fidel Castro, which reflects exactly the spirit and feeling of our people: "Nothing is more prized than the solidarity between human communities. We men pass on: peoples and their realizations live on."

Thank you.

STATEMENT MADE BY MR. KURLEIGH KING, SECRETARY-GENERAL,
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT (CARICOM), AT FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

This is the first time that a Secretary-General of CARICOM has personally attended a meeting of the CDCC, and it is for me a great pleasure to be here.

The membership of CARICOM and CDCC overlaps. In fact, of your ten members, five are members of CARICOM - of your two Associate Members, Belize and the West Indies Associated States; all seven of them are CARICOM members, so that, indeed, there is a very significant overlapping of interests and activities between CARICOM and CDCC.

The CARICOM Council of Ministers, on two occasions, recognized the need for close co-operation and consultation between the two institutions, and in fact, after the Seventh Council of Ministers Meeting in January of 1976 in Guyana - at the Council Meeting - the Council decided that CARICOM countries should monitor the work of the CDCC carefully to ensure that there is no duplication of effort and that the work of the Committee complements work undertaken in CARICOM, and follows up opportunities for expanded co-operation between CARICOM and the non-English-speaking countries of the region.

At the Twelfth Council of Ministers Meeting last year in Jamaica, Council noted that the CDCC and CARICOM have many activities in the same areas, and Council agreed that in order to ensure that CARICOM receives the maximum possible support from the activities of the CDCC, the CARICOM and the CDCC Secretariats should collaborate as necessary to facilitate the achievement of this objective. You may have noticed in these excerpts from the records of the meetings of the CARICOM Council that there has been some concern expressed over possible duplication of effort, and a hint also of a possible conflict

of interests and therefore a call is made for close collaboration between the work of the two institutions, and close consultations between the two Secretariats.

In fact, however, there is little danger of a conflict of interest between CARICOM and the CDCC. This is because of the nature and level of the relationships within CARICOM on the one hand, and the nature and level of the relationships within CDCC on the other. For example, CDCC is very largely concerned with co-ordination and co-operation, while CARICOM is an integration exercise, and there is a fundamental difference between the levels of these activities. I might characterize the difference by observing that in CARICOM, in our integration movement, the effort is made to go deeper, much deeper, than co-ordination and co-operation, and the effort is there to integrate the economies of the region into some kind of a consistent pole. Now I am not suggesting that we have gone as far, or that we intend to go as far this time as we tried with the now defunct Federation. I am not suggesting that there is any effort within CARICOM, at the present time, to supersede national sovereignty or to reduce national sovereignty in any way; but CARICOM has enshrined within its Treaty a determination to link the economies of its member countries in such a way as to make their relationships meaningful, deep and consistent.

The difference between CDCC and CARICOM is also evident in the scope or the breadth of activities in which each body is engaged. Again, I would characterize the CDCC scope of activities as mainly concerned with co-operation and co-ordination, but this element is only one of the three major areas of activity of CARICOM. CARICOM has, as you probably know, a major set of activities in the area of functional co-operation, which is very much like the co-operation that takes place among the CDCC members; whether you call it functional co-operation or technical co-operation or socio-economic co-operation, in any case, it is at the level mainly of sectoral co-operation. But in addition to this area of activity within CARICOM, there are two other major activities

which because of the nature of CDCC are absent from the CDCC forum; these two areas are co-ordination of foreign policy and the common market.

In the area of co-ordination of foreign policy no member country of CARICOM attempts to influence or subvert the foreign policy of another country. The foreign policy of each country remains the prerogative of that country, but efforts are made to co-ordinate foreign policy and to co-ordinate foreign policy mechanisms and reactions so as to give a greater force in the international forum to the views and wishes of the CARICOM member countries.

The second area in which CDCC is not active, but which is perhaps the most important area of activity for CARICOM, is the Common Market, and in the Common Market we have many of the normal features such as a Common External Tariff and consistent rules of origin, so that preferential access will be accorded to goods produced in member countries. We also have as part of our Common Market mechanisms certain planning instruments which attempt to combine the activities in the market in such a way as to assist in making it a realistic whole - a single component market.

Also, in the area of the institutional framework of the institutions there is a significant difference. While CDCC is a subsidiary body of the UN system, the decisions of this Committee, as I understand it, are taken by consensus; in CARICOM, for the most part, decisions have to be unanimous because decisions may be binding in fact on member countries when ratified by the countries themselves. So that the CARICOM organs as they are called in the Treaty, the organs of the Heads of Government Conference and the CARICOM Council of Ministers, these two organs are the top organs within the Community and have the authority to make decisions that may eventually be binding on member states. But at the CDCC, decisions reached by consensus here have to go to other fora for ratification and approval, and in many cases have to be referred back to member countries for comment and approval.

In these many different ways then we see that the philosophy, the framework, and the level and scope of activities between the two institutions are different, so different in fact that there is hardly any likelihood of a conflict or competition between them. I should like to think that on the other hand, that there is a tremendous opportunity for co-operation and for working together between these two institutions. However, because membership in the organizations overlaps and because areas of activity in the organizations also overlap there is a clear need for very, very frequent consultation between the two institutions.

