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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Meeting of Experts of CDCC countries on
Strategy for the Third Development Decade
Bridgetown, Barbados
19-21 May 1980

SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND PROBLEMS
IN THE CARIBBEAN

This Paper gives in outline form some of the difficulties, issues and problems experienced by Caribbean countries at the present time and indicates some of the areas that could be considered in formulating a possible strategy for the 1980's. A more detailed discussion of these points is contained in the documents circulated.



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE MEETING

BARBADOS, 19 - 21 MAY, 1980

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BLACKMAN, Courtenay	Governor, Central Bank of BARBADOS
BLANCHET, Jules	President, High Court of Accounts, HAITI
CARRINGTON, Edwin	Deputy Secretary-General, ACP Secretariat, BRUSSELS
CRAIG, Susan	Lecturer in Sociology, U.W.I., St. Augustine, TRINIDAD
DEMAS, William G.	President, Caribbean Development Bank, BARBADOS
EMTAGE, Steve	Director, Finance & Planning, BARBADOS
FARRELL, Trevor	Lecturer, U.W.I., St. Augustine, TRINIDAD
FORSYTHE, Warren	IICA, BARBADOS
JASPERSON, Fred	Senior Economist, WORLD BANK
KING, Kurleigh	Secretary-General, CARICOM SECRETARIAT
MANIGAT, Leslie	Professor, Simon Bolivar University, Caracas, VENEZUELA
PLASENCIA, Sergio	Director of International Economic Relations in the Central Planning Board, CUBA
RIVERA, Guillermo	Executive Director's Assistant, WORLD BANK
SEDOC, Edwin	Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, SURINAME
VEGA, Bernardo	Director, Museum of Dominican Mankind, D.R.
VISSER, William	Liaison Officer, UNFPA, NEW YORK
WILTSHIRE, Louis	Executive Secretary, Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, NEW YORK
<u>CEPAL Secretariat</u>	
IGLESIAS, Enrique	Executive Secretary, CEPAL
ASSAEL, Hector	CEPAL, SANTIAGO
CLARKE, Silbourne	Director, ECLA Office for the Caribbean
CASIMIR, Jean	Social Affairs Officer, ECLA Office for the Caribbean
TOTORO, Dauno	Economic Affairs Officer - Industry ECLA Office for the Caribbean
ROSENTHAL, Gert	Director, CEPAL Office, MEXICO

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SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

I Present Framework

- physical characteristics: small size, resource base;
- geographical situation: strategic location, external involvement;
- legacy of colonialism;
- differences in constitutional, political, economic, linguistic and cultural situation;
- absence of significant inter-country linkages but presence of metropolitan linkages;
- weak institutional structure in society;
- inadequate infrastructural facilities to support development efforts;
- high degree of import/export dependence;
- undiversified economic structures;
- content and orientation of education system.
- Heavy Growth Drain



II Issues and Problems

- maintenance of social and political stability;
- diseconomies of small scale in administration, production, services;
- weakly integrated economy;
- better mobilisation of domestic resources;
- devising and enforcing prices' and incomes' policy, industrial discipline, productivity;
- concentrated economic development on selective basis vs. mass limited improvement;
- diagnosing and tackling root problem of poverty;
- education and integration of women in development;
- migration policy: brain drain, optimum use of remittances;
- gap between administration and general public;
- communal responsibility especially for communal services;
- closed economy vs. open economy;
- endogenous development of social sciences to enable each society to elucidate its own problems;
- structural changes in the economy to obviate dependence of external capital flows for development;
- national economic management;
- new and renewable sources of energy.



III Sub-regional Approach

- suitability of integration mechanism, political/functional;
- planning on a sub-regional basis;
- sub-regional projects: design and implementation;
- role of United Nations bodies.

IV International Considerations

- stable and remunerative prices for commodities;
- access for semi-manufactures and manufactures in developed countries;
- greater volume of official development assistance;
- economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;
- role of transnational corporations;
- external debt servicing;
- reform of the international monetary system.

