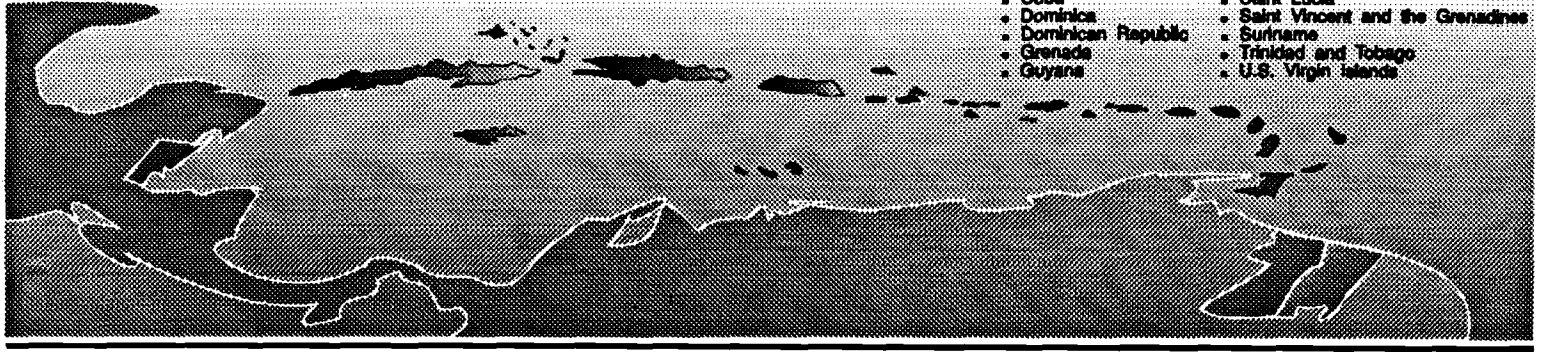




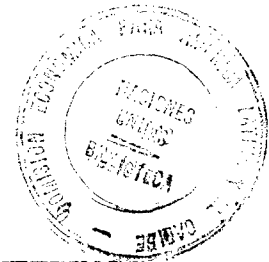
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- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Thirteenth Executive Committee Meeting
Santurce, Puerto Rico
17-19 March 1992

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.355
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



**REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CCST)

The thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) was held 17-19 March 1992 at the Conference Room of the Institute for Invention and Industrial Innovation Incorporated of Puerto Rico under the auspices of the Corporation for Technological Transformation (CTT).

The meeting was convened by the Chairman of CCST, Dr Gladstone Taylor of Jamaica. Other member countries of the Council present were: Saint Lucia and Grenada. Also attending as observers were: the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided secretariat support services to the meeting. (see list of participants annexed to Report).

Opening remarks at the meeting were made by the ECLAC representative who commented that convening the meeting in Puerto Rico (a non-CCST member country) was part of a novel approach being undertaken by CCST to foster expanded regional cooperation and collaboration in science and technology through interaction among States in the region.

Another new approach being developed was exploring avenues for short intensive language training in Spanish for English-speaking Caribbean scientists to enable them to understand scientific literature written in Spanish, thus enhancing cooperation efforts.

The CCST Chairman, in his presentation, noted that while it was not possible for small countries to be at the forefront of scientific and technological development, it was necessary for decisions to be taken on directions to be used in employing technology for economic and social progress. CCST thus had a role to play in this by bringing together people, institutions, governments and sectors.

Ing Diego F. Loinaz, Executive Director of the CTT of Puerto Rico, welcomed participants to Puerto Rico. He described some of the activities undertaken recently in science and technology in Puerto Rico, of which one of the most notable was the development of a solar powered car which would be exhibited at the Solar Pavilion at the World Fair, to be held in Seville, Spain, later in 1992. He also described some of the activities which Puerto Rico, as host, had planned for the meeting. This included two presentations, one on Language and Technical Skills for Technological Development, the other on a Centre for Information and Interchange; and visits to a Technology Incubator site, the Arecibo Ionospheric Laboratory and to the Camuy Cave System. He presented an offer from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that the CTT and the CCST work towards designing an exchange programme, whereby professionals and government personnel from Puerto Rico and CCST countries could collaborate on the basis of an exchange of technical and administrative personnel to provide opportunities for contact and networking and the transfer of knowledge, skills and know-how.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Amadeo Francis, Deputy Secretary of State for International Affairs. Mr Francis noted that the relationship between Puerto Rico and the other countries of the Caribbean was growing and hoped that this would continue. He stated that there were commonalities between Puerto Rico and the rest of the Caribbean and that it was becoming increasingly important for all Caribbean countries to exchange experiences and share resources.

