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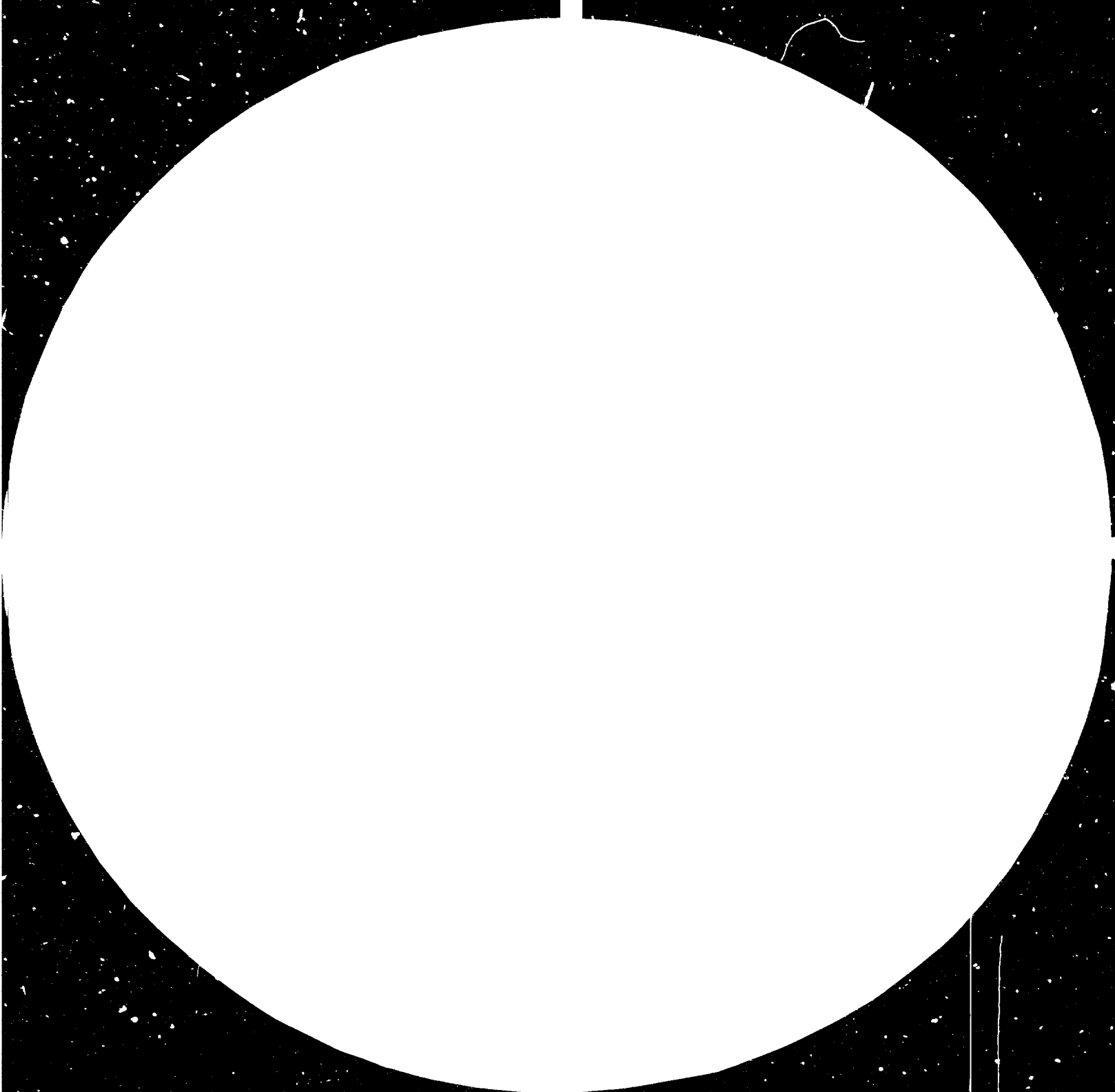
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Mission Report

Joint CIDA/UNIDO Mission to Identify Needs for Development of Standards  
Infrastructures in LEC Caribbean Territories

9 - 24 July 1981

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1. INTRODUCTION

This mission was fielded at extremely short notice. Its objectives were to identify the immediate needs of the least developed Caribbean territories for the development of infrastructures in the sphere of standardization and metrology and prepare a draft project proposal reflecting these needs. The mission was also expected to collaborate with the CIDA consultant to formulate a joint plan of action for implementation of assistance.

2. BACKGROUND

At its inaugural meeting in May 1976, the Caribbean Common Market Standards Council (CCMSC) pledged to assist in the development of national standards in those member territories of the region which were yet to establish such organizations. This Council has fully recognised the need for application of standardization principles in world trade and the introduction of the new GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade has revealed the urgency for organized development of standardization and metrological matters in the least developed territories.

