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SOCIAL PROFILE TO THE  
CDCC WORK PROGRAMME

Background Paper



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SPHERES OF ACTION

The first problem affecting the majority of Caribbean countries signalled out by the Committee refers to the lack of experience, resources and adequate institutions for the formulation and implementation of economic and social development policies designed to attain full and productive employment of the labour force. There is an urgent need to intensify and multiply training mechanisms in administration and management. But, in view of the same lack of experience diagnosed by the Committee and consequently of a set of management doctrines and principles clearly adapted to present circumstances of policy formulation and implementation, emphasis must be put on analysis and discussion of administrative practices by the administrators themselves. Efforts have to be made on two grounds: systematic sharing of experiences related to substantive matters pointed out in the basic Work Programme, and pilot experiences in participation of civil servants at various levels of decision-making, in formulation of development policies. These lines of action should be designed to unearth the various obstacles to implementation so as to feed back the policy formulation process and to fully profit from all liabilities existing in the public service.

In the Caribbean, the largest employer of highly qualified human resources is most certainly the public sector. A major task to be undertaken is an inventory of human resources employed in the public sector, oriented towards internal programming, better use of available and already employed labour force, as well as eventual assistance to CDCC member countries

particularly the LDC's, and planning of seminars and workshops for the inter-change of experiences.

A. Technical Co-operation among the Caribbean countries

The CDCC member governments have agreed on the principle of sharing their human and institutional resources, most particularly in view of the fact "that experts from a similar environment frequently give more efficient assistance on account of their familiarity with the common problems of developing countries and their greater capacity of adaptation to local conditions". This agreement represents a social innovation in government and administration designed to eradicate the sequela of colonization in the Caribbean. It sets up the basis for horizontal co-operation and for optimum utilization of available human resources, and will widen gradually the area of collective actions.

Due to the lack of tradition in the interchange of human and institutional resources, the proposed study of human resources employed in the civil service should be completed following, as closely as possible, the indications contained in the basic Work Programme:

"Other activities of the Committee regarding mutual co-operation could be: compilation and updating of specific requirements of the Caribbean countries in priority development sectors; collection and updating of data on the resources available, including training and development of human resources; exchange of technical co-operation among member countries (i.e. training facilities, expert services, consultant enterprises, supplies of equipment, etc.), so as to facilitate the utilization of the resources available on the basis of negotiations among the governments and/or through the execution of multilateral and bilateral programmes and projects; definition of areas in which the member countries can provide technical co-operation or take advantage of that offered by other countries under similar conditions; and provision of assistance to developing countries so that they can set up their own systems of mutual technical co-operation, especially for the relatively less developed countries".

The Committee has mandated, in the sphere of technical co-operation among the Caribbean countries, several actions related to the removal of language barriers, the elimination of deficiencies in communication, data gathering and data distribution. Progress in these fields are reported in other documents.

In order to harness the collaboration of the universities, faculties, and research institutions of the area, two Councils - one for Science and Technology, and the other for Social and Economic Development - are being set up. Social intercourse among the Caribbean intellectual élites and policy-makers are being modified in accordance with the objectives of the Committee.

These mandates deal with the production of scientific knowledge and its application. The Committee puts emphasis on four specific fields, namely: housing, food production, public health and education, which will be of prime concern to the Councils.

Modifications in social relations have to be introduced at different levels to achieve the objectives of the Committee in relation to scientific development. It is necessary to ensure that the officers responsible for introducing scientific innovations into social life - the agricultural extension officer, the public health officer, the school teacher, the social worker, etc. - are aware of the new developments and equipped to disseminate them. Innovative community development techniques have to be designed to enable larger sectors of the population to at least consider the possibility of adopting these novelties. Researchers must be exposed to rural and urban target groups so that scientific activities be geared toward the satisfaction of basic needs defined within specific forms of social organization.

In other words, betterment in the quality of Caribbean life through an increase in the use of science and technology is a problem of social planning, particularly when target groups and target areas are chosen among the most deprived. The Secretariat must be equipped to stimulate the designing by appropriate Caribbean institutions and most particularly institutes of social research, of supporting services for the diffusion of science and technology oriented toward the application into daily practices, of new developments consistent with the peculiar identity of the sub-region and its components.