The proposed agenda was adopted, although Item 2 (b), (c) and (e) were deferred for later discussion, pending the arrival of the representative of Cuba¹. The agenda, as adopted, was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Minutes of the tenth Plenary Session and matters arising:
 - (a) Minutes of the tenth Plenary Session;
 - (b) Establishment of a permanent secretariat for CCST;
 - (c) Examination of the structure of the Council;

¹ The representative of Cuba, however, was subsequently unable to attend the meeting. Although these items were not discussed in sequence during the meeting, reporting is sequential for ease of reference.

- (d) Topic for discussion at the eleventh Plenary Session;
 - (e) Plan of action for the project on the history of science and technology in the Caribbean;
3. Report to the Executive Committee on the activities of the Council since the tenth Plenary Session.
 4. Consideration of agenda, venue and date of eleventh Plenary Session.
 5. Any other business.

Agenda Item 2 (a): Minutes of the tenth Plenary Session

The document, Minutes of the tenth Plenary Session of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), (document LC/CAR/G.344, CCST/91/4), having been circulated previously was tabled for discussion. In response to a question on the National Science and Technology Consultations, participants were informed that the Saint Kitts and Nevis National Science and Technology Consultation was held 25-26 September 1991 immediately following the tenth Plenary Session, while the Belize Consultation was scheduled for 8-10 April 1992. In response to questions on items in the minutes, the Secretary replied that Dr Ulric O'D Trotz, former member for Guyana and current Secretary of the Commonwealth Science Council, had expressed his willingness to remain a member of the Core Group on the History of Science and Technology in the Caribbean, while Mr Bishnu Tulsie, who represented Saint Lucia on the Executive Committee at this meeting, had replaced Mr Aloysius Barthelmy on the Core Group.

The Secretary lamented that, despite agreement at the tenth Plenary Session that members would send information to the secretariat for dissemination to other members, the secretariat had not received any submissions from member countries.

Agenda Item 2(b) - Establishment of a permanent secretariat for CCST

The Chairman in introducing the item recounted the consensus of previous discussions on the topic and referred to the documents: (a) Establishment of a secretariat for the Caribbean

Council for Science and Technology; and (b) Guidelines for a secretariat for CCST. He recalled that although the Council had invited proposals from governments and that several expressions of interest had been made, only one written offer, from the Government of Jamaica, had been received.

The Secretary, in addressing the issue, suggested that in discussions on the topic too much emphasis might have been placed on the location of the secretariat. He made mention of the secretariats of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Social and Economic Planning (ILPES) and the Latin American Demographic Center (CELADE) and their relationship with ECLAC. He pointed out that the Council had been called upon to select one of the proposals contained in the document "The Establishment of a Secretariat for CCST". Discussions had suggested that members favoured a proposal by which the staffing costs for four persons - two professionals (P-5 and P-2), one research assistant and one secretary - be borne by ECLAC or the United Nations system. If this was so, the Council should therefore inform member governments of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of its decision and instruct the secretariat to develop a mechanism to give effect to the proposal. This could be done in the form of a request to the United Nations, through the CDCC, to seek the redeployment of resources for staffing and other operational costs through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) which had initially provided the resources for providing the interim secretariat for CCST. Once the question of financing was settled, the selection of the location of the secretariat should be a simple matter.

The Committee, having reviewed the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, saw no need for modification. The Committee concurred with the points raised by the secretariat and agreed that such a proposal provided the best mechanism to create a dynamic Council. The secretariat was instructed to develop a mechanism to effect the proposal. The Committee also instructed the Chairman to undertake the necessary communications and discussion with CDCC member countries and ECLAC on the question of staffing and the approach to the ACABQ. The secretariat was also requested to determine the total cost of items under the subject heading "Financing" contained in the "Guidelines for a

secretariat for CCST".

Agenda Item 2 (c) - Examination of the structure of the Council

In examining the structure of the Council, the Chairman urged members to take a more active role in the CCST and suggested that the Council would greatly benefit if members actively responded to initiatives of the secretariat. The Committee agreed that as a first step, the Chairman and two other Council members would undertake a mobilization campaign to stimulate inactive member countries. The Chairman and members would visit these countries and report on their activities to the next Plenary Session.

