

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

“Service within and beyond our borders”

Annual Report 1998

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to promote and defend worldwide the interest of Guyana as follows:

- (a) the preservation of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Guyana;
- (b) the promotion of the economic and social development of Guyana through financial and technical assistance;
- (c) the promotion of trade;
- (d) extending assistance to Guyanese in Guyana and abroad;
- (e) the maintenance of friendly relations between Guyana and the nations of the world;
- (f) ensuring that Guyana's interests are made known and understood at all levels of international affairs;
- (g) the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report presents an overview of the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the period January to December 1998. It highlights the activities that were undertaken by the Economic Affairs Department, the Department of the Americas and Asia, the Multilateral and Global Affairs Department, the Administration and Finance Departments and the Protocol and Consular Divisions. The Major activities of Guyana's eleven overseas diplomatic missions over the one-year period are also included in this Report.

1998 was a year characterized by significant efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to maintain friendly relations with neighbouring countries, strengthen bilateral linkages with bilateral partners, confront the challenges in the field of external negotiations and further participation of Guyana in regional and multilateral fora. The Ministry also made a significant stride towards enhancing the capacity of its new diplomats with the realization of the establishment of the receipt of a generous donation from the Government of China and support from the United Nations Development Programme.

Other achievements for the year were two State Visits by H.E. President Janet Jagan to Venezuela and Suriname in July and October respectively. Arising out of the President's visit to Venezuela, the two countries established a High-Level Bilateral Commission intended to promote cooperation between the two sides in a number of areas. During President Jagan's State Visit to Suriname the long-awaited Guyana-Suriname Ferry Service was finally inaugurated. There was no high level visit with Brazil, but H.E. Dr. Joao Alberto Rodrigues Capiberibe, the Governor of the State of Amapa, in Brazil paid an official visit to Guyana during this year.

Bilateral economic relations with Latin America proceeded at a moderate rate over the course of the year. Highlights included the review of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission in November during which an Agreement for Cooperation between the Export Promotion Agencies and an Agreement for Cooperation in Sports between the two countries were signed. Additionally, the Ministry in collaboration with the Cuban Embassy, the Caricom Secretariat and the Caribbean Export Development Agency hosted a Caribbean-Cuba Trade and Investment Symposium in November. That initiative was indicative of the lead role Guyana has traditionally taken in supporting the integration of Cuba into the Caribbean Community of

nations. Activities were also undertaken or initiated with Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela. Similarly, bilateral Economic relations with Asia were satisfactory with a number of training opportunities being extended to Guyana by China and Japan. Significant levels of Grant Aid were also received.

Economic relations with the Caribbean were, on the other hand less dynamic than anticipated. The major achievement for the year was the commencement of negotiations with the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the two countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also continued its monitoring role in respect of intellectual property rights, regional economic organizations and United Nations organizations operating in Guyana. The Ministry also continued facilitate the arrival of volunteers from the Peace Corps, VSO and to procure technical skills through the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Another achievement for the year 1998 was the establishment of the National Advisory Committee on External Negotiation (NACEN). This Committee was established during the year to facilitate national input into the regional negotiation machinery process set up by the Heads of Government of CARICOM to coordinate the region's involvement in external trade negotiations namely the successor arrangement to Lome IV, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the World Trade Organisation.

Overseas bilateral diplomatic missions pursued a vigorous programme of activities to promote Guyana's economic diplomacy drive. There were consistent efforts to facilitate investment, tourism and procure new markets. At the United Nations the highpoint of the mission's agenda for 1998 was the first visit as President of the Republic of Her Excellency Mrs. Janet Jagan O.E. who addressed the fifty-third General Assembly. Additionally, Guyana was elected by acclamation at the Twenty-second Annual Ministerial Meeting to the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for a one-year term. Guyana was also elected in May of 1998 to membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a three-year term. Guyana was also re-elected to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

1998 was a year of consistent effort at headquarters in Georgetown and by diplomatic

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missions overseas to fulfill the goals for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as outlined in its Mission Statement.

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAS AND ASIA

Review of Performance of the Department for 1998

Venezuela

H.E. President Janet Jagan paid an official visit to Venezuela from July 21 to 23, 1998, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Venezuela, Dr. Rafael Caldera.

During this visit, a High Level Bilateral Commission was established to monitor the work of Sub-Committees in the following areas:-

- Political Consultation
- Environment
- Trade and Economic Cooperation
- Culture
- Health
- Agriculture, Livestock and Agro-Industry
- Transportation
- Consular Matters

In September 1998, a Guyana/Venezuela meeting between the Ministries of Health was convened.

In October 1998, officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guyana and Venezuela met to consult and finalise the Terms of Reference and a Work Programme for the High Level Bilateral Commission.

Brazil

A one day Technical Meeting of the Guyana/Brazil Joint Border Commission was held in Bonfim on June 10.

An extraordinary Meeting of the Guyana/Brazil Joint Border Commission was held in Belem, Brazil, February 9-11, 1998.

Consultations were carried out with the relevant authorities in Guyana and Brazil towards the conclusion of a Visa Abolition Agreement for holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports.

Meetings were held with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Guyana Police Force to discuss the formulation of a draft Agreement for Cooperation between the Guyana Police Force and the Federal Police of Brazil.

HE Dr. Joao Alberto Rodrigues Capiberibe, Governor of the State of Amapa, visited Guyana from April 2-3.

Consultations were held on a draft text for an Agreement on the Performance of Remunerated Activities by Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative and Technical staff.

Suriname

HE President Janet Jagan paid an official visit to Suriname from October 30-31.

Canada

The Honourable David Kilgour, Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, paid official visits to Guyana in May and November.

Consultations were held with the relevant authorities in Guyana and Canada with a view to concluding a Partnership Programme between Ottawa and Georgetown.

Colombia

Consultations were held with the Ministry of Local Government, the Mayor of Georgetown and the Colombian Embassy with respect to the proposal put forward by the Colombian Ambassador for the twinning of Cartagena and Georgetown.

Rio Group

Guyana, as CARICOM's representative on the Rio Group, participated in various Meetings including Meetings of the National Coordinators and Meeting of Foreign Ministers. HE President Janet Jagan attended the XII Summit of Heads of State and Government which was held in Panama in September.

Guyana also participated in the meetings of the Steering and Thematic Committees in preparation for the European Union/Latin America and Caribbean Summit.

Guyana as the Caribbean's representative was a member of the Steering Committee.

In keeping with Guyana's role as CARICOM's representative on the Rio Group, a report was presented to the First Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) on Guyana's representation of CARICOM in the Rio Group for the period July 1997 - April 1998.

