

1. 1. 75

ECLA/POS 75/1

Distribution: General

Date: 22 January 1975

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Office for the Caribbean

REPORT

COVERING THE ACTIVITIES

OF THE

ECLA OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

March 1974 - May 1975

Prepared by

S. St. A. Clarke

C O N T E N T S .

	<u>Page</u>
Summary	1
General Economic Development	2
Statistics	2
Economic Integration	3
Transport	4
Agriculture	4
Technical Co-operation	5
Other Activities	7
Meetings and Conferences	9



OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

The period under review was characterised to a greater extent than formerly, by a considerable expansion in the demands made on the Office without increase in the level of its resources. In several respects there was substantial curtailment of resources, which resulted in the postponement or non-participation in priority projects essential to the sub-region. The more than doubling of the demands made by ECLA headquarters inevitably resulted in substantial reduction in the amount of work that could be done to meet specific needs of the sub-region. Nevertheless, the Office endeavoured to maintain the highest possible level of collaboration with Caribbean area Governments in analysing the problems arising out of their intensified efforts towards economic co-operation and in the solution of the concomitant social problems. Studies were initiated aimed at achieving wider participation in the sub-regional trade liberalization and economic integration process; and data on the countries of the Caribbean were collected over a wider range of subjects, and analysed for use in the main projects undertaken in ECLA's substantive divisions in Santiago.

The requirement for mid-term evaluation of the Second Development Decade meant greater allocation of resources to co-operation in the projects for review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy. Particular attention was devoted to: the study of economic trends in the Caribbean; continuation of studies on prospects for intra-regional trade; the identification of problems in areas of fiscal and monetary policy; the collation of more comprehensive information in the field of transport; collaboration with other sub-regional institutions in promoting economic integration; the provision of assistance to some countries in improving the quality of their statistics; the assembling of basic agricultural data; and substantive supervision of technical assistance provided by regional advisers.

GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As this Office's contributions to the preparation of the Annual Economic Survey of Latin America, country surveys were prepared for Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and the West Indies Associated States. A collective summary giving an overall view of general economic activity and trends in the CARICOM countries was also prepared. (ECLA/POS 74/10)

As regards the Evaluation and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy, the effort was made to maintain the continued systematic collection and collation of data required for the ECLA mid-term review in the Second Development Decade. These material are supplied to the Statistics Division, the Industrial Development Division, the Natural Resources Division, the Trade Policy Division and the Economic Development Division, according to their requests.

Within the general field Monetary and Fiscal studies, the up-dating of data on National Taxation Structures, and preparation of outline for analysis is still in progress. Appraisal of draft on National, Regional and Foreign Investment and on the Development of Technology, for CARICOM countries are to be completed. In addition, there have been preparation of material for discussions with the ECCM Secretariat and comments on policy drafts of proposals on Exchange Control regulations for ECCM countries and common policies on foreign investment and investment guarantees.

STATISTICS

Continuing attention was given to the collection and compilation of data for ECLA Caribbean Office projects, and ECLA Santiago projects including Appraisal of the International Development Strategy.

In addition, assistance to statistical offices of the LDC's in the collection and analysis of trade statistics was continued during the year. Prepared papers in this context include: Proposed Amendments to the ECCM Common External Tariff - ECLA/POS 73/8; Working

Paper on Processing of External Trade Statistics for the ECCM Countries - ECLA/POS 73/11; and Proposed Amendments to the ECCM Common External Tariff with corresponding External Trade Statistics Classification Codes - ECLA/POS 74/1. In addition a general appraisal was made against the background of the general statistical situation in the LDC's of CARICOM, and is contained in the paper: Need for Technical Assistance in Statistics in the Caribbean (with particular reference to the Smaller Territories) - ECLA/POS 74/12.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The Office continued its intensive participation in the efforts to accelerate the integration process among the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. Most of the attention to the internal workings of CARICOM focussed on evaluation of performance under the mechanisms for fostering intra-regional trade, and for better harmonizing the policies and workings of the ECCM within the wider common market. For these purposes staff members participated in working groups with area Officials and other sub-regional institutions in examining further measures commissioned by the Heads of Government Conference. These included orientation of the activities of the newly established Caribbean Investment Corporation and further work in the field of Double Taxation Agreements, within CARICOM.

The inadequacy of resources, harshly limited the extent to which the Office could effectively contribute to the formulation of criteria and legislation for the establishment of "CARICOM Enterprises", and the evolution of common area policies for negotiation with third countries. Regarding the latter, determination of new trading relationships with the enlarged EEC, and identification of approaches to the GSP schemes are important cases in point.

Attention was also given to some of the aspects involved in widening the integration process to include, under various forms of membership, other Caribbean countries. An example is the paper E/CN.12/976 - "Widening of the Caribbean Integration Process - Note on some Institutional Aspects and Procedures", which was of particular interest to non-CARICOM member countries.