The Eleventh Meeting of the CCMSC Executive Committee in 1980 noted the slow progress in standardization in the LDC's and it was considered that the presence of an expert in the region had become necessary. It was also considered that with many of the LDC's going or already independent and with the establishment of UNDP and UNIDO offices in Barbados for the Eastern Caribbean it was opportune to approach these organizations for assistance to develop standards infrastructures in the LDC's and if necessary Guyana. A formal request was made to UNIDO, through correspondence dated 12 December 1980 from the Chairman of the CCMSC, for a survey mission to assess and identify the type of assistance required by these territories. In correspondence dated 15 January 1981, the Chairman of the Council further indicated that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) had recently allocated some funds for an identification mission in the same field, to be carried out by a Canadian expert. He therefore requested that UNIDO give consideration to a joint CIDA/UNIDO mission for the development of a joint programme of assistance to these territories.

This mission which commenced on 9 July 1981 was financed by the project DP/CAR/73/001.

### 3. CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

Under the Canada/CARICOM Agreement on Industrial Co-operation established in 1978, a representative of the Canadian Government was invited to attend the Fourth CCMSC Annual General Meeting in September 1980 to obtain a preliminary overview of standardization assistance needs of the region. Following this, and continued negotiations with the High Commission for Canada in Georgetown, Guyana, Canada agreed in principle to grant the sum of CAN\$100,000 for assisting standardization development in the Region. Additionally, a sum of CAN\$10,000 had also been granted for a Canadian mission to the Region to undertake a more detailed assessment of the needs. This mission was carried out by Mr. R.P. Preston, Canadian Standards and Metric Consultant. His mission commenced on 7 July 1981.

### 4. THE MEETING

A meeting was held at the Barbados National Standards Institution on 7 July 1981. This brought together top officials of the CCMSC and ECCM involved in standardization and metrology affairs at a Regional level. The UNIDO representative was unable to arrive in time to attend this meeting, owing to the short notice given. However, UNIDO was represented by Ms. M. Miyanabe, JPO, Barbados. Others present were:

Mr. Preston - Canadian Consultant (Preston and Associates)  
Ms. L Lawrence - Guyana Representative  
Mr. D. Sylvester - ECCM Secretariat Representative  
Mr. T. Hamilton - CARICOM Secretariat Representative  
Mr. D. Rhynd - Chairman, CARICOM Standards Council

This meeting decided that the scope of assistance will concentrate on:

- Organizational Development for standards
- Industrial level standards
- Consumer level standards
- Metric conversion
- Training and information programmes
- Provision of certain hardwares to Guyana

#### 4.1 Organizational Development for Standards

Taking into account the sizes of the countries, the type and structures of the economies, the following should be recommended:

- the appropriate organizational structure
- the job content for standards personnel
- the weighing of the jobs against other professionals
- the commensurable remunerations package

#### 4.2 Industrial Level Standards

After examination of the pattern of development in the Region and the structure and types of economies the project should identify the core sectors/commodities and focus on them for promoting the development of standards.

#### 4.3 Consumer Level Standards

The project should also prepare a consumer awareness programme with special emphasis on safety, health and value for money.

#### 4.4 Metric Conversion

The areas recommended here for special focus are:

- identification of hardware needs
- design and layout for running a metric programme
- working standards into metrication
- programming sectors and shifting them to metric.

#### 4.5 Training and Information

The priority area will be in metrology, trade and commerce and the recommended approach is on-the-job training supported by short classroom-type sessions. It was recommended that the on-the-job training should be carried out in one of the MDC's standards facilities.

The preparation of training courses for institutions of higher learning was also identified as an urgent training need. It was agreed that the Canadian Consultant in collaboration with UNIDO should examine the possibility. It was pointed out that this could be one area where UNIDO could give direct assistance.

#### 4.6 Hardware for Guyana

It was pointed out that Guyana although not as advanced as the MDC territories had already develop some infrastructural designs for operation. This country was now at the stage where it requires specific hardware for testing of fluid flow, accoustics, hardness, vibration, pressure, angles and force. The group readily recognized that the small CIDA funded budget may not be enough for even the identification activities. It was therefore agreed that the purchase of hardware from the budget should get the lowest priority.