Cuba

Discussions were held with the Ambassador of Cuba to discuss implementation of the Guyana/ Cuba Drug Agreement.

CARICOM/US Consultations on Cuba

Preparations were made for Guyana's attendance at a meeting of senior officials of CARICOM and the US. This Meeting was postponed to early 1999.

Haiti

Inter-agency consultations were held in preparation for the First and Second Meetings of the Technical Working Group to discuss Haiti's accession to membership of CARICOM. Guyana was represented at both Meetings.

CARICOM

In preparation for the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, Guyana participated in meetings of the Inter-Governmental Task Force to amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas and an officials meeting on Free Movement.

Preparations were made for ratification of Protocol II and signature of Protocols III and V.

The following activities were carried out aimed at the establishment of the Permanent Headquarters building for the CARICOM Secretariat. Preparations were made for the turning of the sod ceremony. Meetings of the Joint Implementation Agency (Government/GUYSUCO) were held to discuss Construction plans for the Headquarters.

A Cabinet Memorandum was submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting approval for NIS funds to be invested in construction of the building.

A meeting of the National Committee was held in observance of the 25th Anniversary of CARICOM.

The Department was involved in preparation for Guyana's participation at meetings of the following organs:

- Heads of Government (Inter-sessional and Regular Meetings)
- Community Council
- Council for Foreign and Community Relations
- Council for Trade and Economic Development

Guyana was also represented at the following:

- Meeting of High Level Technical Officials for the IV CARICOM/Central America Ministerial Meeting, El Salvador.
- Sixth CARICOM/Japan Consultations (Co-chaired by Guyana on behalf of CARICOM).
- Fifth Meeting of CARICOM/Cuba Joint Commission

The Department was involved in preparations for the following meetings:-

- Meeting between Caribbean Foreign Ministers and the US Secretary of State
- Caribbean/UK Forum
- Caribbean/Cuba Trade and Investment Symposium, hosted by Guyana

In an effort to improve the effectiveness of Guyana's involvement in the Caribbean Community, as Ministry responsible for CARICOM Affairs, efforts were made to liaise and coordinate positions with other subject Ministries/Agencies.

Association of Caribbean States

The Department liaised with subject Ministries towards Guyana's participation in Meetings of Special Committees and Technical Working Groups of the Association of Caribbean States.

Preparations were made for Guyana's participation in the II Inter-sessional Meeting of the ACS.

Guyana was represented at the IV Meeting of the Ministerial Council.

Organisation of American States

In 1998, the National Committee was launched to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the OAS. Several meetings were held to discuss the programme of events which included an OAS 50th Street Fair, OAS 50th Media Workshop and Commemorative Stamps.

The OAS Secretary General paid an official visit to Guyana.

Discussions were held with relevant Ministries and the Director of the OAS to discuss the early appointment of the National Liaison Officer.

The Department was involved in preparations for the submission of projects from various Ministries for 1999.

Guyana was represented at the 28th General Assembly of the OAS.

A Memorandum was submitted to Cabinet concerning Guyana's accession to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

Second Summit of the Americas

Consultations with relevant Ministries were held with a view to developing national positions with regard to issues to be dealt with at the Second Summit of the Americas.

H.E. Janet Jagan attended this Summit which was convened from April 18-19, 1998 in Chile.

White Helmets Initiative

The White Helmets Initiative (WHI), which was adopted by the United Nations in 1993, by the Organisation of American States in 1995 and promoted by the Summit of Americas, represents a regional effort to respond to emergencies in the Hemisphere and to help to alleviate critical situations of hunger and poverty in member states.

Guyana was represented at the First Seminar on White Helmets for Latin America and the Caribbean which was convened in Argentina from May 20-22, 1998. This Seminar dealt with several aspects of the White Helmets including operations, recruitment of volunteers, financial and human resources as well as a focus on Argentine experiences with regard to this initiative.

ASIA

In the year under review preparations were made for the visit of the Vice Premier of China, as well as the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Delegation.

Guyana concluded with China an Agreement for the Abolition of Visa Requirements for Diplomatic and Official Passports.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Cabinet approved the contribution of US\$10,000 by Guyana to aid relief efforts in the DPRK.

New Zealand

The Department was involved in preparations for the visit of the New Zealand Foreign Minister.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EAD

The Economic Affairs Department shares responsibility with other Government Agencies and Overseas Missions for the promotion of Guyana's Economic Diplomacy Thrust.

The Economic Diplomacy Thrust is concerned primarily with economic growth and development. The Economic Affairs Department is thus required to work towards the realisation of Guyana's National Development Objectives through the following modalities and initiatives:

- Trade and Investment Promotion;
- Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;
- Executing and Monitoring UNDP Programmes and Projects;
- Seeking opportunities for debt write-off and debt relief;

Monitoring the activities of bodies such as the United Nations Specialised Agencies and the Commonwealth Secretariat for technological and expert assistance based on a needs and capacity analysis of national sectors.

As in previous years, the Department felt some measure of disappointment at the inability of local agencies to respond promptly to enquiries and to collaborate without delay on matters of national importance.

The valuable services of an officer were lost during the year. However, there was the addition of two new officers to the Department.

THE AMERICAS

Over the past year the Government of Guyana continued its efforts to improve bilateral economic and technical cooperation relations with its Latin American neighbours. In order to achieve this objective, opportunities were utilised to convene bilateral discussions with Government officials of the region and to effect state visits by Her Excellency President Janet Jagan and high level delegations including representatives of the private sector. The success of these efforts was hampered to some extent by the prevailing economic and political conditions in some countries and also by the inability of local beneficiary Ministries/agencies to provide the necessary counterpart funding for the implementation of agreed cooperation activities. The report is therefore as follows:

BRAZIL

In terms of Guyana/Brazil cooperation, the main areas of activity for 1998 were: the continuation of work on the Boa Vista – Georgetown Road, the conduct of a Seminar on MERCOSUL by Mr. Celso de Tarso Pereira of the MERCOSUL Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil in October and the visit of a Trade Mission headed by the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry of Guyana to the State of Boa Vista over the period, November 25-26, 1998.

Guyana also benefited from visits from the Director of the Department of Industry and Trade of the State Secretariat of Planning, Industry and Trade of the State of Roraima and the Director of International Relations and the President of the Cultural Foundation of the State of Amapa. The latter mentioned officials met with the Hon. Gail Teixeira, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in May 1998 and discussed possibilities for the development of cultural cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organisations of Guyana and the State of Amapa. This level of interaction augurs well for the initiative to interlink: Boa Vista-Georgetown-Paramaribo-Cayenne-Macapá. A study on the Trade and Eco-tourism Impact of the road link has been undertaken by ECLAC and Guyana is awaiting the results of this study.