#### B. The Agricultural Sector

An action-oriented programme for rural development has to be designed with reference to all strata in Caribbean societies, and most particularly to the urban ones. The Social Work Programme will aim primarily at enlarging the span of measures which member governments can set into motion in the rural areas by creating the appropriate ideological tools to enable the diversion of larger and larger shares of public investments for purposes of rural development. It will also tend to equip the civil servants and other urbanites with an attitude towards rural dwellers completely opposite to the paternalism so characteristic of foreign assistance approaching the Caribbean.

The implementation of priority actions in the agricultural sector decided by the Committee supposes the discovery of the rationale of the social contexts in which the rural populations and the agricultural producers in particular are evolving. The relationship which peasants, agricultural workers and local entrepreneurs entertain with transnational decision-making systems, and the range of alternative behaviours to safeguard their interests from the polarization effects to which they are exposed must be assessed.

In tackling the constraints originated in the structure of land tenure, there is need to consider the social and historical determinants of land tenure and land use systems, the social relations among agricultural producers and between them and absentee landlords, customary laws of inheritance and their consistency with sanctioned practices.

Circuits of local food involve activities of local merchants and consumers and asymmetric relations of both groups with food importers and foreign producers. These circuits are affected by adverse modifications in the consumption patterns of the communities, achieved through the manipulation of the media and the demonstration effects of conspicuous consumption. While the production of local food is being stimulated, programmes have to be designed to multiply the effects of technological, economic and fiscal measures, by acting on the scale of preferences of the consumers and disseminating innovations in the culinary art.

Employment in rural areas, levels of living of rural population, migration from rural areas towards cities, supplies of industrial inputs and relations between agriculture and tourism are national concerns in as much as social relations in this sector cannot be detached from national contexts except for analytical purposes. Structural changes to be introduced in rural areas and the concrete mechanisms through which they can be introduced require sociological and anthropological researches on peasant farming and plantation economy, relations of peasant economy and rural markets, decision-making process at the level of the firm and its determinants, allocation of resources and distribution of working time, division of rural labour and forms of mutual help, role of money lenders and intermediaries, patterns of family organizations and relations between family life and work, role of rural women, education of rural children, etc.

The viability of rural social life can only be increased through a re-orientation of academic institutions and a systematic policy of stimulation of social research. The study of rural circumstances must become a rewarding activity and this reward must be found within national societies and not primarily in the international academic community. The Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development must take steps to achieve this objective, and the dissemination of scientific findings in accessible forms will be a concern for the proposed Caribbean Enterprise for Printed and Audio-visual Materials.

A new milieu for social intercourse must be gradually created in order to reach the goal set up by the Committee, which considers fundamentals to stimulate the active participation of the rural population in the development process. The planning for social development aims also at destroying inherited colonialist prejudices against the rural populations on the basis of which large majorities of Caribbean adults are assumed to be ignorant or irrational human beings. It implies remarkable increases in social and historical researches to unearth in which difficult conditions the Caribbean populations have survived and multiplied, and the dissemination of the results of these researches at all levels of the societies and most particularly among the school-age population. Since most Caribbean nationals are either from the rural areas or immediate descendants of rural dwellers such a policy will ensure the cancellation of eventual generation gaps and a favourable context for the solution of rural-urban imbalances.

For the rural populations to be conceived by the minority of urbanites as a valid partner, without the occurrence of violent social conflicts, and to be able to participate actively in the development process, the vehicle through which they express their thoughts must cease to be the most discriminated products of Caribbean cultures. Whether the specificities of these languages rely on their own grammatical forms or on lexicons and pronunciations different from urban standards, they remain the most commonly



used channels of Caribbean thought. Steps must be taken to ensure that the speech of the rural dwellers and its content circulate through the sub-regional societies. Parallel to this, flows of ideas and guidance from the member governments and the intellectual élites must reach the rural population in readily comprehensible forms.

Agriculture is in most countries of the sub-region the major source of employment and this situation will persist for the decades to come. Certain levels of living are unacceptable for the generations being prepared in the expanded school systems. In order to guide the younger generation towards the sector, it is necessary together with the introduction of technological innovations oriented toward alleviating conditions of rural work, to foster respect and veneration for the peasants and agricultural workers. Similarly, if the rural population is known and appreciated for his cultural deeds, his levels of living become inconceivable and the member governments of the Committee will find themselves in a better bargaining position to increase the supply of services offered to the rural population, and hence, to attract youngsters toward the rural areas and retain the rural dwellers in the country-side.

