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Latin American Economic Integration

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LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

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LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (LAFTA)

During 1972, LAFTA was called upon to settle several cases in which the Association's Contracting Parties had requested the application of liberalization mechanisms, particularly of saving clauses, on the question of intra-regional trade. As a result, the Conference of LAFTA's Contracting Parties held three special meetings. The Eleventh Special Conference, March 3-8, 1972, authorized the Uruguayan Government to continue the application of some restrictions on imports; the Twelfth Special Conference, which met April 10-11, granted a similar authorization to the Government of Colombia; and the Thirteenth Special Conference, June 27-July 7, also granted a similar authorization to the Government of Paraguay. In December 1972, the Government of Chile also claimed such exceptions; ALAC'S supreme organ will soon have to rule on the matter.

Aside from these difficulties of a transitory nature, the interchange liberalization process continued its normal rate of development during 1972. As a first step to the regular annual conference, the second multi-lateral panel of negotiations was held in August 1972. It is hoped that those negotiations will result in an increase in the interchange during

1973. Also, negotiations are at an advanced stage on several complementation agreements on the following sectoral projects: refrigeration, air conditioning equipment and electrical equipment for household use, petrochemistry, chemical fibers, plastics, canned fruits and vegetables, and wine. Although the countries with a lesser degree of economic development have not participated so far in the negotiations for complementation agreements, it is hoped the situation will be corrected in the near future.

On July 7, 1972, Complementation Agreement No. 19—electronic and electrical communications industrial sector—was signed by Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay. The agreement covers sixty-three products and one hundred and ninety-four important tariff reductions.

The Association has concentrated mainly in holding meetings between the different industrial sectors and groups of experts on the different subjects. During 1972, special emphasis was given to agriculture and related activities. In particular, the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, has initiated a study on the measures that would have to be taken in order to eliminate the importation by Member States of some \$500 million in agricultural and stock-raising products from outside regional boundaries, and acquiring such products within the region, should there exist the possibility to do so. Imports of agricultural and stock-raising products by ALALC countries, from areas outside the regional limits, presently amount to some \$700 million. With this in view, directors of national agricultural procurement and marketing institutions have held several meetings to consider the establishment of a system for the exchange of information.

Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered to insure the liberalization of the interchange between Member States, the results obtained so far are highly satisfactory. Besides the tariff reductions established in ALALC's liberalization program, the Association has succeeded in creating a climate in which businessmen's participation and contacts have been notably strengthened. In many instances, the benefits derived from the effects of this situation cannot be translated into numbers, but the fact remains that through ALALC, and during the last decade, the businessmen of the region have learned to negotiate and to work together. Perhaps this will not result in tariff reductions within ALALC's program, but it must be borne in mind that a very high percentage of intra-Latin American trade is channeled through other mechanisms, especially bilateral ones, which have also been strengthened by the activities of the Association in this area.

SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION AGREEMENT

During the three years that have elapsed since the signing of the Cartagena Agreement, trade within the subregion has shown an increase of 170%, to reach a total of \$160 million annually. This initial increase is rather significant for it covers a period during which all of the Agreement's liberalization mechanisms had not as yet started to function. Therefore, it is to be expected that during the next few years, when the Agreement will be in full operation, the increase will be even greater. However, it is too early to determine as yet what the lasting results of the process will be. This can only be done when the operation of the respective mechanisms shows a steady increase in interchange and diversification thereof.

As an aftermath of the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Relations of member countries of the Agreement, held in Lima June 19-21, 1972, the organs of the Agreement have concentrated their efforts on the transfer of technology and on transportation. As regards the former, the creation of a Council on Scientific and Technological Policy—a recommendation of the Ministers—is being studied. The Council's objective would be to reconcile national policies on research and the transfer of technology and the creation of a technology typical of the member countries. Also, to serve as an advisory body to the Agreement's Board. The creation of such an organ is closely connected with the policy on industrial property and the treatment of foreign capital, something which member countries have been in the process of defining.