Other traditional areas of cooperation such as agriculture, health, energy, education and mining have not benefited from the anticipated level of cooperation. In fact there are

currently no Government of Guyana scholars studying in Brazil and the proposed collaboration between IICA/the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture on the Kimbia Project and other agricultural research projects has not moved beyond the stage of conception. The Ministry of Agriculture is still to examine the EMBRAPA study with a view to identifying projects on a priority basis. It is however anticipated that with the proposed visit of an Inter Disciplinary Team from Brazil early in 1999 or the convening of the 4th Meeting of the Guyana/Brazil Joint Commission, whichever comes first, that there would be improvement in technical and functional cooperation relations.

COLOMBIA

Guyana's technical and functional cooperation relations with Colombia have entered a phase of dormancy.

The only cooperation activities for 1998 were: the donation of 12 tons of DDT by the Government of Colombia to the Ministry of Health of Guyana and the ongoing training of Mr. Ivan Persaud at COLDEPORTES on a partially funded scholarship by the Government of Colombia.

SURINAME

Towards the end of 1998, cooperation relations between Guyana and Suriname were given a boost with the State Visit of Her Excellency President Janet Jagan to Suriname over the period October 30-31. Some areas were identified for priority treatment such as the resuscitation of the Cooperation Council and the meetings of the National Border Commission, the conclusion of a Fisheries Agreement and the re-commencement of discussions on the draft Memorandum of Understanding governing cross-border trade.

On Saturday, October 31, the two Presidents also inaugurated the CANAWAIMA Ferry Service which is an EU funded project. After years of construction, commercial operations have finally commenced.

Other activities for the year included the hosting of the Inter Guiana Games in Suriname and an informal meeting in Guyana between security officials of both countries. At this meeting, the Chief of Police of Suriname offered to provide telephone equipment to the GOG on behalf of his Government. This is in keeping with a previous proposal to establish a telecommunication link up between Police Officials of Springlands and Nieuw Nickerie.

Guyana/Chile Bilateral Relations

Over the reporting period, Guyana has benefited from at least two visits from officials of the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation. These visits were geared towards the development of a regional programme of cooperation under the auspices of CARICOM/Chile Cooperation. These activities are scheduled to commence in January 1999 and would include the agriculture and the education sectors.

On the bilateral level, there has been no implementation of proposed cooperation activities possibly pending the inauguration of the Guyana/Chile Joint Commission.

FRENCH GUIANA

Efforts have heightened towards the strengthening of bilateral relations with French Guiana. In this regard, a ministerial delegation from Guyana is expected to visit French Guiana during the first quarter of 1999 to discuss possibilities for cooperation in the future.

The Government of France has also informed the GOG of the availability of the used buoys which the GOG had requested some time ago. The Ministry of Public Works and Communications is making the arrangements for the buoys to be transported to Guyana for use by the Transport and Harbours Department.

MEXICO

A Mexican delegation for Technical Cooperation visited Guyana from July 20 – 22,

1998. During the mission's visit "Applications for Technical Cooperation" forms were submitted to a number of agencies for them to present their requests for technical cooperation. Responses from some of these agencies are still forthcoming.

Training

Two Guyanese from the Ministry of Health, Mr. Tomo Cereste Osborne and Mr. Curtis Godwin Lafleur, are at present pursuing Spanish courses at the Teaching Centre for Foreigners of the National Autonomous University of Mexico in the city of Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico.

THE CARIBBEAN

CUBA

Bilateral Cooperation between Guyana and Cuba recorded a favourable rate of success during 1998. A review of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission was held over the period November 18-21, 1998. Two Agreements were signed and the Bilateral Investment Treaty was initialed.

In addition, the Ministry of Health received the full complement of specialists who were identified for the current Medical Brigade Programme. The total number of doctors and technicians working in Guyana is seventeen.

Subsequently, however, the Ministry of Health requested physiotherapists, an oncologist/radiologist and histopathology technicians. The physiotherapists are due to arrive during the final week in December or the first week in January while the request for the oncologist/radiologist is being processed.

Collaboration between the private sector of Guyana and the business sector in Cuba improved during 1998, specifically in the areas of ship building, foundry operations, housing and agriculture (rice).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Cuban Embassy and support from the Caribbean Community Secretariat and the Caribbean Export Development Agency held a Caribbean-Cuba Trade and Investment Symposium from November 20-21, 1998. The initiative was tabled by Guyana and was indicative of the lead role which Guyana has traditionally taken in supporting the integration of Cuba into the Caribbean Community of nations. The event was a moderate success.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

The inaugural meeting of the Guyana/Dominica Joint Commission has not taken place as planned. It is anticipated that this meeting will take place during the first half of 1999.

JAMAICA

The Guyana/Jamaica Joint Commission which was inaugurated in 1997 and holds much promise for the intensification of economic and technical cooperation relations between the two countries has achieved limited success during 1998.

Apart from cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, little else has been implemented.

This apparent slow-down on cooperation may be attributed to Guyana's failure to utilise the offer of Jamaican expertise in the development of strategies related to copyright matters and aid coordination and negotiations techniques. Guyana's rejection of these offers came well after the Jamaican Government had submitted the curriculum vitae of the experts. This situation certainly does not augur well for future Guyana/Jamaica cooperation.

Further, Guyana is still awaiting a counterproposal from the Jamaican side with respect to the attachment of a Jamaican expert prior to the donation of seed and brood-stock for the fledging aquaculture industry.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

During 1998 Guyana started negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago for the implementation of a Bilateral Fisheries Agreement. In this regard, the initial round of negotiations between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago was held in Guyana on September 17-18, 1998.

Following these negotiations, a second set of discussions were held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 9-10 December, 1998. At this forum, Guyana took the opportunity to table its draft agreement "Draft Language for a Reciprocal Bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Relating to Fishing Off the Coast of Guyana."

The third set of negotiations is scheduled to be held in Georgetown, Guyana during the second half of January 1999.

VENEZUELA

As previously referred to under the review of DAA, H.E. President Janet Jagan, accompanied by a high level delegation, paid an official state visit to Venezuela from July 21-23, 1998.

During this visit, it was agreed that an integral and global approach to the bilateral agenda would be taken towards the establishment of a comprehensive framework for consultation and cooperation.

It was therefore agreed that sub-committees would be established. These sub-committees have been listed under the DAA review.

Following this, Officials of the Foreign Ministry of Guyana and Venezuela met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guyana on October 26 – 27, to prepare the terms of reference and work programme for the high-level Bilateral Commission.

ASIA

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Two Guyanese were accepted by the Chinese Government to attend technical training courses in China in Vegetable Food Production and Solar Power Applications.