While it is urgent to ensure the presence of rural phenomena in the urban frame of reference, there is also need to expose the rural milieu to the urban processes. Urbanites are taught to view rural dwellers as naturals to be civilized while it is not certain that the rural populations in turn conceive the urbanites as partners and not as opponents in the process of development. This cleavage must be bridged. It is urgent to design techniques for conveying information on urban life without increasing the attraction of the cities. The conditions of living of newcomers in urban areas (and abroad) must be depicted objectively and disseminated among the would-be migrants. It is urgent to

investigate how the media can best serve the country-side and how audio-visual techniques can service programmes of social and economic uplifting.

### C. The Industrial Sector

Actions foreseen in this sector have several implications for the social work programme. A significant increase in the industrial output has to be partly accompanied by higher levels of consumption of local products, which can be helped through social projects proposed for the agricultural sector. There will also be need for larger support for research and higher education relevant to the sector, as well as additional efforts in the fields of vocational training. Manpower planning has not proved to be very successful in the sub-region and one suspects that scarce resources are being wasted in ill-conceived ventures.

Certain specific areas of social development have to be stimulated in order to meet successfully the mandates related to industrial development. Substantial manufacturing growth, correction of external disequilibrium through import-substitution and sub-regional trade calls for re-allocation of social groups presently engaged in other activities. There is need to study the economic élites of the Caribbean, their sources of income, their pattern of association, the determinants of their preference for commercial activities and the relationship between commercial and industrial entrepreneurs in order to induce the transfer of capitals to manufacture. An import-substitution policy implies re-orientation of commercial firms, traditionally geared towards selling in the Caribbean, merchandise provided by foreign suppliers with whom long standing links have been established. There also exists traditional patterns of financing commercial activities which will have to be modified in order to ensure a prompt and efficient supply and distribution of locally produced goods. A re-orientation of local and sub-regional trade requires

dissemination of information on norms and habits of trade in different CDCC countries, as well as a new set of negotiations and agreements between firms and entrepreneurs evolving in these different contexts.

It is important to assess the determinants of the bargaining power of the Caribbean manufacturers vis-a-vis the Caribbean commercial entrepreneurs, and of their bargaining power in relation with foreign decision-making systems. The strengthening of direct linkages between agriculture and industry require similar sets of information. The study of these interest groups becomes more urgent in the context of requested feasibility studies on the setting up of multi-national Caribbean enterprises.

The traditional emphasis on commercial activities have resulted in a given pattern of Caribbean economic geography. There is need to unearth the spatial relationships that have emerged, the present functions of the urban areas in relation with their hinterland as well as the patterns of polarization in the sub-regional context. Caribbean cities are basically sea-ports fulfilling administrative and commercial functions. A substantial manufacturing growth will modify internal urban structures and the particularities of the traditional relationships between different human settlements in a given territory and between territories.

The changes in the functions of the urban agglomerations and in their reciprocal relationships will provoke some modifications in the services available and the demands for labour force. An impact is also expected on the migrational trends.

An accelerated industrialization process in the sub-region will lead to the preparation of programmes of vocational training referred to earlier. Several Caribbean nationals have acquired experience in the industrial

activities of developed countries. It seems difficult to attract those who are presently employed abroad. But a certain number of them are approaching the age of retirement. It could be useful to study the possibility of their re-settlement in the Caribbean, instead of promoting the incoming of expatriate retirees. These experienced qualified workers could play an important and rewarding role in Caribbean training centres, while spending their pension funds in the sub-region.

#### D. The Social Sector

The set of innovations the Committee intends to introduce in the sub-regional society demands a complete reform in Caribbean social sciences, and in the mechanisms for creating social awareness. Caribbean social sciences, in spite of the wealth of doctrines produced in the sub-region particularly at the end of the last century and the first decades of this one, are mainly based on concepts formulated in societies with a far more complex division of labour and different forms of cohesion. The crisis of theoretical thinking is a general characteristic of contemporary social sciences and should not be imported into the sub-region. There is a need for an urgent stimulation of social research and the formulation of theoretical frameworks capable of integrating the specificity of plantation economies coupled with various forms of peasant societies, the impact of geo-political factors in the structures of power in the sub-region, the characteristics of participation and mobilization, social stratification and mobility as well as the organization and relevance of Caribbean privacy (family patterns, role of women, child education...), and the co-existence of various cultural and ideological structures in consistent sets of explanations capable of guiding the social transformations foreseen by the Committee.

