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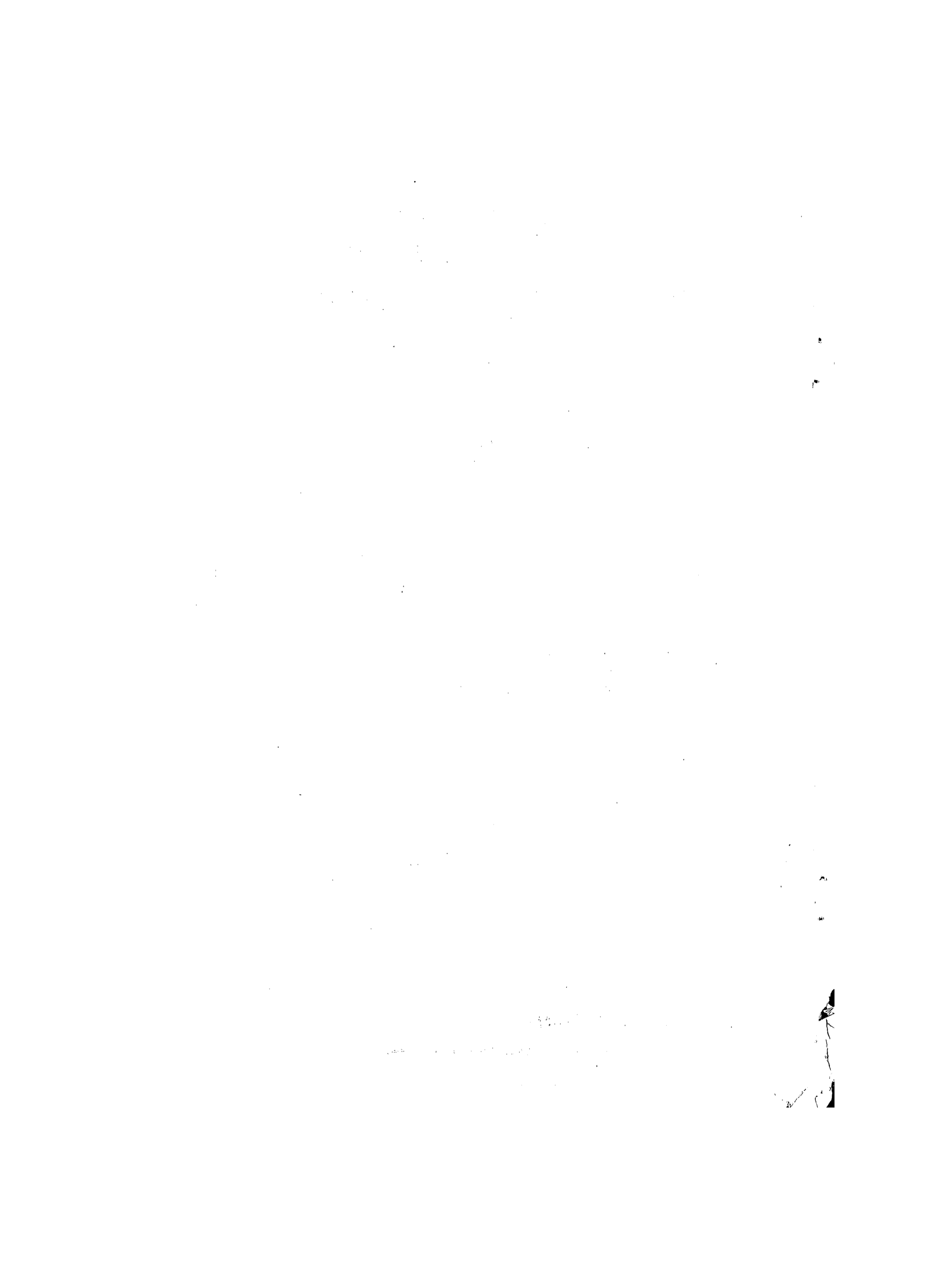


MATTERS REFERRED
 TO GOVERNMENTS FOR OBSERVATIONS
 AND GUIDANCE
 AND FOR SIXTH CDCC SESSION



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean



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1. Application from the British Virgin Islands for Observer Status to CDCC

The Secretariat informed the Committee at its Fifth Session that communication had been received from the Governor, British Virgin Islands requesting Observer Status at CDCC. The text of the communication was placed before the Session along with the texts of:

- ECLA Resolution 358(XVI) "Establishment of a Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee";
- CDCC Resolution 1(I) "Participation in meetings of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee".