In May 1998, the Chinese Government made US\$ 250,000 available to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the inauguration of the Foreign Service Institute.

Arrangements were made for the sum of US\$ 229,000 remaining out of the sum originally agreed to for the construction of a block of flats at Sanata Textiles to be presented to the Ministry of Finance.

GRANT AID

In July, the Government of Guyana received a grant of five million Renminbi Yuan which may be used for payments in relation to projects or the purchase of goods and services from China.

JAPAN

The Government of Japan accepted six Guyanese to attend group training courses in Japan.

In 1998, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to monitor the implementation of the fruit and vegetables cultivation project, the resuscitation of the Bellu claybrick factory and the bicycle assembly project which are being financed by loans from the Chinese Government.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Office equipment and supplies valued at US\$ 10,000 were received from the Republic

of Korea in April 1998.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATIES

During 1998, work continued on the seven draft bilateral investment treaties (BITS) which have been submitted to the Government of Guyana for consideration. Active consideration was given to the drafts submitted by Canada, the USA and Cuba. With regard to the latter state, a largely agreed text was initialed in November of 1998.

The Ministry of Finance has provided guidance on the issues of financial transfers, expropriation and compensation. This provides the basis on which these issues can be dealt with in all BITS and should help to accelerate Guyana's responses to the USA and Canada.

A response is being awaited from the Government of Italy, Switzerland and South Korea on Guyana's counter proposals to their drafts.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Guyana participated in the Regional Consultation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean on the proposed WIPO Protocol Concerning Audiovisual Performances which was held in Quito, Ecuador, in May. Guyana also participated in the second session of the meeting of the Committee of Experts on this proposed protocol which took place in Geneva, Switzerland in June. Guyana's participation in these two meetings has helped to clarify certain issues, within the Protocol, which need to be closely examined and monitored.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

General Technical Assistance Services Division

Guyana continued to receive significant benefits from the General Technical Assistance Services Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Ministry was successful in negotiating an extension of the contract of the GTASD expert attached to the National Drainage and Irrigation Board. The Ministry has not, however, been successful in securing the Division's financial support for the extension of the contracts of the two Principal Parliamentary Counsels attached to the Ministry of Legal Affairs. However it was agreed that should the Government of Guyana secure funds from an alternative donor to extend to the contracts, the Secretariat would meet the repatriation costs at the end of the extension period.

A request was also made to the GTASD for the funding of five new projects. However, because of financial constraints, the Secretariat indicated that these new projects can only receive funding consideration after June 1999.

Unfortunately, one of the GTASD sponsored Principal Parliamentary Counsel, Mr. S. T. Adade attached to the Ministry of Legal Affairs died on November 28, 1998 in Georgetown.

TIAF

Guyana requested technical assistance under the Commonwealth Secretariat Trade and Investment Access Facility (TIAF) in preparing Guyana to meet its full obligations and achieve all the possible advantages from its memberships in the World Trade Organisation. An announcement on the identification of an expert in this field, to be posted in Georgetown, is being awaited from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

SELA

The Permanent National Commission for SELA was resuscitated in April of this year when a successful meeting of its members was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A number of proposals were made for the improvement of the mechanism of the National Commission itself.

The EAD will endeavour to arrange a meeting of the Commission early in the new year with a view to examining how agencies could take advantage of SELA's mandate.

Guyana was represented at the XIII Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation which was held in Barbados from June 21-24, 1998, the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting in Caracas in May, and at the Latin American Council Meeting in Havana from November 30-December 3, 1998. The country was also represented at the meeting of officials of privatization agencies which was held in Washington.

UNICEF

The Ministry convened a meeting with counterparts on June 30, 1998, on the process of preparing for a new Country Programme. A situation analysis of children, women and their families is in progress and a one-year extension of the current programme was approved by UNICEF headquarters. The findings of this survey will inform the content of the programme for 2000-2004.

Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund

The first installment of the funding for the project entitled "South-South Transfer of Experiences in Sustainable Agricultural Development" was handed over by the UNDP to IICA in September, 1998.

No proposals were received from Government Ministries or Departments. It was expected that the University of Guyana Medical School would have submitted a proposal but, they did not pursue it.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

The Government of Guyana continues to utilise the services of VSO volunteers to fill critical positions in a number of Ministries and agencies. Currently there are 41 volunteers in

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post which is reflective of an increase of VSO volunteers over the corresponding period last year. The scope of this programme continues to expand with the involvement of volunteers in water and sanitation, drainage and irrigation and community development.

For the first time, a Guyanese national, Mrs. Marlyn Jordan has been appointed Programme Director.

The formal request for the increase of the stipend payable to VSO volunteers was turned down and the Ministry and the Programme Office are to work out innovative strategies to enable volunteers to live on the stipends payable.

The existing Agreement for the operation of a VSO Programme Office in Guyana is due for renewal.

The review process has commenced and shortly another round of discussions will take place prior to the conclusion of this Agreement.

Over the past year, there has been an increased level of collaboration between the Coordinating Ministry, the Programme Office and beneficiary Ministries. Apart from one-on-one contact, there has also been other planning sessions and meetings with employers of volunteers to foster greater understanding and closer cooperation.

Another batch of some 16 volunteers is expected in mid February, 1999.

PEACE CORPS

At the end of 1998, there were twenty nine volunteers registered in Guyana. Of these, eighteen are working within the Health sector under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme and eleven (11) in the Youth Sector working with several local NGOs.

During the year, officials from Peace Corps, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met to have discussions for the Peace Corps to work

within designated areas of the Youth sector.

UNITED NATIONS FUNDED PROJECTS

GUY/95/004 – Transfer of knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)

During the first quarter of 1998, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UNDP and current and potential beneficiary agencies reviewed the TOKTEN Programme. The new arrangement for the employment of nationals to be linked to existing projects and not as stand alone arrangements has seriously affected this project to the extent that no expatriate nationals were able to share their expertise in Guyana.

GUY/94/004 – Squatter Settlements and Depressed Areas Upgrading Project

The life of the Squatter Settlements and Depressed Areas Upgrading Project came to an end on December 31, 1998.

However, during the course of the year, the Ministry of Housing and Water requested that the remaining project finances be utilised for the strengthening/capacity building of the Central Housing and Planning Authority. The CH&PA is in the process of preparing the necessary project documentation for consideration by the UNDP.

