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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Committee of the Whole  
Twelfth session

Santiago, Chile, 23-25 April 1968

APPLICATION OF THE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES FOR ADMISSION  
AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the secretariat

The Council of Ministers of the West Indies Associated States decided at its Fifth Meeting to submit a joint application for the admission of those States in a body as a single associate Member of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

The Executive Secretary of ECLA received this application, dated 15 January 1968 and signed by the Executive Secretary of the Council of Ministers. After consulting the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the ECLA secretariat informed the Council that the application should be signed by the authorities of the States concerned and not by the Council of Ministers.

At the time of transmitting the present note to the member Governments of the Commission, the following note was received from the Premier of Grenada announcing that the applications for the admission of the other Associated States, namely, Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia, had been sent by airmail. It is hoped that they will be received by the secretariat before the opening of the ECLA Committee of the Whole.

The text of the note, which is dated 5 March 1968, is as follows:

"In accordance with the decision taken at the Fifth Meeting of the West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers that the Associated States should submit an application for associate membership of ECLA under paragraph 3(a) of the Commission's terms of reference, I wish formally to submit such an application on behalf of the Associated State of Grenada.

Paragraph 3 of the Dispatch from the United Kingdom Government on the attainment of Associated Status by Grenada contains the necessary delegation of executive authority to the State of Grenada as follows:

"3. Subject to paragraph 5 of this dispatch Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom hereby delegate executive authority to the Government of Grenada to conduct on behalf of Her Majesty's Government external affairs as follows:

(a) Authority to apply for full or associate membership, as may be provided for in the Constitution of the organization concerned, of those United Nations specialized agencies or similar international organizations of which the United Kingdom is itself a member and for membership of which Grenada is eligible;"

This application on behalf of the State of Grenada envisages that the West Indies Associated States as a group will be granted single membership together with the colonies of St. Vincent and Montserrat for which an application will be forwarded by the United Kingdom Government.

I should be grateful if this application could be brought before the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America at its forthcoming session in April 1968, at Santiago.

Yours faithfully,

(E.M. Gairy)  
PREMIER OF GRENADA"

/The Executive

The Executive Secretary has also received the following letter dated 29 February 1965 from the British Embassy in Chile:

I am instructed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to inform you in accordance with paragraph 3(a) of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America of the application by the territories of Montserrat and Saint Vincent for associate membership of the Commission. I am to request that the application be associated with the application by the states of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Saint Lucia, made in accordance with their status of association with the United Kingdom and that these applications be considered together as a request for single collective associate membership.

I am to request that this application be submitted for the consideration of the Commission at the first opportunity.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F.C. Mason  
H. M. Ambassador

Secretariat note on West Indies Associated States

None of these territories is a fully independent State. All were colonies of the United Kingdom until February 1967, when new constitutional arrangements were introduced that conferred the status of Associated Statehood on Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Saint Lucia. This new status carries internal political independence, and some measure of autonomy in external commercial matters and relationships with international agencies and institutions. Saint Vincent and Montserrat do not yet enjoy the status of Associated States, and consequently are dependent on the United Kingdom in the conduct of their internal and external affairs.

/The dispatches

The dispatches which accompanied the instrument conferring Associated Statehood delegated specified authorities in the field of external relations, including the following:

"Authority to apply for full or associate membership as may be provided for in the constitution of the organization concerned, of those United Nations specialized agencies or similar international organizations of which the United Kingdom is itself a member and for membership of which the territory is eligible."

The agreements and dispatches were signed in each of the five territories which are now Associated States at the end of February 1967, and came into force in each case, on statehood day.<sup>1/</sup>

The Associated States are therefore empowered to apply for associate membership in ECLA in their own right. As regards Saint Vincent and Montserrat, which do not enjoy this measure of autonomy, the application has been forwarded on their behalf by the United Kingdom.

The applications for both groups of territories are being submitted together since these seven territories will be considered as a single associate member if the Commission accepts their applications.

Paragraph 3(a) of ECLA's terms of reference provides that:

"Membership of the Commission shall be open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America, and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Any territory, or part or group thereof, within the geographic scope of the Commission's work, may on presentation of its application to the Commission by the Member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be eligible for admission by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission."

Since the applications meet the requirements in this provision of the terms of reference, it would be desirable that a decision should be taken on this question at the twelfth session of the Committee of the Whole.

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1/ Antigua )	27 February 1967
Saint Kitts )	
Dominica )	1 March 1967
Saint Lucia )	
Grenada )	3 March 1967