

GENERAL  
IC/CAR/G.277  
25 August 1989  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN-  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

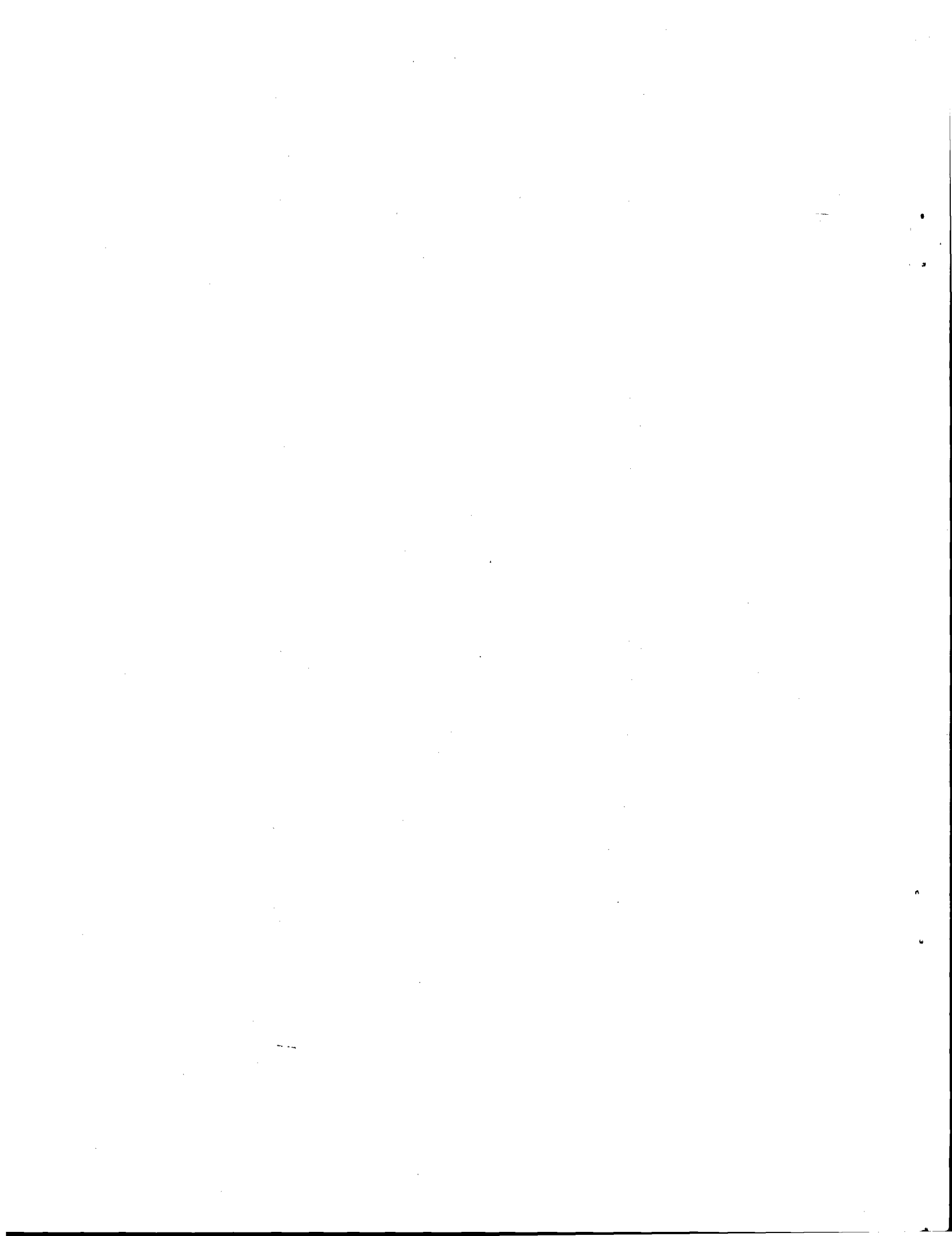
Twelfth session  
Curacao, Netherlands Antilles  
4-8 December 1989



REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING  
OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



**UNITED NATIONS**  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE  
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE  
Trinidad & Tobago, 14 August 1989

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Carlyle Corbin of the United States Virgin Islands, who introduced the proposed agenda as follows:

(a) Status of implementation of resolutions of eleventh session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), including proposals recommended by the then Chairman, the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) Review of the work programme of the CDCC;

(c) Consideration of proposed activities; and,

(d) Other matters.

The draft agenda was adopted.

The following documents were circulated by the secretariat with respect to the meeting:

(a) Progress report on the implementation of the CDCC work programme for the period March 1989 to August 1989 (LC/CAR/G.276);

(b) Report of the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC (LC/CAR/G:271); and

(c) Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the second period of the 1988-89 biennium (LC/CAR/G.258).

Agenda Item 1 - Status of Implementation  
of CDCC Resolutions

The Chairman circulated copies of correspondence between himself and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, since the last meeting of the Monitoring Committee. He stated that this correspondence outlined the Secretariat's general response to proposals made by the Minister of External Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago and should, therefore, form the basis for discussion of this agenda item.

The Chairman indicated also that communications with the Executive Secretary were to be seen in the context of the CARICOM Foreign Ministers Meeting in St. Lucia which considered the progress being made in the implementation of proposals regarding the CDCC. An input could have been made by the Chairman of CDCC based on the reply of the Executive Secretary.

Ambassador Flemming of Saint Lucia, who attended the meeting in St. Lucia, gave a report on matters concerning the CDCC and indicated that CARICOM Ministers had mandated a small group comprising Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia to:

(a) look into the progress of the implementation of the resolution;

(b) determine the extent to which the recommendations could be implemented;

(c) ascertain what action, if any, was required of government representatives in the implementation and;

(d) indicate, if any aspects could not be implemented, what course of action would be required to correct the situation.

