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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

First Session  
Havana, Cuba, 31 October to 4 November 1975

DECLARATION OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE POSSIBLE  
FINANCIAL AND BUDGET REPERCUSSIONS OF THE  
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With respect to point 9 of the Agenda, the secretariat wishes to underline the following:

1. The work of the Committee will be based on the holding of various types of meetings, coordination with other sub-regional institutions, the preparation of studies and the promotion of initiatives on specific subjects. These activities involve financial consequences for the ECLA secretariat.
2. In regards to the holding of meetings, following resolution 358 (XVI) of the Commission, budget measures have been taken for holding a regular annual meeting of the Committee. These measures are presently under study by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Any additional meeting sponsored by the Committee itself will imply the cost of financing trips of the secretariat's staff, the fees, traveling and living expenses of the interpreters of three working languages, as well as other expenditures. These additional costs should be covered by the host country with means from other sources that may be mobilized for this purpose.
3. In this respect the secretariat understands that both in the case of the meeting of experts on the Law of the Sea and the meeting of Rectors of Caribbean Universities, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is willing to pay the additional costs required for their holding. It remains to define the place, the date and the financing of the other meetings which have been proposed, in the next meeting of the Committee (tourism, planning and international trade). In the event the Committee should decide that these meetings will be financed within the regular United Nations budget, the proper steps should be taken in the competent agencies, following the norms established by the General Assembly.

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4. Meanwhile, the preparation of studies, coordination with other sub-regional institutions and the promotion of initiatives that may be envisaged in the Committee's work programme, will require strengthening the ECLA Secretariat staff, fundamentally in its Port of Spain office. In this respect, bearing in mind resolution 358 (XVI), mentioned above, it can be reported that the steps taken to provide said office with additional resources, anticipated on approval of this resolution, are at this moment under consideration by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The Secretariat is confident that the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, on participating in the deliberations of this period of General Assembly sessions, will stress before the Fifth Committee the importance to the region of strengthening the Port of Spain ECLA office in order to facilitate the implementation of the Committee's work programme.

5. Nevertheless, the additional resources that may be mobilized, through said steps will do little more than permit the Secretariat to carry out a minimum programme of coordination and promotion of activities. Additional research and the promotion of concrete actions that should be carried out in order to fulfill the priority tasks established by the Committee in this first period of sessions requires the mobilization of additional means from other sources, which again will require the help of all its member governments.

6. The Secretariat especially wishes to point out that close cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations system is essential for achieving the goals of the Committee. Similarly, the secretariat considers indispensable the close cooperation of the Regional Agencies and particularly that of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Secretariat of the East Caribbean Common Market and of the Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System, the latter having been recently set up.

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