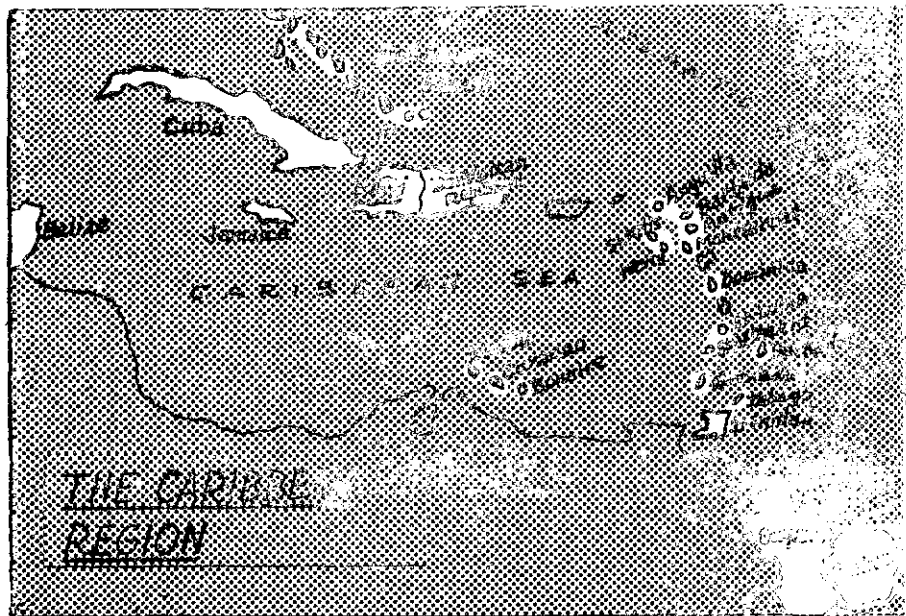


CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT
AND
CO-OPERATION
COMMITTEE



CDCC/WP/78/1

4 January 1978

SECTION 1: A PROJECT FOR THE CREATION OF A CENTRE FOR THE TEACHING OF THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH LANGUAGES, AND FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH ON THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Submitted by the Dominican Republic Delegation
to the Second Session of the CDCC, Santo Domingo,
16 - 22 March, 1977

SECTION 2: NOTE BY CDCC SECRETARIAT ON THE PROPOSAL



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA *Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe*

SECTION 1

CREATION OF A CENTRE FOR THE TEACHING OF THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH LANGUAGES, AND FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH ON THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN

(a) JUSTIFICATION

The representatives of the countries belonging to the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee are agreed that the lack of communication, in all aspects, is mainly due to the barriers erected by the lack of knowledge of the mother tongues of its inhabitants (Spanish, English and French). Without learning these languages they cannot easily set in motion an effective rapprochement, and still less exchange the best of their experience in the different areas of development.

The creation of the proposed Centre finds its main justification in the Constituent Declaration which the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee adopted at its last meeting in Havana, which declares: "Recognizing that the Caribbean countries share a geographic, cultural and historic proximity that must be taken into account when establishing the forms and mechanisms for co-operation among them, and that they have also inherited similar economic structures and have similarities in the majority of social and economic problems they face".

Furthermore, there is a pressing need for a linguistic rapprochement among the countries of the region, to strengthen their cultural links and their trade, political and economic relations.

Language barriers are the cause of the almost total ignorance about the social and cultural reality of the peoples inhabiting the zone; and it may be said that there is a complete lack of institutions which make a global study of the linguistic, cultural and social situation of the Caribbean islands.

The creation of this educational institution is further justified by the fact that the English-speaking countries have declared Spanish their second language, while the French and Spanish-speaking

countries have done the same with English.