Agenda Item 2 (d) - Topic for discussion at the eleventh Plenary Session

After lengthy discussions on this topic, bearing in mind that although a decision had been taken at the last plenary session on the topic for discussion, the Committee agreed that in keeping with efforts to seek greater visibility for the Council "Problems of the organization of science and technology in the small States of the Caribbean" should be the topic for discussion at the eleventh Plenary Session. The Chairman and the Secretary would jointly prepare a background paper on the topic for presentation to the plenary session. In preparing his or her country status report, each country representative should focus on the problems faced in his or her country. The change in topic was due to the fact that the previous topic "The History of Science and Technology in the Caribbean", and the other suggested by the secretariat, "Science and Technology and the preservation of the environment: Follow-up from UNCONS '92", would both appear as agenda items at the meeting.

Agenda item 2 (e) - Plan of action on the history of science and technology in the Caribbean

The Committee lamented the absence of the Chairman of the Core Group, the representative of Cuba. The Committee nevertheless reviewed the document prepared by the

Chairman. In reiterating his country's interest in the project, the representative of Puerto Rico said that he had looked forward to the opportunity of discussions with the representative of Cuba in the context of Puerto Rico's own activities in this area. Nevertheless, he hoped that it would be possible for Dr Saenz to visit Puerto Rico in the near future for discussions. In discussing the proposal submitted by the Chairman of the Core Group, the Executive Committee elaborated on the purpose, scope and expected results of the project and requested that its suggestions be included in the project document. The following wording was suggested and agreed to: "The purpose of the project is to record and publicize the scientific and technological development on the Caribbean; to identify the trends and forces that influenced such development and to assist in charting and guiding the course for the future role of science and technology in the development process in the Caribbean".

The Committee asked the secretariat to clearly identify costs for the project and to include in the outputs a list of indigenous technology under the heading, "General Considerations". The Committee also requested of the secretariat that reference be made to technological problems in agriculture, health, housing and education in paragraph 7, and in paragraph 9 that mining be included as an important area.

Agenda Item 3 - Report to the Executive Committee
on the activities of the Council since
the tenth Plenary Session

The Secretary introduced the documents:

- (a) Report to the Executive Committee on the activities of the interim secretariat since the tenth Plenary Session (LC/CAR/G.357, CCST/92/2;)
- (b) History of Scientific and Technological Development in the Caribbean;
- (c) Regional workshop to develop a Plan of Action for Science and Technology for the Caribbean; and
- (d) A preliminary project proposal for the teaching of science

He lamented the continued absence of support by the Council for inputs to the newsletter. The Executive Committee endorsed the regional workshop to develop a Plan of Action for Science and Technology as being a very important undertaking and mandated the secretariat to develop it further. A Planning Committee comprising the secretariat, UNESCO and CARICOM was established to prepare for the Workshop.

In endorsing the Workshop on the Teaching of Science, the Executive Committee requested the secretariat to further develop it and, in so doing, to solicit the assistance of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) secretariat, CARICOM Education Sector, the University of the West Indies (UWI) education sections and other relevant institutions.

The representative of UNIDO updated the Committee on the status of UNIDO's efforts on the Technology Extension Service project. He informed the Committee that the project document was still in draft form. It had been submitted to UNIDO'S Appraisals Unit and further inputs, which had been requested from CCST and governments of the region, have now been obtained. Following approval from governments and with support from CARICOM, it would then be submitted to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for funding. It was expected that this would take place within six months.

The Committee reiterated its appreciation of UNIDO for its efforts at mobilizing resources for the project and stood willing to provide all support necessary to ensure the implementation of the project.

The secretariat was requested to create a list of upcoming regional meetings by institutions and circulate this to member countries.

Agenda Item 4 - Consideration of agenda, venue and date of eleventh Plenary Session

It was agreed that the secretariat, after due consultations with members, would indicate the agenda, venue and date of the eleventh Plenary Session.

Agenda Item 5 - Any other business

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal offered by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that the CTT and the CCST work towards designing an exchange programme whereby young professionals, government personnel and others from Puerto Rico and CCST countries would collaborate on the basis of an exchange of technical and administrative personnel. This would provide significant opportunity for networking, contacts and technology transfer in its broadest sense.