Regarding subregional transportation, the Agreement's Board drafted a proposal on the Regulations of Highway International Transportation, on the basis of which the Commission approved Decision 56 intended to facilitate the traffic and transportation of goods. Likewise, the transportation industry has created the Andean Organization for Highway Automotive Transportation. Also at the request of the Ministers, progress has been made in coordinating the policies on air and maritime transportation, and analyzing some infrastructure problems. In this respect, the Andean Development Corporation is considering a special financing policy.

In turn, the Planning Council of the Andean Group, constituted by representatives of national planning organizations, has been busy in devising a strategy for development at the subregional level. The Agreement's Board has drafted the "Bases for the Strategy of Subregional Development," intended to facilitate discussions on the general trend of development and the role of integration, the trend of joint industrial de-

velopment, the approach to an enlarged common market, and the strategy of physical integration, the role of the agricultural and stock-raising sector, the problems of financing and investment, the policy on technology, the policy on foreign trade, human resources and employment, and the preparation of strategic projects.

In this subregional process, the activities of the Andean Development Corporation are becoming more important each day. Recently, credits have been granted to Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, for various industrial and infrastructure projects. Consequently, the organs of the Agreement have established closer ties with Venezuela and negotiations are under way with Argentina, Mexico and countries outside the continental limits.

During its tenth period of ordinary sessions held in Lima, the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement studied a report prepared by technical experts on the setting up of an Andean Court of Justice.

The Court will have three principal functions: to resolve conflicts between member countries, to consider claims growing out of decisions made by agencies of the Group, and to officially interpret steps taken by Group officials.

CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET

After several months of consideration, the Permanent Secretariat of the Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) has transmitted to area governments, an exhaustive study setting forth the bases and proposals for rebuilding and improving the Common Market through the establishment of a Central American Economic Community. The new institutional structure proposed by SIECA would involve a bold juridical step forward which would pave the way for complying with the economic goals leading to the refinement of the integration process.

The proposals, thorough and coherent, cover the following areas: improvement of the free trade zone; establishment of a customs union; common tariffs and tariff policy; policy of agricultural development; policy of physical integration; common foreign trade policy; common policy on direct foreign investments; monetary integration; mobility of persons and capital; social participation in the integration process; financing of regional institutions, and others. The basic document, subject to later developments, has particular importance and it is now up to the governments to submit their observations on its contents.

In principle, the new institutional structure takes as a model the institutions of the European Economic Community. Accordingly, the document foresees the creation of a Commission which would represent the interests of the community; a Council of Ministers through which governmental interests would be voiced; a Court of Justice for the application of the law; consultative institutions and participation in the decisions regarding private interests affected by the process. Because the document is a basic document, it does not specify concretely which would be the exact jurisdictions of the new institutions while waiting for a new treaty of integration to be negotiated which would reflect the experience acquired as a result of the Treaty of 1960 and would represent an institutional and juridical advance over its predecessor. Undoubtedly, the Governments' replies will serve to clarify the nature of the new Central American Economic Community proposed by SIECA.

Meanwhile, it should be pointed out that the document clearly evidences one of the special characteristics of the Central American integration process, i.e., that since it is a question of integration between countries of relative lesser development, it is conceived bearing in mind at all times, a much broader scope of international cooperation.

A systematization of the possible international cooperation which could be offered by international organizations was distributed as a separate document. Undoubtedly, within the framework of inter-American and international cooperation specific programs in the legal area, including legal research and teaching programs will be forthcoming.

Central American Common Market (CACM) developments in 1972 have included the September 1 announcement by Costa Rica at the XII Meeting of the *Comisión Normalizadora* that it would apply the free market exchange rate of C8.60 per US\$1 to all imports of non-essential goods from the other members of the CACM and that it wished specific areas in the structure of the CACM renegotiated. On September 5, the Presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua announced (1) the limitation for 1972 of trade among the three countries to a level 5 per cent higher than in 1971; (2) the temporary suspension of free trade for Costa Rican goods until that country publishes a list of "essential" products; (3) the guarantee of free trade for only those Costa Rican products listed; and (4) the application of retaliatory fiscal measures to all Costa Rican goods not listed as "essential." On September 6, the Government of Costa Rica announced the temporary suspension of trade with the other members of the CACM.