(b) TARGETS AND GOALS

The main targets and goals of the Centre may be summarized as follows:

- To achieve better and closer links among Government bodies of the countries of the region to initiate, renew or intensify their economic, social and cultural relations;
- To achieve better and closer links among the private sectors of the region to initiate, renew or intensify their relations in various spheres, through close co-ordination of the official sector;
- To teach the Spanish, English and French languages to the nationals of the countries belonging to the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee;
- To begin the study of the social and cultural reality of the Caribbean peoples with a view to a better understanding and a future integration of the region;
- To begin the study of the civilizations of the Caribbean peoples in order to learn their history and their social, cultural and educational development.

(c) ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The organization of the Centre will basically take the form of a central office based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and a number of sub-offices in the islands of the area, so that the participants may study the language (English, French or Spanish) where it is spoken, since it has been proved, pedagogically speaking, that a language is learned more quickly and easily in a place where it is spoken.

The Centre and its sub-offices will work in close collaboration with the universities and institutions already in existence in the Caribbean countries. It may enter into agreements with them to facilitate the attainment of its goals in the teaching of the languages in question and historical and cultural research on their peoples.

The organization should be flexible, in order that the Centre may, inter alia:

- Exchange research work and experience in modern language teaching with universities and institutes working to the same ends in the area;
- To exchange teachers and students with the above-mentioned institutions;
- To exchange the use of equipment and laboratories used in modern language teaching;
- To study and discuss study plans for language teaching in the short, medium and long run, as well as other initiatives which are in the interests of the beneficiaries of the Centre.

(d) ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Centre will be carried out by a national of the Dominican Republic with the status of an international official, and each sub-office shall have a director who will be a national of the countries members of the Committee;

There shall be four co-ordinators, one for each language and the fourth for research;

The director shall present an annual report to the Committee, dealing primarily with the administrative and educational management of the Centre and its sub-offices;

Among other things, the director shall be responsible for:

- Outlining teaching and research policy;
- Establishing links among the different sub-offices;
- Signing agreements with universities and other educational institutions;
- Establishing policy on services to institutions requesting them;

Among other things, the co-ordinators shall be responsible for:

- Recommending the study plans the Centre should follow;

- Planning the syllabi adapted to the study plans established;
- Establishing contacts with the Universities and other educational institutions for the better operation of the Centre;
- Recommending to the Director of the Centre the scholarship and diplomas which should be given to the participants in the courses.

(e) METHODOLOGY

The Centre and its sub-offices shall use the most modern methodology followed in language teaching and research;

The teaching will be done in courses whose length will vary with the vocation and level of the members of each group, through long and medium courses and summer courses of the following length:

- I.-Long Course: One year long, intended for university students and language teachers;
- II.-Short Course: Three months' long, for accelerated linguistic training for persons with an average knowledge of the language in question;
- III.-Summer Courses: For students and practising teachers.

The students with passing marks at the end of each course will receive a diploma which certifies their knowledge of the language, according to the level they have completed.

The teachers of the different languages will prepare a minimum study plan for each of the levels established, attaching particular attention to the length of the course so that the participants can fulfil it.

(f) PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The countries which shall participate in the organization and benefits provided by the Centre in question are all the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, i.e., Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, The West Indies Associated States, comprising Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Montserrat, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The above-mentioned nations shall obtain, directly or through ECLA, technical or economic assistance from international institutions or bodies

whose aims are directed towards the growth of education in this region.

(g) COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

In due course the costs of the project will be established in three main categories:

1. - The physical installations with their operating costs, which will be contributed by the Dominican Republic as the country which is sponsoring the project and in which the Centre will be installed.
2. - Purchase of office equipment, educational materials and laboratories, the expense of which shall be borne equally by the countries members of the Committee.
3. - Remuneration of teaching and administrative staff. The countries may annually furnish English, French or Spanish teachers or the cash amount to engage them for a year.

An agreement may be reached with the universities or institutions in the Dominican Republic engaged in the teaching of the languages for the use of their laboratories in their free periods, in which case the purchase of such material would be unnecessary.

The above costs shall be calculated, although in smaller proportions, for the sub-offices set up in the countries belonging to the agreement.

(h) EVALUATION

The countries members of the Committee shall appoint a Board of 3 or 5 specialists who shall be responsible for the annual evaluation of the results of the Centre and of the sub-offices, in order to decide on its continuation or abolition, primarily when it is seen that the results do not warrant the investment made.