The Committee considered the request and agreed the question was of importance and would require discussions at national levels. Accordingly the Secretariat was instructed to refer this matter for consideration of the respective Governments of CDCC, and that the matter be reverted to at a future session of the CDCC.^{1/}

The most recent reminder to CDCC member Governments issued from the Secretariat 1 October 1981. Up to the time of preparation of this note, only two responses were received from the Governments of CDCC member states. Both indicated they had "no objection" to the granting of Observer Status in the CDCC to the British Virgin Islands.

The Secretariat urges that the Committee direct its attention to this question.

2. Strategy for Caribbean Countries during the Third Development Decade

By CDCC Resolution 5(IV) "Third United Nations Development Decade" adopted at the fourth session, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to convene a meeting of experts of the countries of the CDCC, with the purpose

^{1/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2 "Report of the Fifth Session of the CDCC" page 58, para 196.

of evaluating the principal trends and characteristics of the economic and social development of the Caribbean, including the external factors affecting it, as well as its projections, and to submit the report to the fifth CDCC session.

Accordingly, the Meeting of Experts of CDCC countries was convened at Barbados 19-21 May 1980, and their report "Strategy for Caribbean Countries during the Third Development Decade" (E/CEPAL/G.1132 and E/CEPAL/CDCC/61,Rev.1) was tabled at the Fifth Session of CDCC. Several delegations stated that their governments had not had sufficient time to study the document, and the decision was taken that: the Secretariat should submit it to CDCC Governments for further study; that the comments of the governments should be sent to the CDCC Secretariat; and that the subject should be included for discussion at this session of the CDCC.^{2/}

The Secretariat submitted six copies of the document as required to each CDCC government on 28 April 1981. To date no response has been received from any government.

The Committee may wish to endorse the document and to direct the Secretariat as to further action.

3. Co-ordination between CDCC and CGCED

The outcome of the discussion of this subject at the fifth session of the CDCC was ... "that the Secretariat should arrange for the meeting of representatives of CDCC countries at New York on 19 June 1980, endeavour to obtain the documentation for the CGCED meeting in advance and report back to the representatives and the Governments after the CGCED meeting. It was also decided that progress in the CGCED should be reported to the subsequent sessions of the CDCC." ^{3/}

Since then there have been two meetings of the CGCED. Acting on the mandates the Secretariat arranged for CDCC pre-CGCED Consultative Meetings at New York, participated at the CGCED meetings and made the reports.

^{2/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2, page 55, para 188.

^{3/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2, page 57, para 194.

A separate Secretariat note is offered on this item.

4. Alternative Industry Development Strategies for the CDCC Countries

At its Fifth Session the Committee considered the activities that were proposed and decided that the paper on alternative industry development strategies be prepared, discussed with experts, and submitted to this session.^{4/}

Consultants' studies have been completed for five countries,^{5/} but there are others still outstanding. On the basis of the completed studies the Secretariat drafted an overall paper Industrial Development Strategies in Caribbean Countries (CEPAL/C_RIB/81/3). Because the studies are incomplete, interested agencies had not yet commented on the available papers, and also that the Industry Officer separated from UN service, the mandated expert meeting was not convened.

The Secretariat is still endeavouring to have the outstanding country monographs completed and as soon as resources permit the Secretariat will seek the necessary support to implement the project including convening the expert group meeting.

5. The Industrial Development Survey

The decision to secure comments from governments on the report of the Exploratory Mission of the UNIDO Consultant and on the draft project document had been reached at the fourth session of the CDCC. That decision was reiterated at the fifth CDCC session, when it was pointed out that the report was circulated since September 1979.

It should be noted that so far no comments have been received from governments.

6. Environmental Management

The Secretariat was instructed that the Report of the Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Action Plan for Environmental Management in the Wider Caribbean Area should be submitted to this Session of CDCC.^{6/} That Ministerial level meeting was convened at Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6-8 April 1981, and the Action Plan was approved.

^{4/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2, page 25, para 81.

^{5/} CEPAL/CARIB/81/3/Add.1 to Add.3, Add.5 and Add.7.

^{6/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2, page 43, para 150.

The Secretariat secured and forwarded to all CDCC member governments, three copies each, of the final report. In addition it was arranged that the Project Co-ordinator visit and brief those Governments that were not represented at the Inter-Governmental Meeting.