GUY/96/002 – Capacity Building for the Design and Production of Health Learning Material

Work on this project is continuing and it is now projected that it will conclude in June 1999 and not October 31, 1998, as anticipated. Over the past year, some of the equipment has been procured and three members of staff trained overseas namely: Mr. Patrick Adams and Mr. Anthony Layne in Techniques in Video Production in Jamaica, and Ms. Dawn Primo in the operations of a National Clearinghouse in the USA.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

As was agreed some time ago, the UNVs currently in the country are all working in the health sector and four specifically under the Integrated Health Project.

Country Cooperation Framework (CCF)

During this year, one of the main foci of the Multilateral Unit was the completion of the formulation of projects reflecting Government's priorities as outlined in the approved programme outline for the period 1998-2000.

Although capacity building was one of the main concerns in this regard, both the Unit and the UNDP agreed that external assistance would be needed in the formulation of these projects if the project design phase were to be completed in both a timely and efficient manner.

To date, the formulation of projects have commenced in all four areas of programming for the new CCF, namely:

- Capacity Building for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Human Development;
- Governance, Institutional Development and Consensus Building;
- Productive Employment, Income Generation and Skills Training for Sustainable Livelihoods;
- Strengthening National Capacity for Environmental Protection, Conservation and Management.

However, much more work has been done on Programme 1 where a project has been formulated for the Education Sector, the Standards Bureau and a major one in progress for the area of Local Government.

Owing to the volatile political state of the country during this year, subsequent to the December 1997 elections, much work was not done on Programme 2.

Work on Programme 3 has also commenced. Efforts are afoot to have a Microstart Mission come to Guyana to examine the possibility of having Microstart resources accessed

by Guyana. There is also a project proposal formulated by PAHO which is currently being considered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

There is currently a proposal being examined with regard to Programme 4, which already has the informal approval of both the UNDP and the Ministry.

TCDC

This year was not a very fruitful one for the TCDC modality since it is still very much restricted to the limits of the UNDP Umbrella project, which was launched in 1994.

During the year, several strategy changes took place in the UNDP with the aim of making their work more efficient and effective, particularly in the area of their accountability to Headquarters. As a result, some projects were streamlined in terms of their scope and the TCDC umbrella project was one of these.

Funds available for TCDC during the year were therefore earmarked to be used in the facilitation of activities within UNDP projects and programmes. A decision was further taken to include TCDC budget lines in the new projects being formulated to promote this new approach.

With this new approach, TCDC became very much a function of projects and programmes, most of which are still to be formulated.

Capacity Building

There was a slight change in the type of capacity building activities that would be prioritised during this year. It was felt that there was a greater need in the area of local government.

As a result, more efforts were focused on the formulating of projects within this framework. Since these projects are still in the stage of being formulated, much could not be done in a systematic way in this area.

Support was however given on an *ad hoc* basis. The Handicraft Industries Development Agencies was a recipient of this type of support.

ECLAC/CDCC

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Dr. Len Ishmael, visited Guyana from April 29-May 1, 1998, and met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs among other officials.

At the request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, ECLAC undertook a study on the Trade Effects of the proposed highway linking Brazil to the Guianas. This study was conducted from September 21-30, 1998. The report is expected shortly.

Guyana was also invited to be part of a study being undertaken by ECLAC on the "International competitiveness of the manufacturing and agro-industrial sectors". Mr. Michael Hendrickson conducted a review of Guyanese manufacturing enterprises from August 10-14, 1998.

It was decided that a proposal to conduct an assessment of the Macro-economic Impact of the recent El Nino phenomenon would be put on hold since this problem has been addressed by a number of agencies.

Guyana was represented at the XXVII Session of the ECLAC which was held in Aruba from May 11-16, 1998, and at the Special Committee meeting on Population and Development which was held concurrently.

The country was also represented at the 17th session of the CDCC, at the technical level, in March by Mr. N. Chandarpal.

Solar Contractors Inc. Donation of Water Pumps

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was approached by Solar Contractor Inc. with the offer

of a donation of minimum quantity of 250 Solar water pumps to the Government of Guyana. An official of this company paid a visit to Guyana in May and met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Guyana Water Authority. Technical specifications about the pumps were circulated to the Guyana Water Authority and the Ministry of Housing and Water.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in absence of any clear indication from the relevant agencies on their willingness to accept the water pumps, has put this request on hold.

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Guyana submitted four project ideas to the UNFIP for consideration. These were:

- Sustainable Alternative Energy for Poverty Eradication in Indigenous Communities in Southern Guyana
- Sustainable Wildlife Management in Guyana
- Strengthening of Institutions for Children and Women in Crisis in Guyana
- Environmental Upgrading for Sustainable Human Development in Squatting and Depressed Areas of Guyana

Labour Market Information System

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was invited in June by the Ministry of Labour to be part of a renewed effort to establish an LMIS in Guyana. The MFA was one of the original members of the group constituted a few years ago.

However, after having fully reviewed the mandate of the group and its composition as well as attending the most recent meeting, the Ministry decided that full membership was no longer necessary for the effective discharge of its mandate of continued assistance in the procurement of technical and financial resources for the LMIS. It has therefore withdrawn from full membership of the Committee.

GOG/UNDP

Throughout the year, the Ministry continued to monitor the progress of the following projects: Building Capacity for Gender Equity in Governance and Strengthening National Capacity for Poverty Eradication.

The Ministry was also successful in obtaining an extension of the World Food Programme Agreement with Guyana. The Plan of Operations between the Government of Guyana and the UN/WFP for the extension of project Guy-4889 "Multipurpose Agricultural and Community Development" was signed on May 29. It has a duration of two years (January 1, 1998 – December 31, 1999). Under this project, food and other assistance to the tune of US\$1,999,418 will be provided to support agricultural production and community and social development in relevant areas.

The following projects were concluded during 1998:

- Enabling Guyana to Prepare its First National Communication in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC – (signed on June 5, 1998)
- Enabling Activity under the Convention on Biological Diversity – "Formulation of a National Biodiversity Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy" - (signed on June 5, 1998).

Indigenous People's Fund

The Ministry has been making efforts to join the Indigenous People's Fund.

MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

The Department continued to contribute to the national effort for:

- Preservation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Socio-economic development and debt relief.
- Realization of a New Global Human Order.

UNITED NATIONS

In 1998, the Government's goal remained that of improving the representation of Guyanese nationals on strategic international organizations with the aim of furthering the country's interests. In cases where human resources, financial resources, inter alia permitted this, efforts were made at having "friendly" countries elected to the particular organizations.

In 1997, Guyana had tabled candidatures to two international organisations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Guyana was successful only on the latter body.

In 1998, Guyana presented candidatures for election to two international organizations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Included among the international organizations to which elections were held in the first half of 1998 are the following:

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 10th Meeting of State Parties, January;

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 10th Meeting of State Parties, February;

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, February; and

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, March.

