

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the Commonwealth Youth Programme is to assist in harnessing the resources constituted by the youth in the several member states of the Commonwealth. In most cases the active participation of the youth is crucial to the kind and scope of development desired. However, throughout the developing countries of the Commonwealth there is a high incidence of unemployment and under-employment - especially among the youth, many of whom, already suffering the debilitating effects of genuine poverty, are further enervated by the hopelessness engendered by the unemployment situation around them.

Yet, the situation cannot be improved unless there is hope - as well as faith in the practicability of purposeful release of the vast potential which resides in the under-utilised manpower which abounds in the developing countries.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is, therefore, organising - through the Commonwealth Youth Programme - a series of symposia on Employment Strategies and Programmes to be held in different regions of the Commonwealth.

The first of the series dealt with the Caribbean, and was held in Barbados from September 29 to October 10, 1975.

The report on that Symposium is presented here, with the hope that the commitment and optimism which pervaded the discussions are perceptibly reflected in the following pages. For the convenience of readers - especially those who are not of the Caribbean, as well as others not particularly familiar with recent and contemporary Caribbean affairs - a glossary is included at this stage, before the beginning of the report proper. It contains only those terms or designations that are specific to the Commonwealth Caribbean and which appear without elaboration in the text of this report. Annotations are added where they contribute to the perspective within which reference is made in the report to the particular term.

CARICOM The Caribbean Community.
- Includes a Common Market. Formed in April 1973 by all but two (Antigua and Montserrat) members of CARIFTA.

- CARIFTA The Caribbean Free Trade Association.
 - Instituted in May 1968, comprising Antigua, Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad & Tobago. Later embraced also Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent (July 1, 1968); Jamaica and Montserrat (August 1, 1968); and Belize (1971).
 - Except for Belize and Guyana (Central and South America respectively) all were members of the West Indies Federation (1958-62).
- ECCM East Caribbean Common Market.
 - Formed in 1968 by the "Little Seven" (Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent) just before they joined CARIFTA.
- ISER The Institute of Social and Economic Research (U.W.I.).
- LIAT Leeward Islands Air Transport.
 - The "Leeward Islands" comprise Antigua, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.
 - The "Windwards Islands" comprise Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.
 - LIAT was previously a subsidiary of BWIA (British West Indian Airways) but became an independent air-line after BWIA was bought by Trinidad & Tobago and made its national air-carrier, retaining the original designation (BWIA).
- U.W.I. The University of the West Indies.
- WISCO West Indies Shipping Corporation.
 - Formed during the West Indies Federation (1958-1962). The University (U.W.I.) and WISCO were the two major ones among the common services which the Common Services Conference (1962) decided to maintain after the dissolution of the Federation. Other common services have subsequently been instituted.