TRANSPORT

Considerable effort was made during the period to obtain more comprehensive data on the patterns of cargo flow in surface water transport, particularly taking into account implications for the numerous port improvement projects underway in the region, and the rapid pace of conversion to the recent technological changes.

Although the resources amounted to part of the time of a Regional Adviser for three months only, the papers released included:

ECLA/POS 74/2 - "Ocean Cargo Movements - 1971 - Eastern Commonwealth Caribbean"; ECLA/POS 74/4 - "A Proposed Procedure for the Collection and Processing of Regional Ports and Shipping Statistics"; and ECLA/POS 74/5 - "Intermodal Transport in the Caribbean Region - 1973".

Provision of a Consultant for four months, October 1974 to January 1975, permitted preparation of the paper ECLA/POS 75/2 - "Ocean Transport in the Caribbean Community". This paper brings together for the first time the myriad problems and considerations affecting all the aspects of water transport that are essential to a co-ordinated transport policy in the sub-region.

Finally, support was given to the Transport and Communications Division in its work on the intermodal transport project, and to the exploratory phase of development of a simulated integrated transport project for the Caribbean region.

AGRICULTURE

The first draft of a digest of agricultural data covering the CARICOM countries was prepared and made available as a frame of reference to the Ninth Conference of the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference. This draft was subsequently revised, amplified and published in a compendium of Agricultural Statistics for Caribbean Countries - ECLA/POS 74/11, as a basis for studies on identification of possibilities for specialisation and complementation.

In close conjunction with the ECCM Secretariat, a survey was conducted on evaluation of performance of the Less Developed countries of the Caribbean (the ECCM countries) under the Agricultural Marketing

Protocol (AMP) and the Guaranteed Market Scheme (GMS) of the CARIFTA/CARICOM accords. The AMP and GMS were specially designed to encourage trade in agricultural commodities, in particular exports of the LDC's to the MDC's. The findings are contained in the report, ECLA/POS 74/16, titled "Critical Evaluation of the Performance of the ECCM countries under the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (AMP) and the Guaranteed Market Scheme (GMS)".

There were also preparation of reference materials in response to specific requests by Governments and inter-governmental institutions; for example ECLA/POS 74/14, "Imports of Food, Foodstuffs and Selected Agricultural Inputs in CARICOM Countries" requested by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

These comprised the activities of the Regional Adviser Ports and Harbours,^{1/} and the Regional Adviser Rural and Community Development.

The Regional Adviser Ports and Harbours carried out a detailed Port Pricing Analysis at the request of the Government of Montserrat, in addition to undertaking missions in connection with the planning of port developments at Belize, Turks & Caicos Islands and Montserrat. For this purpose close collaboration was maintained with the British Development Division in Barbados, the Caribbean Development Bank and the United Nations East Caribbean Physical Planning Project. The Adviser also collected information and arranged meetings in the Caribbean for visiting ECLA Headquarters personnel, to examine various aspects of the proposed International Inter-modal Transport Convention.

The role of the Regional Adviser Rural and Community Development has been somewhat different. The social framework of the countries in the Caribbean are undergoing a significant process of change, as they anxiously try to find how best and quickly the growth and

^{1/} Up to 11 June 1974.

structure of their economies can be adapted and accelerated to keep pace with a correspondingly rapid rise of population and unemployment. Against this background, the theoretical framework of enquiry and assistance in the fields of social and human resources development (after a lapse of more than two years) inter alia broadly related to promotion of co-ordinated action and institutional support for manpower mobilization with a view to achieving national objectives of various Country Governments. Accordingly, contacts were revived with all and missions undertaken to some on specific requests. Advisory assistance was made available to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as and when required. The other countries served in the course of the year consisted of Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Surinam.

As an outcome of the appreciation of the social situation in the Caribbean in general and in the countries visited in particular, the approach to advisory services for promoting programmes of development comprised of attempts to help formulate policies of Country Governments for State action in the spheres of community and rural development; evolve co-ordinational mechanisms at different levels of administrative hierarchy for synchronous and integrated convergence of multi-dimensional action; build up a common multi-purpose agency for concerted action at local level; develop appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes among services by means of continuous well organized and well conducted programmes of training; and integrate local and regional development with national objectives by strengthening, wherever possible, local government institutions and voluntary organizations for enlisting more effective and sustained public participation.

In pursuance of this approach, seminars and training programmes were organized and conducted as follows: Dominica - Seminar for Local Government Personnel, 21-26 April 1974; St. Lucia - Seminar on Integrated Approach to Development, 22-26 July 1974; Barbados - Seminar on Integrated Approach to Rural and Community Development, 2-10 September 1974; St. Vincent - Seminar on Community Development as a Contributor to National Development (under the auspices of Social Welfare Training Centre), 3-9 November 1974.

The papers prepared and sent to Country Governments for follow-up action on various proposals consisted of: "A model of administrative co-ordination for rural and community development in Antigua"; "An organizational set-up for community development in St. Lucia"; "Some thoughts on local government reform in Jamaica"; "Integration of services for local government in Dominica"; "Surinam Plan for Hinterland Development: Some comments and proposals"; Note on "Integrated approach to rural and community development in Barbados"; "Some thoughts on training of personnel in Guyana".