ECOSOC Elections, April/May 1998

Requests for support of candidacies were received and the Department gave them the accustomed attention. Bilateral considerations, national self-interest, and improvement of our international profile were among the information under consideration.

The following fourteen (14) bodies were Guyana's focus at the ECOSOC's organisational session:

Commission on Social and Legal Welfare of Women (CSW)

UN Commission on Human Rights

UN Committee on Human Rights

UN Commission on Social Development

Commission of Narcotic Drugs

UN Commission on the Prevention of drugs

Committee on Programme and Co-ordination

UN Children's Fund

UN Commission on the Status of Women

UNDP/UNFPA

Statistical Commission of ECOSOC

Commission on Population and Development

UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Inter-Governmental Working Group of Experts on the International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

GRULAC

Candidacies within GRULAC include:

- Inter-American Juridical Committee
- Pan-American Health Organization
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS

1998 marked the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. The Department was therefore responsible for making recommendations on suitable activities to commemorate this milestone.

The Department also coordinated and liaised with Government Departments, NGO's and other entities to fulfill its reporting responsibilities under human rights instruments.

Guyana's REPORT ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Department followed up with UNICEF the preparation of Guyana's report on the Rights of the Child.

Submitted reports impact on Guyana's image in the international community, and hence the ability to access donor assistance for national projects.

The Department monitored activities and meetings held regarding follow-up to the World Social Summit. These include matters relating to the National Plan of Action which was formulated in Trinidad in 1996; eradication of poverty; health; and population

Guyana's involvement in matters related to the Summit not only informed its decision making on international political issues but also contributed to a realisation of stated national goals.

- Among the major GOALS for 1998 were:
- Capacity building
- Sustainable human development
- Poverty alleviation
- Employment generation
- Attracting of investments and
- Tourism promotion.

Two other areas, viz., the Environment and Human Rights, were added emphasis. The former, especially as it relates to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), received a fillip with the appointment of a National Coordinator.

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration of Human Rights generated considerable activity for the latter through the formation of the National Task Force.

The New Global Human Order was also promoted.

LIAISON WITH THE PERMANENT MISSION, NEW YORK

The Department liaised with Guyana's Permanent Mission to the United Nations with a view to fulfilling Guyana's responsibilities under the United Nations Charter and executing Guyana's Foreign Policy at that forum.

This included interaction with Government Ministries, NGO's and other relevant entities, and taking follow-up action on issues emanating from the United Nations.

A further element under the foreign policy umbrella was coordinating with Guyana's Permanent Mission to the UN the possibility of accessing resources for the first of the identified major goals, and communicating relevant information and/or documentation relative to the latter two.

NARCOTIC DRUGS/DRUG TRAFFICKING

Narco-trafficking has impacted quite negatively on the quality of life in societies. Indeed narco-trafficking runs counter to Guyana's major goals.

The United Nations Narcotic Control Board and the UN International Drug Control Programme are encouraging countries to accede to International Conventions governing universal participation in such treaties not least because of the rise in narco trafficking.

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The Department continued to deal with matters in relation to international legal instruments. These included, Inter alia, analysis; advice, and information.

The Department is the focal point for UN Treaties governing human rights, and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It, therefore, monitored developments and took action when necessary in order to fulfil Guyana's obligations under those Treaties.

Such obligations include the respect for maritime boundaries; the sustainable exploitation of the environment, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

1998 Substantive Session of ECOSOC

The 1998 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council was held from July 6 to 31. Guyana's delegation to the session was led by the Honourable Michael Shree Chan, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, who participated in the High-level segment held from July 6 to 8. The High-level segment dealt with the theme of market access and for the first time adopted a ministerial communique.

Participation of Palestine in the Work of the UN

In July, the General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Participation of Palestine in the work of the United Nations". In keeping with our position with regard to the Palestinian issues, Guyana voted in favour of the resolution which was approved by a vote of 124 in favour and 4 against, with 10 abstentions. As a result, Palestine, in its capacity as Observer, was granted "additional rights and privileges of participation in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and the international conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly or other organs of the United Nations, as well as in the United Nations Conferences." One right, is the right to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly. Consequently, in September 1998, Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian National Authority addressed the General Assembly in that capacity, for the first time.

Establishment of an International Criminal Court

Also, in July, the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court concluded five weeks of work in Rome, Italy. During the period of the Conference, CARICOM delegations in Rome collaborated closely with CARICOM Missions in New York on critical issues as they were being addressed. The delegates decided to establish a permanent International Criminal Court with the power to try persons for the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. The Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Final Act of the Conference were opened for signature after the text containing the two was adopted. 127 states signed the final acts and 10 signed the Statute in Rome. The Statute remains open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters until December 31, 2000. It is now for the Government of Guyana to decide whether or not it will sign that document.

In August, the XII NAM Summit took place in Durban, South Africa. Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations accompanied the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Clement Rohee to the Summit. The Mission also participated in the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation on the Non-Aligned Movement to the Fifty-third Session of the General Assembly which took place on September 24, 1998 at the UN Headquarters in New York. At both meetings, the members emphasized the importance

of the reform and revitalization of the United Nations. Concerns were also expressed about the financial crisis in South-East Asia and its negative consequences for the rest of the world. Measures to combat international terrorism, and the need for nuclear disarmament were also considered. Generally, members expressed confidence that the Non-Aligned Movement had a role to play in the international arena, and that it had the capacity to achieve its objectives.

UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board

The Mission monitored the third regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board held on September 14 to 16 and 21 to 22, 1998. The Board adopted eight decisions, most notably decisions 98/23: UNDP funding strategy and 98/24: UNFPA funding strategy. It is hoped that these decisions would lead to a reversal in the decline of resources to the two organizations.

Twenty-Second Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77

Guyana participated in the twenty-second Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China, held on September 25, 1998, at which it was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Group for 1999. Guyana's delegation was headed by the Honourable Clement Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who addressed the meeting on the occasion of Guyana's election. Guyana's tour as Chairman will run from January 1 to December 31, 1999, and will entail a significant increase in the work load of the Mission. Preparation for Guyana's Chairmanship has already been initiated.

Bilateral Meetings involving the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During his visit to New York for the 53rd Session of the General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, the Hon. Clement Rohee participated in bilaterals with the Presidential Emissary of Cyprus, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Issues discussed at the meetings included the situation in Cyprus, the Guyana-Suriname Ferry, and the economic situation in Malaysia.

Rio Group Meetings

During the Period 21-25 September, the Permanent Mission of Guyana, as a representative of CARICOM in the Rio Group, attended meetings of the Rio Group with the Russian Federation and with the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Mission was also represented at the Ministerial Meeting of the Rio Group and the European Union.