This task requires profound changes in the preparation of social scientists whereby intensive training based on sound

knowledge of Caribbean history (with emphasis on the Twentieth Century) of economic, political, sociological and anthropological theories and methods, will enable the social scientists to manipulate alternative techniques to carry out the objectives of planned changes. Once recognizance is given to the specificity of Caribbean social intercourse, specialization must be brought from the practice of social disciplines in the area, and should not be imported and superimposed to sub-regional reality. Advanced courses in the Caribbean universities, new disciplines and middle level training courses should be arranged with a view of building up higher degrees of social cohesion, with the present components of Caribbean societies.

The practices of social disciplines in the sub-region should also include an area quite neglected in developed countries and which deals with the preparation of the citizens for a re-oriented social negotiation. The curriculum of primary, secondary and vocational schools must comprise elements to understand the rationale of Caribbean societies, their policies and standpoints. Civic instruction must prepare the future citizens to live and make decisions on an everyday more complex social milieu, which is modifying its system of internal and international relations. A larger involvement of social scientists in the school system will on the one hand help to solve the problem of employment of university graduates, while on the other hand it will give way to the production of textbooks and literature adapted to education in the Caribbean. It will result in an accelerated flow of ideas and reflections on the society.

A population more aware of its interests will increase its demands on the services delivered by the state and will also be more inclined to participate in voluntary activities, wherever it becomes clear that the state machinery cannot

cover all fronts at the same time. The correction of imbalances pointed out in the basic work programme (deterioration of housing, inadequate water supply, insufficient drainage facilities, insufficient public health services, high rates of malnutrition) will demand an intensification in the delivery of services to the population and measures to monitor and rationalize efforts in this direction.

Delivery of welfare services to the population is constantly affected by various social trends which the Committee pointed out as subject matters for studies and policy formulations. On the one hand, out-migration and most particularly of professionals and qualified personnel, is an object of serious concern. On the other hand, the determinants of levels and trends of demographic variables, population density, urban-rural migration, growth, mobility and qualification of the labour force, conditions of work, participation of women in development processes, mal-distribution of income, etc. affect the actions by the state and the access to services offered by private professionals.

The monitoring of the relationship between available private and public welfare services and demographic trends require special research in socio-economic planning. Moreover, there is need to elaborate social and economic conceptual frameworks consistent with the Caribbean circumstances and to devise specific suitable indicators of social development. For quantitative analyses, planning and evaluation purposes, minimum social standards have to be established in fields like income, nutrition, housing, health, working conditions and education, as well as optimization goals in areas such as social insurance, income security and rural welfare. This endeavour can only be carried out through a process of discussion and exchange between planners and social scientists. Training programmes in matters related to this endeavour will have to be organized for social scientists, planners and "implementors".

The problems raised by the supply of social welfare services and their adjustment to the needs of the population are parallel to the stringencies originated in the production of such services. One of the most difficult areas to be dealt with in traditional economic and social planning for developing countries is indeed the service sector. Historically salaried activities appear in the Caribbean in this sector before any other. Up to now the sector absorbs large portions of the population, the best qualified human resources as well as the most deprived workers. Cases in point are the participation of women in the service sector and the fact that the state machinery is the largest employer in the sub-region. Opposite to this situation, a variety of services are offered in the rural areas within forms of organizations alien to traditional theoretical thinking. They must be studied and assessed.

The servicing of productive activities by the labour force in situations where salaried work and own-account ventures are intermingled, gives specific characteristics to the labour market which must be investigated if manpower planning is to be of some relevance. Occupational multiplicity, patterns of occupational mobility, cleavages between manual and non-manual work, conditions set up by the population -- most particularly by school graduates -- to accept jobs out of the tertiary sector, as well as the exercise of different types of professions within different linguistic contexts, have a rationale which is not yet known and create unforeseeable obstacles to the implementation of employment schemes designed along the lines of traditional thinking.