The participation, coverage and scope of the Seminars were restricted but the impact on the participants and on the policy-making departments were discernible.

The Regional Adviser visited Surinam from 6 to 18 May and 20 to 26 October 1974 to assist the Government in preparing a Plan for Development of the Hinterland and some communities such as Bush Negroes and Amerindians. As a result of meetings and discussions with various Officials of Surinam Government and visits to the interior, comments were offered to the Working Group indicating the necessity for certain changes and additions in the initial plan, and a full note containing the Adviser's views and suggestions was sent for consideration to the Government of Surinam.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

To ensure inclusion of the Caribbean in some of the Latin American region-wide projects, it was necessary for the Office also to take on the role of recruiting and supervising (as far as it was able) the work of Consultants. Projects handled in the way included the Inventory of Environmental Problems in Latin America, Social Structural Change in Latin America etc. In other cases, staff members had to be temporarily withdrawn from their current duties to deal with requests of visiting Consultants, e.g. the study on Less Developed Countries within the Appraisal of the International Development Strategy.

Assistance was given to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry of Haiti, Dr. Serje Fourcaud, during his visit to Trinidad and other CARICOM countries, on a mission related to Haiti's application for Associate Membership in the Caribbean Community and the Caribbean Common Market. This assistance mainly took the form of supply of statistical and economic information on the region, and the review of a draft Protocol of Trade Agreement between Haiti and Trinidad/Tobago brought into effect in September 1974.

In October most staff members, both professional and general service, were engaged in carrying out in conjunction with ECLA/ILPES personnel, the ECLA/ILPES/CDPPP Seminar on Appraisal of the International Development Strategy. The Deputy Director of the Office performed the duties of Chairman to the Seminar.

In November the Director of the Office undertook the mission to Antigua to evaluate the damage done to that country by the earthquake of 8 October 1974, required by Resolution 345 (AC.67) of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA.^{2/}

Throughout the whole period covered by this report, there were discussions with (and in many cases the briefing of) staff members and Consultants from other UN bodies. The subjects covered included establishment of the ILO Employment Studies Group in Jamaica; Caribbean integration and the present priorities; implementation of UNDP/UNIDO projects for the CARICOM group of countries. Prominent in this group was the UNCTAD/IMCO/UNDP Mission to formulate proposals for a transport project in the Caribbean.

Staff members collaborated with UNDP over a wide range of projects particularly those relating to the UNDP programme of technical assistance to CARICOM, including the Caribbean sub-region meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives, Guyana, October 1974. One staff member served as Team Leader for the UNDP/CARICOM Preparatory Assistance Mission for the Development of Regional Statistics projects;

^{2/} The report prepared as paper ECLA/POS 74/15 is circulated as E/CEPAL/

and similarly the Team Leader of the Caribbean Integration Advisory Team served on the UNDP/CARICOM Preparatory Assistance Mission for the Long-term Perspective Planning project.

In January 1975, the Office along with personnel from Santiago represented ECLA at the Oil and Food Conference at Port of Spain.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Office personnel participated actively in the following meetings: Sixteenth CARIFTA Council Meeting, Second CARICOM Council Meeting (Guyana, 7-15 January 1974); ECCM/CARICOM Draft Model Investment Protection Agreement (Antigua, 28-29 January 1974); ECCM Council of Ministers (Antigua, 6-8 March 1974); Seventeenth CARIFTA Council Meeting, Third CARICOM Council Meeting (Barbados, 25-26 April 1974); Fourth Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (Grenada, 2-3 May 1974); Ninth West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference (Jamaica, 3-10 April 1974); Tenth Meeting of Officials on the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (Dominica, 6-8 May 1974); Third Meeting of Regional Agricultural Planners and First Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture (Guyana, 20-21 June 1974); First CARICOM Oils and Fats Conference, Fourth CARICOM Council Meeting, Inaugural Meeting of Heads of Governments of the Expanded Caribbean Community (St. Lucia, 11-18 July 1974); Meeting of Regional Agricultural Planners (Grenada, 12-13 September 1974); Inaugural Meeting of Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (Jamaica, 23-24 September 1974); Eleventh Meeting of Officials on the Agricultural Marketing Protocol (Grenada, 16-18 October 1974); Sixth Conference of Commonwealth Caribbean Statisticians (Bahamas, 17 November-5 December 1974); UNDP Sub-Regional Meeting of Resident Representatives (Guyana, 7-10 October 1974); Meeting of Officials preparatory to CARICOM Council, Working Party on EEC matters, Joint Consultative Group to CARICOM, Fifth CARICOM Council of Ministers, Oils and Fats, Regional Shipping Council (Guyana, 2-10 December 1974); Planning Meeting on Regional Training Centre for Advanced Studies in Youth Programmes (Guyana, 4-7 February 1974).

