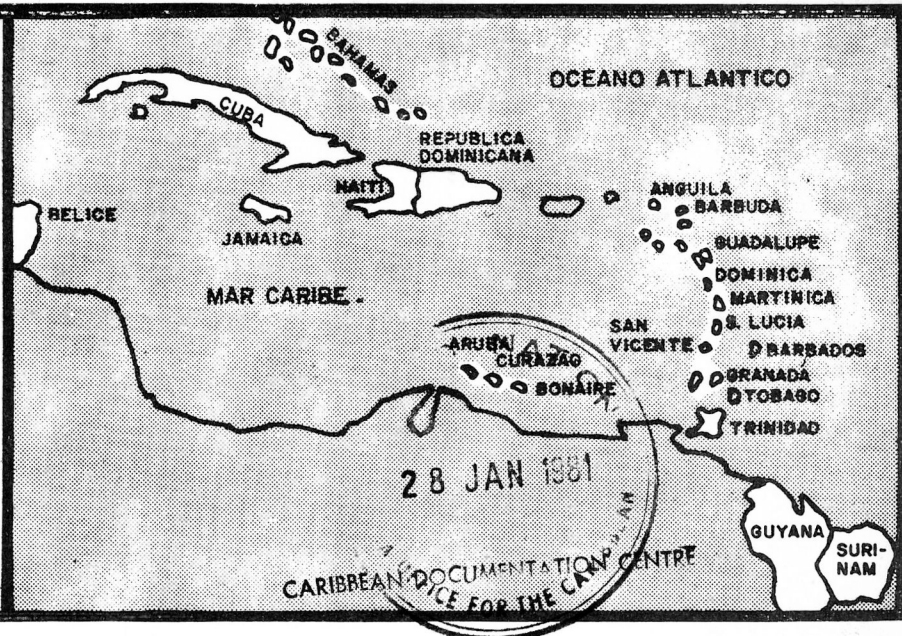


# I REUNION DE EXPERTOS DE PLANIFICACION DE LOS PAISES DEL CARIBE

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CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

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CARIBBEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM  
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

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## INFORMATION NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING

The Third Session of the CDCC mandated the Secretariat to accelerate the establishment of a Caribbean Information System based on effective links of co-operation among library and information units covering sectors relevant to regional and national priorities. The System was seen as a positive means of strengthening intra-Caribbean technical co-operation.

In addition, the exponential growth and rising costs of information make it clearly impossible for any Caribbean country today to collect and process all the information it requires for its economic and social development. Even the highly industrialized countries have recognized that the investment involved is beyond their capacities and have turned to co-operation as the most practical solution.

The CDCC has identified social and economic planning as a priority for promoting the development and integration process in the Caribbean. In order to provide decision-makers, planners and project implementers with effective information services, the Secretariat has taken positive steps to establish a regional information network linking economic and social planning agencies.

The Network will strengthen information infrastructure at the national level and secure compatibility among socio-economic information units in the region. It will contribute to improving the total effectiveness of the planning process in the Caribbean by avoiding duplication and by enabling planners to draw on the experiences of other countries.



The co-ordination will be done at two levels:

- (a) linking and improving the national information systems which feed their own planning and decision-making personnel; and
- (b) linking the national planning system extra-regionally, through the Caribbean Documentation Centre, in order to resolve their growing needs for information.

The Secretariat proposes to assist the planning bodies in the implementation of the Network by undertaking the following activities:

- The Secretariat will begin its first training course in May 1979 for personnel involved in information work. The participants will be trained in techniques for identifying, acquiring, processing and disseminating documents produced by the national planning offices, central banks, national statistical offices, sectoral and regional planning offices, research centres, regional integration agencies. These organizations are the greatest producers of information in the sub-region, yet efforts to enhance the flow of information generated by them have produced limited results.
- The Secretariat will prepare manuals for the organization of these collections and for information processing, i.e. analysing and indexing documents using the OECD Macrothesaurus.
- It will provide advisory services to the planning bodies in the installation and operation of the information system.

The Secretariat seeks the co-operation of the Planning Ministries in these matters. This co-operation may involve, in some instances, the appointment of an information person who could attend the training course.