The resolution adopted by the meeting titled "Resolution on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme" (a) designated the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the "organization responsible for the co-ordination of the implementation of the Action Plan", (b) decided on the establishment of a Regional Co-ordinating Unit, and (c) requested that the next Inter-Governmental meeting be convened in early 1983 to review progress, adopt the work plan and budget for the 1984-85 biennium, and consider the adoption of a regional legal agreement.

7. International Trade Information Centre

The Committee noted at its fifth session that the Caribbean Trade Information project that was to be implemented included only CARICOM countries, and agreed that the coverage should be broadened to include all CDCC countries. Accordingly, the Secretariat was directed to "see that the necessary co-ordination was accomplished in implementation of the project".^{7/}

Owing to lack of substantive Officer the CDCC Secretariat was unable to make substantial progress on this activity.

It should be noted that the CARICOM project commenced in May 1981 with the arrival of the Project Co-ordinator. It should also be noted that during the latter part of 1980 a technical co-operation project was fielded in the Caribbean Sub-region. A consultant mission visited six Caribbean countries to investigate Import Operations and Techniques. This project is being executed by the International Trade Centre (ITC)-UNCTAD/GATT and is financed by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). Missions are to be mounted to other interested countries. The Dominican Republic and the Netherlands Antilles are the only two non-CARICOM countries who are reported as having expressed an interest in the project.^{8/}

^{7/} E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2 "Report of the Fifth Session of CDCC, page 37, para 129.

^{8/} See Project No. INT/80/70 Document No. ITC/DIP/25 4 May 1981.

The Secretariat expects shortly to be in a position to carry out the requested co-ordination relating to the Caribbean Trade Information Centre.

8. Proposals for Co-operative Action

At the Fifth Session of CDCC proposals were made, with regard to:^{9/}

(a) Agricultural products:

- exchange of scientific-technical information and documentation, seeds and genetic materials of garden produce, vegetables and tubers;
- that test shipments between Caribbean countries be made;
- that the Secretariat should channel these initiatives.

(b) Transport of Agricultural Equipment:

- establishment of a Caribbean Enterprise for supplying crop spraying and dusting equipment;
- the Secretariat to initiate the necessary contacts and organize meeting of experts to establish such an Enterprise;

(c) Fishing

- formulation of a multi-national sub-regional project by which CDCC countries functioning jointly and in a co-ordinated manner could mobilize their technical resources and available materials. It would embrace technology for development of fishing skills, research, co-ordination in use of facilities, and co-operation in processing technology, training and marketing.
- the Secretariat to start out with the existing situation in each country with a view to

^{9/} See Annex 2 to Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/68/Rev.2, pages 72-75.

convening a meeting of experts to draw up the project which should involve FAO, UNDP and other UN Agencies.

(d) Production of Books

- (considering the possible creation of a Caribbean Enterprise for the Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-Visual Material), the production of books in the region, commercially and on advantageous terms for those CDCC countries that indicate an interest;
- that the Secretariat proceed bilaterally or through the Joint CDCC/UNESCO project on Caribbean Enterprise for Production and Distribution of Printed and Audio-Visual Material.

Action taken and the Current Situation

Agricultural Products - Progress in this area has been negligible owing to the lack of Economic Affairs Officer (Agriculture) since August 1980. It should be noted that at the inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology members of that Council approved a project on Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants.

The Committee may wish to endorse the initiative of the CCST and to emphasize the necessary co-ordination with interested agencies.

Transport of Agricultural Equipment - Communication has been sent to all the CDCC Governments concerning the project, and in addition information on a further proposal of the Cuban Government to provide a high-level expert to conduct the necessary feasibility study. So far replies have been received from three governments. Those three countries expressed no interest in the project.

The Committee may wish to urge a speeding up of responses to the Secretariat's request for their views which is necessary for development of the project.

Fishing - A separate Secretariat note is offered on this item - Document E/CEPAL/CDCC/85.

Production of Books - The offer of the Cuban Government has been transmitted to all CDCC governments requesting their indication of participation and statement of specific needs. Replies have not been received. Attention is also invited to document E/CEPAL/CDCC/77, paragraphs 74 and 75.

In view of the non-response of Governments to the Secretariat's requests and bearing in mind the progress achieved with the Pre-feasibility Study prepared with assistance from UNESCO, the Secretariat seeks the assistance of the Committee in expediting this matter so that a reply can be made to the Cuban governments,

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