A range of issues were discussed at these meetings. At the meeting of the Rio Group with the Russian Federation, the financial crisis, democracy, and Security Council reform were among the issues discussed. The meeting of the Rio Group with the Gulf Cooperation Council discussed the situation in the Middle East and the financial crisis. The Rio Group and the European Union addressed matters pertaining to the First European Union/Latin America and Caribbean Summit which will be held in 1999, as well as the international financial crisis, the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations on Drugs, and other issues.

Convention to Combat Desertification

The second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa was not held from August 24 to September but was held from November 30 to December 11, 1998, in Dakar, Senegal.

UNESCO

A new UN Decade commenced from January 1998 to December 2007, its focus being: The Decade of the Eradication of Poverty. The Guyana National Commission for UNESCO focussed on the Provision of Low-Cost Housing in Guyana. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to be made the focal Ministry for a national campaign on Low-Cost Housing.

COMMONWEALTH

Commonwealth Day was celebrated in March 1998. As usual the British High

Commission, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Society of Guyana, commemorated this Day with a Church Service in Georgetown, all in effort to promote an awareness of the Commonwealth.

Visit by Commonwealth Officials

Commonwealth Special Adviser and Head of Youth Affairs, Ms Jane Foster and Special Adviser and Head of Finance, Mr. Rickie Sankar, both of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, paid a courtesy call on the Director-General Dr. Timothy Crichlow on November 25, 1998.

The delegation was accompanied by Dr. Ivan Henry, outgoing Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP).

Commonwealth Meetings

The 12th Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting – November 15-19, 1998

The 12th Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Barbados and Guyana was represented at the meeting by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr. Henry Jeffrey and Ms. Fransesca Colombo, Health Economist.

Commonwealth Convention on Advancing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – December 10, 1998, Accra, Ghana.

Guyana was represented at this Convention by Mr. Bernard De Santos, Attorney-at-Law, SC. The Convention objectives included:

- raising awareness of economic and social rights as human rights;
- assessing opportunities for advancing these rights more effectively;
- highlighting the obstacles to the achievement of these rights;

- establishing strategies for minimising these obstacles; and
- making practical recommendations on the way forward.

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, Ottawa, Canada,
September 29-October 1, 1998.

The Meeting was attended by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Bharrat Jagdeo.

First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth –Lisbon, Portugal,
August 10, 1998.

This Conference was attended by Permanent Secretary, Mr. Keith Booker, of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The Iwokrama Rainforest Programme

In January of this year, the Commonwealth Secretariat organised a successful donors' meeting which raised US\$8.2M for the programme. The British Government also took the opportunity during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), 1998 in Edinburgh to inform of its donation of 3M pounds sterling for the programme.

Commonwealth Games

The XVI Commonwealth Games was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from September 11-21, 1998.

The Guyana High Commission, London represented the Government of Guyana at the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting which was held from November 9-11, in London.

During the year under review, the Commonwealth Foundation visited the Caribbean

and held discussions with NGOs. It was anticipated that the NGOs would be able to "air their problems" as well as highlight the strategies they used to strengthen their organisations.

The Foundation had also established a Millennium Project taskforce. The taskforce which was research based, held workshops in Ghana, London, Fiji, Zimbabwe, St. Lucia and Nepal from June to August of this year.

This exercise was initiated towards the compilation of the document "The Civil Society in the New Millennium Project". The Project is being funded to the tune of £205,000.

The Commonwealth Foundation NGO Documentation Fellowship

The Foundation launched a new analysis and documentation fellowship.

This offers small groups of key NGO leaders and thinkers, involved in similar issues the opportunity to reflect on and write about their experiences. It was proposed that the Fellowship should produce a series of publications featuring outstanding NGO Work especially from developing countries of the Commonwealth.

The first fellowship scheme on the theme "Lessons in Empowerment" was being seen as pilot project in the Caribbean region. The project lasted for three months from September to December 1998. The four selected fellows were from Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago.

H.E. President Jagan's Endorsement

H.E. President Janet Jagan in August informed the Commonwealth Secretary-General H.E. Chief Anyaoku, that the Government of Guyana had concurred with the proposal of the Board of Governors that Ambassador Mills be re-elected to office as Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation for a further two year term beginning January 1, 1999.

President Jagan also stated her Government's full acceptance of the proposed dates

for the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in South Africa, November 12-15, 1999.

EUROPE

UK SUPPORT TO GUYANA

Over the years, British support and involvement with Guyana have contributed greatly to its general well-being. Budgetary constraints in the UK have resulted in Britain's inability to maintain this level of support. However, in 1998 British involvement has increased in scale through technical support programmes sponsored by British non-governmental organisations, ODA, BESA and VSO. Under the programmes, technical personnel resources are assisting Guyana government ministries and agencies in the execution of projects.

Voluntary service Overseas (VSO)

During 1989, the Government of Guyana re-introduced the VSO programme. Since then, no less than twenty volunteers are employed each year to share their knowledge and skills in the fields of education, health, water and sanitation, agriculture, and community and youth development.

A decision was taken to withdraw VSOs from the Caribbean, but this did not apply to Guyana where it was noted that VSO commitment would be needed for a longer period.

On January 26, 1998, the British High Commission and the Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), signed a contract for a grant of G\$6.5M for the local coffee industry. The Wakapoa Coffee Producers Association in Essequibo will benefit from the grant.

Guyana received two high-level visits: Secretary of State Ms Clare Short, head of the Department for International Development, which was formerly known as the Overseas

Development Administration visited from May 8-11, 1998. During her visit, Ms Short signed an Agreement with the Ministry.

Additionally, the Director of the Americas and Eastern Europe visited Guyana from November 28-30, 1998. Mr. Kerby, like Ms. Short, visited a number of British funded projects such as the Iwokrama International Rainforest.

UK CARIBBEAN RELATIONS

On February 14, 1998, the British Foreign Secretary toured Montserrat in an effort to determine the extent of damage to the island since July 1995.

The British Government has since admitted mistakes and failures in handling the crisis and has promised to step up efforts to inter alia improve emergency housing and medical care.

Further, it should be noted that Britain has also proposed to consider providing assistance to other Caribbean Governments if they could show that relocated Montserratians were imposing a substantial burden on social services in their countries. In addition, the British proposed a Caribbean Inward Investment Office during the UK/Caribbean Forum.

Subsequently, a feasibility study was circulated to member Governments for them to study the document and submit their proposals. There was assurance given that Britain would continue dialogue on these matters and also support Caribbean economies at the EU. Guyana has offered to host the next Forum.

The UK and the United Nations

The United Kingdom is committed to an effective United Nations. These commitments include the strengthening and widening of the Security Council to promote new permanent seats for the developing countries as well as Germany and Japan.