Internal processes related to the supply of and demand for labour force in the Caribbean have not been sufficiently studied and hence there is an obvious lack of control on the

flows of human resources, their allocation and remuneration. Consequences of this situation for the newcomers to the labour force i.e. the difficulty to create meaningful employment for men and women under 25 years, are an object of serious concern.

#### E. Public Health

Public health services comprise attempts by the state to monitor and regulate the initiatives of families and private practitioners in this field and to meet through public investments growing demands of the population. The standards achieved vary according to the mechanisms and channels through which these demands are expressed and satisfied.

Patterns of settlement in the Caribbean and historical forms of participation of the population in the public life create a certain number of constraints difficult to overcome. On the one hand, low levels of income in most rural areas coupled with the dispersion of the population in small villages or small island communities diminish the efficacy of private medicine, increase the costs of social security schemes, and foster the strengthening of traditional forms of health care. Experience accumulated within the families or within the village communities plays a role which escapes the monitoring activities of the state, affecting quite adversely the health standards in particular of mothers and children.

Innovations in the relationships between private and public health institutions and the families are thus in great need. Structural changes have to be introduced in the whole context in which the health services operate. The demand for these services have to be expressed in terms manageable by the member states. There is need for a Caribbean-wide process of upgrading the experience accumulated within families and village communities, through the dissemination of basic norms of preventive medicine, particularly in fields like environmental and mental health. To



break into the privacy of the families - and particularly of the deprived ones - where daily decision affecting the health of the entire population are taken, implies the conjunction of life-long education techniques with skilful manipulation of norms and values, symbols and instruments of dialogue of common use within this privacy.

Moreover, the efforts by the member states to eliminate unhealthy conditions of labour, in a setting where large sectors of employees are unpaid family workers or involved in very small enterprises, can only be effective if supplemented by an increasing awareness of the interested parties. The coverage of trade-unions and other pressure groups is too limited to ensure the implementation of legal provisions through traditional channels. An informed public opinion could help in this respect.

Modifications in the demand for health services through planned campaigns will be oriented toward reducing the substantial differences between the member countries of the Committee. Parallel to this, the monitoring of the efficacy in the supply of services will be enhanced by the creation of a sub-regional network of health information and statistical units, within the proposed Caribbean Information System. The areas suitable for international co-operation, diagnosed in the Work Programme will be given priority and projects of intra-Caribbean technical co-operation. A broadening of the sub-regional institutions to monitor and assist in the prevention of epidemics and the spread of communicable diseases affecting human, animal and plant life within the area is included in Havana work programme.

#### E. Education

The Work Programme of the Committee grants special attention to education and distinguishes two areas of action:

the monitoring of the supply of services, and qualitative improvement, with actions oriented to assist countries with relatively lesser development.

Education is a privileged area of government activities and can be seen as a milieu of intensive interactions between the decision-makers, the personnel of the school systems and the population. The introduction of changes in this area is usually a delicate political problem. There is need for a Caribbean network of educational innovations as mandated by the Committee at its Second Session, whereby successful experiences of member states will be considered and discussed, and joint ventures launched. This project should cover inter alia problems of management and qualitative improvement in the delivery of the service. The relevance of formal education to the specificity and needs of the countries and alternative measures to counteract the out-migration of Caribbean human resources should be taken into account.

The approved project of life-long education is of prime importance. Its implementation will endow the Committee and member countries with a relatively lesser degree of development, with an instrument of action in all chapters of the social work programme. The feasibility study of the Caribbean Enterprise for the production of Printed and Audio-visual materials will be completed and efforts will be intensified to progress toward the creation of a Network of Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation. These centres will be organized as living museums of the collective remembrance of the population and will operate as experimental workshops channelling toward the mass media the expressions of the artistic gifts of the grassroot citizens. In view of the importance of using local languages to enhance social cohesion and mobilization and to retrieve Caribbean cultures, a special project dealing with the retrieval and publication of Caribbean oral literature will be launched.