Also during September, a bilateral trade agreement was entered into by Honduras and Nicaragua, and Honduras indicated that it also wished to establish bilateral free trade agreements with Guatemala and Costa Rica. The *Federación de Cámaras de Industriales Centroamericanos*, an organization of businessmen, indicated opposition to this type of trade agreement.

Prior to these developments, the Comisión Normalizadora of the CACM had recommended to the member countries that they adopt the Brussels Nomenclature and a system of ad valorem tariffs, which would be directly proportional to the degree of manufacture of goods, and that all goods traded carry a tag indicating origin.

CARIBBEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (CARIFTA)

Considerable activity is taking place within the Caribbean Free Trade Association. Following are press releases on various important Meetings held in the last half of 1972. Particular attention is invited to the final communiqués issued at Port of Spain after the Seventh Heads of Government Conference in October, 1972. The information which follows has been compiled by the Student Board of the *Lawyer*.

MEETING OF COMPTROLLERS

The Fifth Meeting of Comptrollers of Customs of CARIFTA Countries concluded in Kingston, Jamaica, on August 18, 1972. During the three days of discussions Comptrollers considered various means whereby they could improve and standardize Customs requirements and procedures and bring their systems in line with the developments taking place within CARIFTA. Several suggestions for simplifying the documentary evidence of Area origin required to be furnished by traders were considered, and Comptrollers have undertaken to continue examination of these suggestions within their national administrations. Comptrollers also agreed to examine the provisions of the CARIFTA Agreement on the basis of which eligibility for Area tariff treatment is determined. The Meeting agreed on the need for further study, at the level of national Governments and also within the Regional Secretariat, of a proposal by the Caribbean Shipping Association for the standardisation of forms required to be presented to Customs when ships arrive from foreign ports. The Governments of Antigua, Dominica and Grenada were not represented at this meeting.

MEETING OF EXPERTS

At a Meeting of Customs and Trade Experts and Statisticians which took place on Saturday the 19th August, 1972, in Kingston, Jamaica, agreement was reached on ways of facilitating the reporting of external trade statistics in the proposed CARIFTA Common External Tariff. Delegates expressed full agreement on the desirability and on means of improving co-operation between Customs and Statistical Authorities on matters related to the reporting of overseas trade statistics. The Meeting also strongly urged the need to increase public awareness of the importance of providing accurate information to the national authorities in connection with import/export trade. Antigua, Grenada, Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla did not participate in this meeting.

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FINANCE

A Special Meeting of Ministers of Finance of CARIFTA Countries and the Bahamas took place at the Sheraton Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica on the 22nd and 23 August, 1972. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by a Meeting of Officials and Governors of Central Banks and Managers of Monetary Authorities of the countries of the Region.

The Ministers of Finance discussed many items of vital importance to the economic development of the Region as well as the position to be taken by the Countries of the Region at the forthcoming Commonwealth and International Meetings on Monetary and Financial matters. The Ministers paid special attention to the problems arising from the restrictions recently imposed by the United Kingdom on the outflow of funds to the Overseas Sterling Area Countries; the monetary and financial implications for the Region of the United Kingdom's entry into the EEC; the formulation of a common Regional policy on the Reform of the International Monetary System; the development of monetary, fiscal and financial co-operation among the Countries of the Region; and the adoption of measures (including intra-regional Double Taxation Agreements) to encourage the movement of investment funds between the CARIFTA Countries, especially from the More Developed to the Less Developed Countries. The establishment of Industrial Joint Ventures in the Less Developed Countries by individuals and companies of the More Developed Countries was accepted as a priority objective, and proposals to ensure the early establishment of such Joint Ventures were agreed upon.

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Final Communiqué

The Seventh Heads of Government Conference of Commonwealth Caribbean Countries has agreed that the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) will become a Common Market on 1st May, 1973, the fifth Anniversary of CARIFTA.