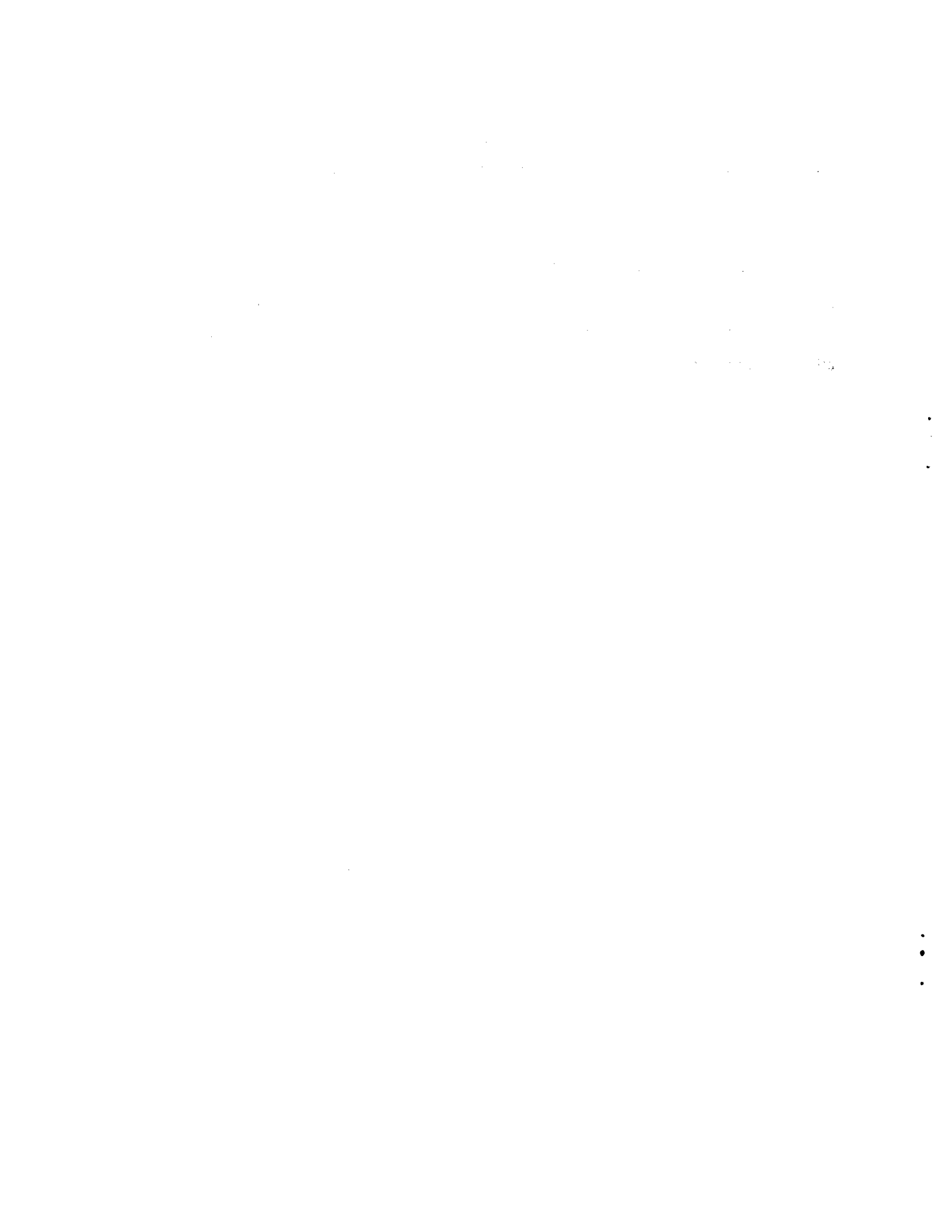
A presentation on language and technical skills for technological development was made by Dr Fred Schultz, a retired Product Development Executive of Proctor and Gamble as well as a member of the American Association of Engineering Societies and a member of the Advisory Council of the University of Puerto Rico. In his presentation, Dr Schultz spoke of the need for proficiency enrichment programmes to enable scientists to understand material written in other languages. He spoke of the increased need for networking and the increase in recruitment of higher qualified personnel. As a result, it was necessary for educational systems to address this. Studies had shown that young people's interest in science had to be captured by the early primary school level and that some studies had suggested that success in life showed a high correlation with success in mathematical aptitude.

Mr Victor Sanchez discussed the Center of Information and Interchange being developed by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as an advanced computerized system for human resource management at government level. The system, in use in the Department of Labour, had made possible more flexible management of the Organization and was increasing the access to the university and industry. Through the system, it was possible to hold teleconferences, store and send electronic mail, create and access databases and produce file libraries. The presentation concluded with an on-line demonstration of the system.

Members of the Executive Committee were given a tour of the offices of the Global Information Group Inc (GIGI) to view the activities of one of its clients which provides an

interactive telephone system. GIGI acts as a holding company for planning and financial management of decentralized operations through numerous affiliates, subsidiaries and sister companies.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the Government of Puerto Rico for its generosity and cooperation in hosting the thirteenth Executive Committee Meeting. The Chairman also wished to record the Committee's appreciation for the work of the secretariat and all staff concerned.



Annex

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