I would like to suggest that the ECLA Secretariat, the Office in Port of Spain, might wish to have a more or less formal consultation with the CARICOM Secretariat prior to CDCC meetings, so that the member countries of CARICOM will come to the CDCC forum better prepared to participate fully in the deliberations; but more importantly, they will be able to see what opportunities the consultations in this forum offer them for further and deeper integration activities within their own sub-regional forum.

For my part, I would like to assure the Secretariat of the CDCC, Mr. Chairman through you, that the CARICOM Secretariat will participate fully in all future meetings of the CDCC, and will carry out the injunction given to it by the CARICOM Council of Ministers to consult fully with the CDCC Secretariat on matters of mutual interest.

Some of you may have been concerned over recent years as to whether the CARICOM movement itself was maintaining its momentum to the extent that it would continue to be a coherent, cohesive unit within the CDCC movement, and I must confess that over the past two or three years that there has been some concern as to whether CARICOM would indeed survive; would survive the crisis brought on mainly by the onset of the world economic crisis based upon the oil situation. I am encouraged by my recent experience within CARICOM to say that

it seems that the worst is now passed and that the CARICOM countries are beginning again, since last July, to recover the momentum that they lost during the worst years of the oil crisis. I am confident that the highest organ of the Community, the Heads of Government, will wish to meet in the not too distant future, and right now an agenda for a proposed meeting is being prepared for submission to member states. I think you will find therefore that CARICOM's recovery will ensure that the sub-regional grouping is strong, and its strength will be felt positively within this regional grouping because I am sure you will agree that the stronger the constituent members of this regional institution, the stronger the institution itself will be.

We see CDCC, therefore, as a link in the chain of social relationships which begin at the level of the family relationship, and extend through community relationships, national relationships, sub-regional, regional and finally to international relationships at the scale and of the scope of the United Nations system. And we see that each level of relationships from the family, from the individual family, to the UN, each level of relationships is characterized as we move from the family to the UN with less intimacy and more formality in the relationship, and the scope at each level is different, and in the same way that we do not feel that the family relationship is any threat to a community relationship or that the national considerations are any threat to CARICOM considerations, we do not see the CDCC grouping as being at all inimical to the interests of CARICOM.

My Secretariat, therefore, pledges its full support to this institution, and at the direction of our Council of Ministers and with directions from our Heads of Governments, we will continue to co-operate fully to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of CDCC.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT BY MR. KNOWLSON GIFT, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY
OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) AT FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers,
Delegates and Representatives of agencies
and inter-governmental bodies,

The Latin American Economic System (SELA) is pleased to participate in yet another session of the Ministerial Meeting of the CDCC, and is grateful for the courtesy of being permitted to make this brief intervention.

SELA has been following the activities of the CDCC since its creation with keen interest. Indeed, in our view, the creation of the CDCC is but another manifestation by the Governments comprising the Committee, of their commitment to the concept of economic self-reliance by the pooling of efforts to achieve certain developmental goals. This concept, in essence, is the cornerstone philosophy of SELA and it has been the major motivating force in the execution of our work programme set by the Latin American Council at the Ministerial Level. It is interesting to note, Mr. Chairman, that as the CDCC pursues its programmes of activities, it is further capitalizing on the experiences of other organizations in order to achieve its objectives in the shortest possible time.

In this regard, it is particularly gratifying for SELA to be associated with the efforts of the CDCC, as is mentioned in the Officials' Report which is under review for adoption, in such areas as air and maritime transport, inter-island services and the entire question of tourism promotion and development on a regional or sub-regional basis among developing countries. These are some of the issues on which Latin America, through SELA, took a firm stand at the Regional Co-ordinating Meeting of the Latin American Group in preparation for the forthcoming UNCTAD in Manila.

Similarly, Mr. Chairman, it is our view that the CDCC can derive immense benefits from the experiences of SELA in the establishment and operations of multinational marketing enterprises.

Through the organ of its Action Committees, which encompass a variety of sectors such as fishing, fertilizers, housing, food supplements, handicrafts, and agriculture in general, several multinational projects are in the process of being launched as SELA moves towards the goal of more intensified economic relations at the regional level. It is interesting to note there, that several CDCC members, and especially Cuba, are also active participants in these Action Committees of SELA and consequently in the projects emanating from them. SELA's Secretariat will be only too pleased to collaborate with the CDCC, UNDP, UNCTAD and CEPAL Secretariats in keeping in the recommendations of the Officials' Report, to assist in the establishment of any multinational ventures at the CDCC level.

Finally, you will permit me, Mr. Chairman, in view of the proposed deepening of relations between SELA and the CDCC, as reflected in the report under review, and of the happy coincidence of this meeting being hosted by your illustrious Government, to use this opportunity to place on record SELA's expectations for the early incorporation of Suriname within the SELA family, and of its active participation in the activities, programmes and projects arising from the Action Committees.