The Conference was described by delegates in closing speeches as the most important, historic and epoch-making to be held in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The Conference agreed in principle to the formation of a Caribbean Community (embracing the Caribbean Common Market, foreign policy co-ordination and several areas of functional co-operation) and in furtherance of this goal has appointed a Committee of Attorneys-General of all Member Territories of CARIFTA and Bahamas to examine the legal implications of establishing the Community and prepare a Draft Treaty.

A third major advance in Caribbean economic integration was the adoption of a wide-ranging package of measures to promote the economic development of the Less Developed Countries of CARIFTA, particularly in relation to industrial development.

These are three of the many far-reaching decisions taken by the Heads of Government Conference which met in a week-long session from Monday, 9th October to Saturday 14th October, 1972, at the Convention Centre, Chaguaramas, under the Chairmanship of Dr. the Rt. Hon. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the host country.

With the adoption of proposals for the Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives, the introduction of a Common External Tariff and a Common Protective Policy for the Region, Measures for the Location of Industries in the Less Developed Countries of CARIFTA, the Rationalisation of Agriculture and for greater Financial and Monetary Co-operation, the Conference has taken decisive action to deepen the regional integration movement thereby converting the present Free Trade Area into a Caribbean Common Market.

The Conference issued two declarations:

- (a) relating to the role of the English-speaking Caribbean countries in the Inter-American System; and

- (b) the state of the relations of the four independent countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean with the Government of Cuba, and the obligations which the Organization of American States sought to impose upon its members in regard to relations with the Cuban Government.

The four independent countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean will seek early establishment of relations with Cuba, and to this end will act together on the basis of agreed approaches.

The second declaration dealt with the exclusion of certain Commonwealth Caribbean countries from the Inter-American System and the adverse effect of such exclusion on the economic and social development of these countries and their aspirations to economic independence.

In this regard the four independent Commonwealth Caribbean countries pledge themselves to adopt all necessary measures in order to bring this exclusion to an end.

The Position of the Less Developed Territories

The Heads of Government took a number of important decisions designed to improve the position of the less developed countries within the regional integration movement.

Among the measures adopted were a series of amendments to the CARIFTA Agreement aimed at strengthening the trading position of the less developed countries within CARIFTA and at accelerating their economic industrial development by enabling them to take greater advantage of their combined markets as a base for the establishment of industries.

In addition to these amendments, the Conference accepted certain proposals made in the Report of the Task Force on Industrial Location in the less developed countries which was set up by the Council of Ministers at their Tenth Meeting held in Dominica in July last. The proposals included the establishment of a Caribbean Multinational Investment Company, an Export Credit Insurance Scheme to be operated by the Caribbean Development Bank, the provision of technical assistance by the public and private sectors of the more developed countries of CARIFTA to the LDC's and the use by the LDC's of industrial and technical research facilities available in the more developed territories.

The Investment Company which has been conceived as a key instrument in the industrial location strategy of the less developed countries is expected to be financed both by the public and the private sectors in the Region. Contributions are to be made by the four more developed CARIFTA countries and it is hoped that the major foreign owned firms, banks and insurance companies operating in the region as well as private investors in the more developed and the less developed countries will contribute to its resources. The Company will participate in the equity of industrial ventures in the less developed countries. The CARIFTA Secretariat has been mandated by the Conference to take urgent steps towards the earliest possible establishment of the Company.

The Export Credit Insurance Scheme to be operated by the Caribbean Development Bank will play a crucial role in export promotion by providing the manufacturers and exporters of the LDC's with export credit thus facilitating the development of their industrial exports.

University of the West Indies

The Conference adopted a Resolution dealing with several aspects of the future role, character and functions of the University of the West Indies.

It was agreed to retain the regional character of the University.

Recognising the importance of Tourism in the Region, Conference took a decision to initiate steps for the University to provide training in Tourism and Hotel Management in its expansion programme in the present triennium. In the siting of the new training facilities, it was felt that serious consideration should be given to a non-campus territory.