SECTION 2

NOTE BY CDCC SECRETARIAT

The proposal is for the creation of a Centre for the Teaching of the English, French and Spanish Languages, and for Cultural Research on the Countries of the Caribbean.

The proposal therefore envisages that the Centre will serve two purposes, (1) the teaching of the three languages and; (2) cultural research. The inference is that the two are in some way inter-related.

The main goals of the Centre are -

- 1) To achieve better and closer links among Government bodies of the countries of the region to initiate, renew or intensify their economic, social and cultural relations;
- 2) To achieve better and closer links among the private sectors of the region to initiate, renew or intensify their relations in various spheres, through close co-ordination of the official sector;
- 3) To teach the Spanish, English and French languages to the nationals of the countries belonging to the CDCC;
- 4) To begin the study of the social and cultural reality of the Caribbean peoples with a view to a better understanding and a future integration of the region;
- 5) To begin the study of the civilizations of the Caribbean peoples in order to learn their history and their social, cultural and educational development.

The teaching is proposed to be done through long and medium courses and summer courses of the following length:

- i) Long Course: One year long, intended for University students and language teachers;

- ii) Short Course: Three months' long, for accelerated linguistic training for persons with an average knowledge of the language in question;
- iii) Summer Course: For students and practising teachers.

The Work Programme of the First Session of the CDCC laid stress on "the need to undertake special measures or programmes to overcome language barriers - practical instruction in the English, French and Spanish languages in all the member countries".

The CDCC at its Second Session agreed that the programme should be implemented "with special and urgent attention to the needs of those countries within the sub-region which at present have no or very limited related language training facilities". It further authorised the carrying out of a survey into existing facilities and to make recommendations for short, medium and long-term action for the removal of language barriers. This survey has been carried out by a UNESCO Consultant, Mr. Denis Solomon. A meeting of experts is scheduled to take place in Belize on 4-7 April, 1978. The meeting will consider the findings of the survey, among other things, and the basic objective of the meeting will be to appraise the present infrastructure for language teaching in the sub-region (policies, facilities and methodologies), with a view, on the one hand, to consideration of immediate action projects oriented towards increasing the skills in foreign languages of target groups related directly or indirectly to intra-Caribbean technical co-operation; and on the other hand, to study of long or medium-term programmes/strategies to increase practical instruction in the three CDCC official languages in all member countries.

The present proposal for the creation of a Centre for the Teaching of the English, French and Spanish languages falls squarely within the framework of the CDCC activities underway in the sub-region in respect of the removal of language barriers.

The CDCC activities respond to specific CDCC mandates and seek to elaborate immediate action projects as well as long or medium-term programmes and strategies. The present project proposal could be regarded as a possible input into the overall programmes and strategies for the removal of language barriers.

The CDCC at its Second Session agreed that "in considering and approving the activities, programmes and projects to be carried out, the Secretariat should take into account the various new ideas and proposals put forward by member governments during the course of discussion".

The present project proposal falls within this context, and it is considered that a very useful way of taking the proposal into account would be to include it for consideration at the meeting of experts scheduled to take place in Belize later this year.

The proposal as it relates to cultural research on the countries of the Caribbean posits that there is a complete lack of institutions which make a global study of the linguistic, cultural and social situation of the Caribbean islands and calls for beginning the study of the social and cultural reality and the civilizations of the Caribbean peoples.

Such study or research in all its manifold cultural aspects has of course always been underway in the sub-region at the academic level, and what is perhaps being focused on in the proposal is the contribution that a linguistic rapprochement among the countries of the sub-region would make towards deepening the study and research.

It might therefore be more appropriate to regard this part of the proposal within the context of the long-term task defined for the programme for the removal of language barriers in the ECLA/UNESCO programme document, namely, "to help in the development of a manifold Caribbean cultural identity through the stimulation of cultural and personal inter-changes and the communication at all levels between the peoples of the area".