Contrary to the situation in most countries, including under-developed ones, in the majority of the Caribbean school-age children have to learn the official languages so as to be introduced in the normal curriculum of subject matters. The impact of this anomaly must be assessed, as well as its consequences on the relationship between private and public life of the population. The urgency for action in this field is further reinforced by the fact that Caribbean culture, basically an oral culture, emerges in the frame of national languages not yet codified and socially discriminated. The particular grammar and syntaxes used in daily conversation, innovations in vocabulary and pronunciation, are at the same time a product of local culture and vehicle through which national identity is expressed and lived. Active participation of the population in the development process would be seriously delayed, if at all possible, if adult populations in the Caribbean have to be fluent in the official languages to make a contribution to public life. The retrieval of vernacular languages and of oral literature offers an opportunity to enhance the role played by aged citizens and most particularly by elderly women as a depository of sub-regional experience and knowledge. By putting the elders in the forefront of campaigns designed to salvage local languages, recognizance of the meaningfulness of life in rural areas and poor neighbourhoods will greatly help social mobilization.

Culture is the only one attribute which the Caribbean 'poor' is not devoid of. Detailed studies will be stimulated on Caribbean philosophical, religious and other ideological standpoints. Rural musical production must be systematically retrieved, codified and disseminated, with more urgency than urban musical production.

To reach the objectives of social development set up by the Committee, the masterpieces of Caribbean culture must be known and appreciated. The social work programme will articulate as a matter of priority plans and projects to disseminate this knowledge and the results of scientific reflection on the matter through the school systems and the mass media. In view of the relevance of cultural development for Caribbean identity and for the introduction of social structural changes in the sub-region, a feasibility study for the creation of a Graduate Faculty of Applied Social Anthropology will be submitted to the Committee.

Within the chapter on education and culture, the work programme foresees joint ventures in sports development, which constitutes an avenue of self-expression particularly important for the youth. Other educational ventures must be envisaged for this segment of the population, particularly those who have left the school system, but have not yet been integrated into the labour market. They present the particularity of sharing the values taught in an educational system which is not totally functional to the available possibilities of productive employment.

#### G. Tourism

The development of tourism is one of the major features in the recent diversification of the Caribbean service sector. Social relations deriving therefrom have partially been assessed, and the Committee casts doubts on the contributions of this activity to recent developments in the sub-region.

Tourism services are basically oriented in this present time toward meeting external needs for leisure facilities and their growth has introduced modifications in both labour and capital markets. Decisions in these markets transcend local boundaries and the rationalization of the supply of goods and services so required have further provoked the irruption of international

finances in the distribution of locally produced artifacts and services.

The bargaining power of local investors in this network of decision-making systems is normally meagre and local authorities may find themselves in difficulty to even monitor the net results of the sub-sector.

Beyond the need to evaluate the power relationship set into motion by the tourist industry, it is urgent to clarify the social costs also involved in the particular insertion of these new services within the Caribbean societies. On the one hand, the development of entertainment for strangers and the production of various forms of cultural goods to satisfy exogeneous scales of preferences, are affecting the relationship between forms of art and patterns of living in the sub-region. The actual system of pricing of cultural goods for tourists must be investigated with a view of evaluating their accessibility to local residents and in order to avoid the filtering of cultural development by visitors with exotic tastes and varying capabilities of understanding.

On the other hand, the expression of foreign demand for leisure through a virtually unlimited purchasing power together with the oligopolistic position of transnational decision-making centres allow the supply of very expensive services at the reach of an extremely limited strata of local populations. In this context, the allocation of resources of local rich tends to evolve through avenues which the sub-regional productive capacity is not equipped to meet. The Work Programme points out the need to prevent tourist facilities for foreigners from dislodging the national population from their own centres of attraction or creating any type of social discrimination. Other problems like the control of land-adjoining to beaches, and various aspects of social defence are also to be considered.

Diversification in the origin of the demand for tourist services and the development of tourism of a cultural nature could ease the constraints on the bargaining power of Caribbean entrepreneurs. A re-orientation of the industry should be completed by social projects similar to those formulated for the industrial sector.

#### H. Transport, Communications and Related Services

The singular importance of shipping services for the Caribbean is underlined in the basic work programme, which also notes that in spite of considerable amounts of technical co-operation provided in this respect, the question has not yet received the attention it deserves. To complete the study of shipping services by schooners and other coastal vessels, mandated by the Committee, there is need for a detailed social investigation designed to unearth the characteristics of the seamen and the maritime entrepreneurs, analyzing inter alia their systems of decision-making, their interest groups, their relations with agricultural, industrial and commercial firms, the internal organization of their enterprises, including levels of qualification and patterns of occupational mobility, as well as conditions of labour and standards of living.