Immediate training programmes should be undertaken by the University to assist in the training of hotel personnel at various levels in existing hotel schools in the Region.

In order to determine the basis for the expansion of the University a Technical Committee consisting of representatives of the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana was appointed to assess the requirements for training manpower at the professional, administrative, managerial and sub-professional levels in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The report of this Committee should be completed before the beginning of the 1973/74 Academic Year for submission to Heads of Governments.

Subject to the approval of the University Council a programme of expansion in the priority areas of medicine, engineering (including Agricultural engineering), Tourism and Hotel Management, and Business Management was agreed upon. In addition, Conference also resolved that efforts be made to accelerate the introduction of training programmes in the fields of Journalism and Mass Communications.

It was also agreed that the existing entry requirements should be maintained.

A new formula for contribution to the University was also approved by Conference.

With regard to the relationship between the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana it was resolved that the two Universities should continue and intensify their programmes of co-operation particularly in the fields of scientific and technological research.

The Conference by resolution reaffirmed its confidence in the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies and directed that its expression of confidence be conveyed to him.

Deepening of Regional Economic Integration

In furtherance of the objective of deepening the CARIFTA movement, the Heads of Government also adopted a resolution on the deepening of economic integration which called for the drawing up of a broad long-term regional perspective plan based on an identification of regional natural resources and on long-term projections of direct and indirect demand for agricultural, industrial and mineral products and tourism in the Region and paying special attention to the opportunities for development in the Less Developed Countries. The resolution also calls for continuing contact among National Planning Agencies, consultation in drawing up national plans and the immediate establishment of a Standing Committee of Officials in charge of National Planning Agencies.

Conference also agreed that steps should be taken to integrate production within the Region by creating linkages between such activities in the various Territories of the Region.

A Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for mining was established and proposals adopted for the exchange of information on natural resources with a view to the development of joint projects for fuller utilisation of the natural resources of the Region.

Widening of CARIFTA

Conference considered the question of the widening of CARIFTA and decided that the immediate priority was the improvement of the position of the Less Developed Territories within CARIFTA. Conference further agreed that an in depth study should be undertaken of the possibilities of extending the integration movement to include all the Caribbean islands and Surinam.

Relations with the European Economic Community

The Heads of Government reaffirmed previous decisions of the CARIFTA Council that CARIFTA Countries should seek as a group a single form of relationship with the European Economic Community. The Conference agreed on the content of the relations and defined a strategy for negotiations with the Community.

Foreign Policy

The Conference agreed that a Standing Committee of Ministers to deal with matters of common interest in Foreign Policy be established. All thirteen countries participating in the Heads of Government Conference will take part in the Committee.

It was also decided to refer the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries at Georgetown in August 1972 to the CARIFTA Council of Ministers with directions that the Council take account of it in the formulation of regional programmes of economic co-operation and of programmes for co-operation between Commonwealth Caribbean countries and other developing States.

In doing this, the Conference agreed that if a Commonwealth Caribbean country is identified as one of the four regional States to be entrusted with responsibility for the implementation of the Programme the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat be mandated to co-operate with the country so identified in the discharge of the functional aspects of that responsibility.

The Conference supported the proposal by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, made in the Twenty-seventh Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 2, 1972, to the effect that Jamaica be

host to a Conference in 1973 to consider the establishment by developing countries of a fund for joint investment in their own development.

Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives

Agreement was reached on a Scheme for the Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives to Industry with special facilities for the LDC's, with a view to its implementation by 1st May, 1973, subject to the resolution of certain technical issues by the CARIFTA Council of Ministers at its next meeting later this year.

The Common External Tariff

The Heads of Governments agreed on proposals for the implementation of a CARIFTA Common External Tariff by May 1, 1973, with special provisions for the ECCM Territories which have already introduced or are in the process of introducing a Common Tariff among themselves.