### 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MISSION

The first meeting of the mission was held with Mr. Dudley Rhynd Chairman of the CCMSC. During this meeting, the objectives of the CCMSC were outlined and the problems identified by the meeting of 7 July (see point 4) were basic requirements of the region and the strategy for the successful implementation of the mission between CIDA/UNIDO was planned. This was followed by a series of meetings on consecutive days in which the following persons participated:

Mr. R. Preston - CIDA consultant  
Mr. D. Rhynd - Chairman, CCMSC  
Ms. E. Taitt - UNIDO



The conveynor of these meetings was Mr. Rhynd. Mr. Rhynd outlined in detail the future development directions of the least developed Caribbean territories in the fields of standardization and metrology activities. Bearing this in mind, the basic requirements of the LDC's were itemized. These were:

- a) assistance in the development of organizational and planning strategies within each territory to develop and strengthen the standardization units to be established;
- b) strengthening the contribution and participation of the LDC's in policy and technical work within the region;
- c) training courses to be convened within the region in the area of metrology;
- d) assistance in the metric change-over in the LDC territories;
- e) provision of the necessary hardware to assist in the implementation of standardization and metrological activities within the Region.

To aid in this programme of assistance, it was pointed out that there already existed some expertise within the standards organizations of the more developed territories Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados. Mr. Rhynd informed that these organizations had also declared their willingness to avail their testing facilities to the LDC's and also they were ready to assist with the training component. In addition there was identified the need for a Technical Adviser to be based at the standards desk of the CARICOM Secretariat. The basic duties of this adviser would be to travel to the individual territories and advise on implementation aspects, problems arising as well as to assist the individual Governments in the formulation of any legal documentation which may be necessary for the implementation of its schemes. Also arising out of the discussions was the necessity for consultancy services to assist the territories at appropriate times in specific fields e.g. quality control, certification marking, legal and industrial metrology, etc.

With regard to the training aspects of the programme, it was considered that the funds donated by CIDA (CAN\$100,000) could be effectively utilized for public relations services (e.g. production of public awareness brochures, pamphlets, literature, etc.). expertise training both local and overseas as well as the organization of a

programme/seminar in metrology. Expenses of travel and per diem for this seminar would be borne completely by the CIDA budget and Jamaica was indicated as its possible location. Further planning of this would be necessary.

On the basis of the previous discussions a draft project proposal totalling UNIDO inputs of US\$500,000 and needs as identified and the inputs as proposed by each organization, was prepared and presented by the UNIDO participant. This draft proposal, was discussed at the final meeting and agreed to by all parties present. At the final meeting, it was also proposed that travel to the individual territories to further investigate individual needs would be necessary. The CIDA consultant indicated his availability to carry out this task at end-September. The territories to be visited were listed as: Antigua, Belize, Grenada, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Guyana.

During the mission, meetings were also held with the Resident Representative Mr. Gordon-Somers, the SIDFA, Mr. B. Millager, the JPO, Ms. Miyanabe, and the Administrative officer, Ms. Margo Singh. The draft project proposal was presented and discussed and possible sources of funding were looked at. It was pointed out by the Resident Representative's Office that this project was not currently included within the IPF for the coming cycle and available funds under this source were very low. Possibility of obtaining some funds for a consultant from an on-going project DP/CAR/73/001 was also considered but acquiring funding from this sources seemed unlikely. It was concurred that travel to Guyana to the CARICOM Secretariat to meet the officials in the standards unit would be advantageous. Also it was suggested that the Guyana representative Ms. Lawrence should also be met to discuss possibility of a separate project for Guyana, since this country was not classified under the list of Caribbean LDC'S.

A one-day mission to Guyana followed during which a meeting was held at the CARICOM Secretariat. This meeting was attended by the following persons:

Mr. Byron Blake - Director, Sectorial Policy and Planning  
Mr. Trevor Hamilton - Chief Industry Section  
Mr. Studley Elms - Engineer II, Industry Section  
Ms. Lorna Lawrence - Senior Scientific Officer Standards  
National Science Research Council  
Ms. E. Taitt - UNIDO

A draft project proposal was presented and discussed. The financial constraints were outlined to the CARICOM officials and given those constraints the following minimum requests were made for assistance:

- a) a trained information specialist for 11m/m
- b) a specialist in organization and development of standards infrastructures for 11 m/m
- c) expert in curriculum development for 4 m/m
- d) basic training and educational programmes as already outlined (18/27 m/m)
- e) equipment/hardware in area of metrology valued at 20% of the total budget.

The total financial requirements were estimated at US\$250,000/US\$300,000. It was indicated that expertise in categories (a) and (b) should be recruited from within the region (locally hired experts). The CARICOM Secretariat was also advised by the UNIDO representative that bearing in mind the importance of this project to trade within the region an approach should be made to the individual government for a possible increase in IPF contributions to facilitate the financing of the project.

The final decision in the project therefore now depends on the priority accorded to it during the final discussions between the CARICOM Secretariat and the individual Government authorities.

The representative from Guyana was also approached on the formulation of an individual project for Guyana. It was her strong opinion that such a small component as equipment/hardware would not be given priority within the coming Country Programme for Guyana and therefore preferred to be included within the Regional Project. This raised no objections from the CARICOM officials.

Acknowledgements

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