The study should be oriented towards the formulation of strategies to rationalize the small enterprises by promoting the organization of co-operatives and other forms of associations, including interest groups, to upgrade the standards of the seamen and of the existing enterprises through various forms of on-the-job training and systematic dissemination of information on shipping policies and related legal provisions. Infrastructures of communication should also be established to expand the range of action of the foreseen navigation schools and other maritime institutions.

With respect to air transport, telephone, telegraph and postal communications, the frequency with which these facilities are used is an accepted indicator of social development. Progresses in these areas will ease the processes of sub-regional and national mobilization. Social determinants of this eventual development are similar to those of most public services and should be tackled in this context.

- I. Marine Resources
- J. Coastal area development

For the innovations in the exploitation of fishing resources foreseen in the work programme and the materialization of their impact on the employment situation, there is need for similar researches to those described in relation to shipping. It must be stressed that social studies on shipping and fishing activities should not await for the initiation of economic activities. Fishermen and other seamen constitute one of the most deprived social strata in the Caribbean sub-region, in spite of the potentials in the activities under their control. Such situation derives from former colonial and neo-colonial ties based on inter-oceanic navigation and the use of labour force in agriculture. The mandates contained in the Work Programme envisages the modifications of this pattern of relations and their implementation demands active participation of the population living in the coastal areas.

The establishment of fishing villages as well as the feeble development of coastal and interisland shipping are in themselves important innovations originated by the interested population. They are an effort to modify the pattern of outward oriented activities and urban settlements, which is put in evidence by the close relations they entertain with farming and agricultural production. Detailed studies of the forms of

social organizations which emerged in this context carried out with a view to promoting adequate projects of community development should offer new avenues of progress, relevant to the introduction of structural changes in the geography of the Caribbean. Moreover, these researches will offer the basis for the implementation of projects related to environmental protection, processing of marine resources, and coastal area development.

K. Regional Co-operation  
L. International Trade

The constituent documents of the CDCC refer to four different contexts within which the patterns of social relations entertained by the member countries will be re-oriented and intensified. The Committee's work programme will be compatible with common interests pursued by (1) the developing countries in general, (2) Latin American countries, with special attention on relations with countries in the sphere of action of the ECLA Offices in Mexico and Bogota, (3) Caribbean countries, with special attention on relations with less developed countries affected by their limited population and territory. Finally, (4) due consideration will be given to the diversity of situations within the countries themselves.

New terms of social negotiations are necessary to modify the weight granted in international relations to the traditional partners of the Caribbean, and to curb asymmetric processes of development within any given country. The negotiations of the CDCC member states with others and the negotiations between the integrants of each member state, translated into policy formulations and political activities implied in the work programme, are based on the awareness of specific interests and the sharing of knowledge, norms and values by the population at large. Social cohesion within the Caribbean determines the



orientation of governmental activities and the extent to which advancement is feasible.

Profound changes in the system of loyalties and above all the emergence of self-reliant citizens capable to support the action of the state demand the strengthening and amplification of the programmes of life-long education referred to earlier.

If the Committee is to modify the relationships within the Caribbean countries and with the Latin American and other Third World countries, its policies must be understood and supported by the present set of citizens. A detailed programme on communication and development must be elaborated to ensure the dissemination of information explaining these policies to enable the population to understand and participate in the modification of external partnership, and to discuss the standpoints put forward by the member governments.

Researches are needed on the techniques of transmitting relevant information without impairing the role played by the mass media in entertaining the population. University graduates in social sciences and mass communication have to work hand in hand in creating new forms of dialogues relevant to this and other problems raised in the work programme.

#### N. Natural Disasters

The work programme has considered the need to include in the development plans, policies or strategies of member countries, the prevention of the adverse effects of natural disasters. Several action-oriented projects mentioned in previous chapters and designed to enhance social cohesion and mobilization in the sub-region are of prime

importance for this purpose. It must be reiterated that the codification, writing and use of Caribbean vernacular languages are an inescapable requirement for the prevention and repair of damages originated in this respect. During these emergencies, there is need for immediate comprehension of messages disseminated if any early warning system is to be operational.