Fiscal, Financial and Monetary Co-operation

On the question of Fiscal, Financial and Monetary Co-operation, the Conference took important decisions with respect to the negotiation of double taxation agreements. As a framework for the negotiations of such agreements between individual CARIFTA countries and developed metropolitan countries, Conference accepted the report of the Joint Consultative Committee on Double Taxation set up by the Sixth Heads of Government Conference in 1970. A Draft Treaty on Intra-Regional Double Taxation (with tax-sparing provisions) was also adopted as a basis for negotiating such relationships between CARIFTA Countries.

The Conference agreed that steps should be taken to strengthen the provisions of the CARIFTA Agreement dealing with Fiscal, Monetary and Financial Co-operation and that there should be continuing consultations and the fullest possible exchange of information among Ministers of Finance, Central Banks and Monetary Authorities. In furtherance of this objective, Conference approved the establishment of a Standing Committee of Ministers of Finance of CARIFTA Countries and the Bahamas as a permanent institution of regional economic co-operation.

The view of the August 1972 Ministers of Finance Meeting that the Currency Boards of the Eastern Caribbean and Belize should be up-graded

was endorsed by the Conference which also agreed that the Central Banks of the independent countries should provide technical assistance to these Authorities.

Conference also endorsed the recommendation of the 1972 Finance Ministers Meeting that a greater intra-regional flow of public, institutional and private funds particularly insofar as establishment of joint industrial ventures in the LDC's was concerned should be encouraged.

The question of representation in international economic forums was considered and Conference agreed that CARIFTA Countries should co-ordinate their positions and presentations on these occasions and should in certain cases consult among themselves with a view to agreeing on a single spokesman for the countries concerned.

Agriculture

The subject of agricultural rationalisation which has been engaging the attention of the CARIFTA Council since 1968 was also considered by the Conference and a decision taken to put the programme on a firmer and a more comprehensive basis by the introduction of certain concrete measures as a matter of urgency. This programme is of great importance to the less developed territories which depend predominantly on agriculture as a source of employment and foreign exchange. In this connection the Heads of Government endorsed a recommendation of the CARIFTA Council of Ministers for the establishment of a Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture to give overall guidance to the agricultural rationalisation programme. Also endorsed was Council's decision that there should be regular meetings of Agricultural Planners of the Region to co-ordinate national efforts in national development.

Movement of West Indian Nationals within the Region

Recognising that the promotion of travel of West Indians within the Commonwealth Caribbean Region will serve to foster increased understanding the Conference decided to entrust to a Committee of Ministers, the examination at an early date, of arrangements for facilitating the travel of citizens of Commonwealth Caribbean countries between such countries.

Civil Aviation

With respect to Civil Aviation matters, the Conference agreed that Commonwealth Caribbean Governments would:

1. establish immediately a Standing Committee to examine the air fare and rate proposals of airlines operating to and from Caribbean points and to make recommendations to the Governments concerned as to whether these proposals should or should not be approved;
2. seek joint Commonwealth Caribbean representation on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Law of the Sea

The Conference adopted a resolution on the question of the Law of the Sea, which recognised the importance of this subject to the Caribbean States. The resolution contained proposals for follow-up action to be taken in preparation for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, at which it is hoped that there will be a common approach by CARIFTA states, in the interest of all the States of the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Health

The Conference formally recognised the Caribbean Health Ministers Conference as the body responsible for promoting and implementing programmes of Regional co-operation in Health matters, and approved the establishment of a Regional Nursing Body which will be concerned with the raising of the standard of Nursing Education in the Region as well as other aspects of nursing training.

Co-operation in Education

The Conference approved the establishment of a Standing Conference of Ministers of Education of Commonwealth Caribbean Countries to review, on a biennial basis, the progress in regional co-operation in education and to plan new strategies and programmes.

Progress on the establishment of a Caribbean Examinations Council was also reviewed by the Conference.

Agreement was reached on the basis for contribution by the participating countries to the financing of the two Law Schools to be set up by the Council of Legal Education, in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Supplemental Agreement pertaining to the Council of Legal Education, effected certain changes to the Principal Agreement establishing the Council of Legal Education, which were agreed upon by the participating Governments at the Inaugural Meeting of the Council of Legal Education which took place in Barbados last year.

