ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Thirteenth special session
19 October 1979

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Note: This document was circulated previously with the symbol E/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.6.
50. The representative of the World Bank said that a mission sent to the Dominican Republic had outlined a group of projects costing $50 million, mainly concerned with the construction of 150 km of highway and the importing of raw materials. Assistance to Dominica would be channelled through the Group for Co-operation in the Economic Development of the Caribbean. The World Bank was participating in a joint mission to Dominica with the Caribbean Development Bank.

51. The representative of OAS stated that OAS had adopted two resolutions: one allocating $1 million to the Dominican Republic and Dominica, the other authorizing the use of technical assistance funds to help in the process of reconstruction. In addition, hospitals, electrical generating equipment, children's food, medical equipment, fishing boats and warehouse installations had been supplied.

52. The representative of the Latin American Institute of Agricultural Sciences said that technical missions to both the countries affected were being organized.

53. The representative of ILO said that experts were being sent to both countries and that the ILO was considering an increase in its aid for 1980.

54. The representatives of WHO and IDB referred to the aid which their institutions were giving in the emergency, and the plans which would be implemented during the process of reconstruction.

55. In the field of technical co-operation, UNCTAD had been assisting the Dominican Republic through two projects, one strengthening the activities of CEDOPEX in export promotion and the second strengthening institutionally the foreign trade sector in all related fields. UNCTAD was ready to consider any additional activities in its area of competence that might be requested by the authorities of the Dominican Republic and Dominica.

56. Messages offering support to the two countries had been received from ILO, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Food Programme, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

57. On 19 October 1979 the Committee of the Whole adopted by consensus the following two resolutions on international aid to the Dominican Republic and Dominica, respectively:

417 (PLEN.13) INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES DAVID AND FREDERICK

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the scope of the damage caused by hurricanes David and Frederick in the Dominican Republic entailed the loss of many human lives, the
destruction of economic and social infrastructure, such as houses, schools, industrial plant and commercial facilities, roads and power-stations, and agricultural and ecological damage, in addition to leaving a great many inhabitants without housing or employment, all of which has reduced production levels and will affect the development of this predominantly agricultural country in years to come.

Bearing in mind that the disaster affected rural areas, where it destroyed not only housing but also large quantities of commodities destined for domestic consumption by the population,

Bearing in mind that the aforementioned circumstances have caused a serious economic crisis in this country which has considerably jeopardized its development process and caused a further deterioration in its balance of payments, which was already in deficit,

Taking note with gratitude of the support that the Latin American countries and other members of the international community and international agencies, particularly the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, have given to the emergency efforts of this people to rehabilitate the affected areas, and of the preliminary aid measures taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Administrator of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Taking note of the firm intention of the Government of the Dominican Republic to continue to honour its international financial commitments,

Bearing in mind the statements and reports by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, by that country's delegation to the United Nations, and by the secretariat of the Commission 1/ on the scope of the damage and requirements as regards financial and technical assistance for immediate emergency measures and economic and social rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Bearing in mind also that, in view of the magnitude of the problems faced by the country affected and notwithstanding the efforts being made by its Government, it needs continuous, urgent and generous assistance from the international community,

1. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the people and Government of the Dominican Republic for the loss of human lives and the devastation they have suffered as a result of the recent hurricanes;

1/ Dominican Republic: effects of hurricanes "David" and "Frederick" on the economy and social conditions (E/CEPAL/G.1098/Rev.1).
2. **Expresses** its deepest gratitude to the Governments of the member countries of ECLA and of the States Members of the United Nations, the bilateral agencies and the international financial bodies that have provided initial assistance to the Dominican Republic and invites them to increase their assistance by all possible means so as to continue the process of economic recovery;

3. **Appeals** to the Governments of the States members of IBRD and IDB to ensure that the directors who represent them in those bodies give particular attention to raising the level of external financial co-operation so that they may adopt special measures and support the priorities established by the Government both in its Three-Year Public Investment Plan and in the document entitled *Emergency action for national recovery* and to accelerating the mobilization of long-term external resources on the best possible concessionary conditions and with the maximum degree of flexibility;

4. **Invites** the governmental agencies which deal with this country on a bilateral basis to support the efforts being made through soft loans to finance emergency, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes;

5. **Also requests** the Governments of the States members of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to instruct their representatives on the Executive Board of that Fund to expedite requests for aid submitted by the Government of the Dominican Republic;

6. **Appeals** to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations whose legislation so permits to grant products of the Dominican Republic access to their markets on preferential and non-reciprocal terms for a reasonable period, thus helping that country to obtain the foreign exchange which it urgently requires in order to maintain existing development programmes;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General of the United Nations to request all specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system to make available the largest possible volume of resources and to expand their programmes in the Dominican Republic as required, in accordance with the priorities established by the Government of that country;

8. **Requests** that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should accede rapidly and favourably to the requests for special assistance which the Government of the Dominican Republic may address to it in the near future, bearing in mind the additional requirements deriving from the present circumstances and the need to help to promote the development of that country, having recourse if necessary to the Programme Reserve during the second programming cycle;

9. **Recommends** that, although the Dominican Republic is not officially included among the least-developed countries on the list adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2768 (XXVI), it should receive the same treatment as that granted in the past or that which may be granted in the future to that group of countries, especially under UNDP projects and funds administered by UNDP, until the situation is normalized;
10. **Welcomes** the proposal by the Government of the Dominican Republic that the United Nations, and more particularly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, should study ways and means of setting up specific machinery to cope with the natural disasters that periodically occur in the Caribbean basin and should report on the matter to the General Assembly;

11. **Requests** the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, within its terms of reference, to give special support to the process of economic recovery in the Dominican Republic;

12. **Instructs** the Executive Secretary of ECLA to give all possible co-operation to the Government of the Dominican Republic in accordance with the requests submitted and to submit to Member States and to the competent international agencies and institutions periodic reports on the results achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

418 (PLEN.13) INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE DAVID

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

**Considering** that the scope of the damage caused by hurricane David in the Commonwealth of Dominica entailed the loss of many human lives, the destruction of economic and social infrastructure - houses, schools, industrial plant and commercial facilities, roads and power-stations - and agricultural and ecological damage, in addition to leaving a great many inhabitants without housing or employment, all of which has reduced production levels and will affect the development of that predominantly agricultural country in years to come,

**Considering also** the serious damage inflicted on the cities and towns, in particular the destruction of the city of Roseau, the capital of Dominica,

**Bearing in mind** that the disaster affected rural areas, where it destroyed not only housing but also large quantities of commodities destined for domestic consumption by the population and of exportable commodities produced by perennial plantations that will require a number of years to recover,

**Considering further** that the destruction of exportable commodities has affected the capacity of Dominica to obtain foreign exchange vital to its well-being and economic development,

**Taking note** with gratitude of the support that the Latin American countries and the other members of the international community have given to the emergency efforts of the people of Dominica to rehabilitate the affected areas, and of the preliminary aid measures taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Administrator of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,