The group was to report to the next CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held in New York, on October 10, 1989 during the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations.

The meeting decided to discuss the Executive Secretary's response (a copy of which is attached as Annex I) point by point.

The Secretariat informed the meeting that with respect to the P5 post, the Deputy Director had assumed some responsibility for Science and Technology, since it seems that the post was originally earmarked for Science and Technology.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the post now encumbered in Santiago should be returned to Port of Spain.

On point 2, regarding the proposal that the Programme Officer was to work with the Secretary of CDCC, the Director explained that as stated in the Executive Secretary's letter, that post already existed and the incumbent was assisting the Secretary of CDCC. It was agreed by the delegations that the proposal was made in the context of the proposed upgrading of the post of Secretary to the P5 grade, which would entail increased responsibility and operations and that the present situation should continue until a decision was taken on the upgrading of the post of the Secretary.

Referring to the proposed post of Deputy Executive Secretary with responsibility for the Caribbean, it was the impression of the meeting that it was not prudent to pursue this recommendation at this time.

It was noted that semi-annual meetings of the Monitoring Committee are now being conducted.

Point 5 proposed increased travel by the CDCC Secretary to member countries. After an inspection of the Secretary's travel schedule, it was agreed to await the response of the Executive Secretary, as stated in his letter. Delegates reiterated the need for increased contact with governments, especially those which had not been active in the Committee.

Delegates expressed disagreement with the suggestion of the Executive Secretary, indicated at point 6 of his letter, that the reintroduction of a specific budget regulations for the CDCC would be incompatible with present budgeting of the organization and asked for the specific regulation to be cited.

The Director explained that he would have no problem with a specific budget line for CDCC but that the present arrangement allowed for more flexibility in the use of funds and in implementing the work programme.

With respect to the proposed strengthening of the CDCC Secretariat, delegates suggested that it should be looked at in the context of enhanced communications with governments, by the provision of adequate levels of staff to meet government requests and to implement the work programme, and the establishment of a more meaningful rapport with other regional organizations such as CARICOM and the OECS.

Delegates reiterated the view that the Secretariat should provide closer support to these organizations and deal with issues that have longer term effects on the region.

Agenda Items 2 and 3 - Review of the Work Programme;  
and Consideration of Proposed Activities

It was agreed that agenda items 2 and 3 should be looked at jointly. The Secretariat outlined the work of the Committee since the last Monitoring meeting, as well as the proposed activities to complete the biennium. The Secretariat informed the Committee that activities were also undertaken outside of the work programme, in an effort to bring matters that may not have been discussed during the annual meetings to the attention of governments and to sensitize governments to issues having broader implications for the region, as they appear from time to time.

Delegates expressed the need for more information with respect to the completed activities of the Committee and for documents to be sent to governments early enough to allow them to co-ordinate their positions on the various aspects of the work programme at the national level. In this way representatives to the Committee meetings could make meaningful contributions and assist the Secretariat in the development of programmes of real benefit to member states.

Delegates also expressed the need for member countries to assign focal points for CDCC at the national level which would assist in collaboration and co-ordination of activities, both with the Secretariat and with the various national ministries involved in the work of the CDCC.

The Chairman thanked participants and the Secretariat for worthwhile and meaningful discussions. There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

ANNEX ICopy

Dr. Carlyle Corbin  
Office of the Governor  
The Virgin Islands of the United States  
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas  
Virgin Islands 00801

Dear Dr. Corbin,

This will acknowledge receipt of your telefaxed letter of May 2. I tried to contact you today by telephone, but was informed that you would be back until Monday. I am therefore hereby responding to your message.

I have no difficulty with the concept of preparing a working paper for any member government that asks for same, regardless of the fora it is intended for. My problem is that, as pointed out in my letter of April 21, I really have no additional insights to offer you beyond what I already said in New York. In other words, for there to be a working paper, there would have to be some substantive input.

Perhaps it would help, however, if I would reiterate what I told the Monitoring Committee Meeting of CDCC in New York held on March 29, regarding Resolution 26 (XI). Said Resolution generally endorses the recommendations made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago. Those recommendations, and my reactions to same, included the following:

1) Restoration of a P-5 post to the POS Office. I informed the Monitoring Committee that we do not have a vacant P-5 post available, nor will we in the foreseeable future, due to the post reduction exercise. However, we are willing to restore the P-5 post assigned to the POS Office, but presently encumbered in Santiago, together with the Staff Member encumbering same.

2) Creating of a programme officer to work with the Secretary of CDCC. This post already exists, albeit on a part-time basis.

3) The appointment of a new post in Santiago at the Deputy Executive Secretary level, with responsibility for Caribbean Affairs. This is a matter beyond our jurisdiction. It would have to be taken up with appropriate committees at headquarters and even the General Assembly.

4) Convening semi-annual meetings of the Monitoring Committee. This is now an on-going activity.

5) Increased visits to CDCC countries on the part of the Secretary. We are making provisions to implement this recommendation.

6) A reintroduction of a specific budget line for CDCC in the UN budget. This would be incompatible with present budgetary regulations of this Organisation.

7) In general, strengthening of the CDCC Secretariat. We have recently secured extrabudgetary funding on the part of the Government of Netherlands in the amount of approximately US\$330,000 to strengthen training activities in the POS Office.

I trust that you will consider this letter as a proxy of a working paper. We also plan to develop a fuller report for the next CDCC Meeting, as mandated in point 2 of Resolution 26 (XI).

Cordially yours,

Gert Rosenthal  
Executive Secretary



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