Regional Agreements

The Heads of Government Conference took time off to obtain signatures to the following regional Agreements:

The Public Service Memorandum of Understanding, and

The Supplemental Agreement pertaining to the Council of Legal Education.

All these important regional agreements are now effectually in force.

Cultural Co-operation

The Conference considered proposals from the Caribbean Writers and Creative and Performing Artistes for the institutionalisation of the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts as the mechanism for developing closer cultural links throughout the Region.

It was agreed that the Festival be held on a triennial basis.

The Government of Jamaica offered to host the next Festival.

The Conference also agreed to the setting up of a Cultural Desk in the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat to co-ordinate co-operation in cultural matters in the Region.

Greater Involvement of Women in Caribbean Affairs

The Conference adopted a resolution for the greater involvement of women in Caribbean Affairs and directed the Regional Secretariat to pursue an in-depth study on the position of women in the Commonwealth Caribbean with a view to the removal of any existing discrimination.

Labour

The Conference agreed to the establishment of a Standing Committee of Ministers of Labour of the Commonwealth Caribbean which would

meet as the occasion demands to map out areas of regional co-operation in Labour Administration and several security measures.

It was also approved that a Labour Administration Desk be created within the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat to service this Committee.

Mass Communications

The Conference noted the work already accomplished by the Inter-Governmental Working Party on Mass Communications established in 1970 and recommended that this Working Party should remain in existence and its mandate broadened to pursue certain short-term measures aimed at correcting the imbalance of Communications prevalent in the Communities. It was also recommended that the Regional Secretariat should examine with UNESCO the possibility of establishment of a pilot project in the Region:

- (a) to demonstrate the use of mobile television equipment in producing television programmes more relevant to the life of the Communities; and
- (b) to organise the Regional production of Programmes.

The Conference in winding-up its one-week deliberations paid glowing tribute to the Chairman for his brilliant guidance of the Conference and one speaker—the Prime Minister of Jamaica—described him as “the great statesman of the Third World.”

Delegates also paid warm tribute to the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat for his devotion and dedication to duty. Tribute was also paid to Mr. Alistair McIntyre, Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research for his contribution to the cause of regional integration.

It was agreed that the next Heads of Governments Conference would be held in Guyana early next year.

ATTORNEYS-GENERAL MEETING

The Third Meeting of Attorneys-General of the Commonwealth Caribbean was held in Georgetown at the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat on the 22nd and 23rd November, 1972. The Meeting was

attended by representatives of the following territories: Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago.

The main subject considered by the Meeting was a draft of a Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, including a Caribbean Common Market. It will be recalled that the Seventh Heads of Government Conference held in Trinidad and Tobago in October resolved, among other things, that the Attorneys-General of the region should discuss the legal implications of establishing a Caribbean Community, including a Caribbean Common Market, and draft a treaty establishing such a Community.

After a general discussion on the structure and legal implications of the draft, the Attorneys-General decided that the detailed consideration and revision of the draft should be entrusted to a Working Party on which all Commonwealth Caribbean territories would be represented and which would include both legal and economic experts identified by Governments.

The Attorneys-General also decided on and formulated the guidelines which would inform the work of the Working Party. It was agreed that the Treaty should be primarily concerned with the establishment of the Common Market by 1st May, 1973, using the CARIFTA Agreement as its point of advance and modifying it in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Heads of Government Conference, particularly the Seventh, and decisions of the CARIFTA Council.

The Attorneys-General also considered developments in a number of other matters now under consideration. These included:

- (a) Developments in relation to Law of the Sea.
- (b) Progress re the establishment of a Caribbean Court of Appeal.
- (c) Consideration of the feasibility of the simplification of the formalities governing the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments and awards.
- (d) Consideration of the feasibility of a long-term programme for harmonisation, approximation and unification of appropriate regional laws.
- (e) Matters likely to engage the attention of the Conference of Commonwealth Law Ministers and Attorneys-General due to be held in London in mid-January, 1973.