The UK is taking a lead role within the UN System for International Financial Institutions

and the World Trade Organization to lend priority to the coordination of development efforts. The aim is for the developing countries to benefit from the global economy through free and fair trade. The UN is urging all developed countries to follow the example of the EU and implement zero tariffs by the year 2000.

THE UK AND POVERTY

The UK is accelerating its development efforts to halve the portion of people experiencing abject poverty by the year 2015. The ultimate objective is the eradication of poverty. Its budget has been increased substantially to help achieve these objectives.

NETHERLANDS

Follow-up on issues discussed at the meeting between the Director General and the Dutch First Secretary, resident in Suriname.

Some of the issues were:

- Funding to Guyana for delegates to attend CARICOM meetings;
- Promoting direct trade and investment between the two countries;
- Funding to restore the Dutch forts in Guyana.
- Attendance at meetings would allow for Guyana to promote its views and be involved in decision-making.
- Trade and investment between the two countries would impact on development.

SPAIN

Follow-up work on the establishment of a Spanish Honorary Consulate in Guyana, which was approved by Cabinet.

Bilateral relations would be improved through this facility.

DENMARK

Accreditation of Danish Ambassador resulted in the further promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

HOLY SEE

Apostolic Nuncio was accredited to Guyana. This allowed for the strengthening of relations between the two states.

BOSNIA

Recommendations were provided regarding the request by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish diplomatic relations with Guyana.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Guyana and the United Kingdom established diplomatic relations on May 26, 1966, immediately on the granting of political independence. Relations since then can be described as cordial.

This is a resource-rich segment of the globe, and once relations are carefully managed, the results could only be beneficial to Guyana's national goals.

ITALY

The Department monitored progress on the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation which was ratified and signed between Guyana and Italy.

The Agreement would allow for improved bilateral relations and for benefits to be

derived through technical assistance.

BELGIUM

During the year the Department followed-up on issues relating to the meeting between the Director General and Dr. Frank Van De Craen, Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission of the Belgian Embassy in Caracas.

One of the issues discussed was Guyana's need for bilateral assistance in order that it could be represented at meetings in the donor countries.

Representation at meetings would allow for Guyana's position to be known and listened to within international fora.

AFRICA (SOUTH OF THE SAHARA)

The Department continued to monitor political developments in Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA

Followed-up proposal by South Africa to provide training in silviculture for the forestry sector.

Followed-up proposal for a delegation from the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs to visit Guyana.

ZAMBIA

Facilitated the Accreditation of the High Commissioner of Zambia to Guyana.

LESOTHO

Facilitated Accreditation of the High Commissioner of Lesotho to Guyana.

NAMIBIA

Facilitated Accreditation of the Namibian High Commissioner to Guyana.

NIGERIA

Monitored ongoing political developments in Nigeria.

AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Department continued to assist with the finalization of the national policy position and probable guidelines with respect to Government's approach to future relations with the European Union after Lome IV would have come to an end in February 2000. The policy position and guidelines were fed into the regional position which in turn would be fed into the ACP position.

The aim of these efforts was to ensure that the successor programme with the EU is of a long term nature, consistent with the process of social and economic development, internationally, and nationally, affecting the country and the region.

To this end, the Department played a role within the National Advisory Committee on External Negotiations (NACEN) and coordinated such activities with the Economic Affairs Department of the Ministry. The Department also assisted in preparations for Guyana's participation in the 26th Session of the ACP-EJ Joint Assembly.

AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

1998 could be considered a busy year, particularly for Amazon Cooperation Treaty activities.

The highlight of the year's activities in this area was the VI Ordinary Meeting of the Special Commission on the Environment of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty which was held in Guyana in May. This being the twentieth year of the signing of the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation, (ACT) a number of activities were organised by the Ministry to commemorate the event.

These include:

- a tree planting exercise during the Environment Meeting
- art and essay competitions among Primary and Secondary Schools as well as Tertiary institutions.
- Viewpoints and Discussions on National television relating to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

The Ministry was also actively involved in planning and coordinating inter-agency meetings at the level of the Permanent National Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (PNC/ACT) and various sub-committees of the PNC/ACT in order to ensure that Guyana's position at external fora are in keeping with National objectives.

Guyana was represented at several meetings abroad. These include:

- Evaluation Meeting of Sub-programme II, Ecological and Economic Zoning (EEZ) (Peru, February 16-18, 1998)
- Second Evaluation Meeting of Sub-programme 1, Institutional Strengthening of the Permanent National Commissions of the ACT.
- Additionally, the Ministry was instrumental in acquiring and distributing equipment from the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the ACT, for Ecological and Economic Zoning under sub-programme II in Guyana.

ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry continued to play its role in preparing for Guyana's participation at various international fora. These include:

- The Sixth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Fourth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on climate Change (COP4)
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and several other related meetings.

The Ministry continued to give support to a number of environment-related bodies through its representative.

MIDDLE EAST

In this regard the Department concentrated on the following:

- The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) bilateral relations between Guyana and Member States of OIC.
- Political overview of situation from a global Middle East perspective.
- Provision of briefs and analyses of individual countries.
- Provision of up-to-date analysis of the socio-economic and political developments in the Gulf States.
- Provision of analyses of the activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and to make comparative analyses in the problems and prospects of the CARICOM Regional Integration Movement vis-à-vis the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- Provision of analysis at the political, economic and social levels of relations between Palestine and Israel (the Middle East Peace Process).
- Provision of analysis on Islamic fundamentalism in the region as a whole, especially Algeria and Egypt.
- Internal development in Libya as well as regional and international responses to the "Libyan Factor".

MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS (NACEN)

Background to the Establishment of the NACEN

The current processes of globalization and trade liberalization have impacted severely on the capacity and ability of small countries like Guyana to adjust to the growing trends in economic modernization and multilateral trade and economic diplomacy. The critical impacts are felt not only in the private sector, in terms of market competitiveness and business development, but very much so in the government sector and public administration.

The natural response of small economies in particular has been to establish or re-organize strategic institutional structures as part of an overall capacity building and modernization process to better utilize the limited human, financial and technical resources at their disposal. In Guyana's case, the institutional adjustments have been sensitive, in a practical way, to the country's commitments at the multilateral level and also at the regional level in CARICOM.

In the area of **trade policy**, CARICOM countries generally have modified their institutional arrangements, since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, to respond to the changing international economic realities. Most governments have found it necessary and convenient to separate the responsibilities for international trade and related negotiations on the one hand and those of domestic trade and industry (including regional trading arrangements) on the other.

In April 1997, CARICOM Heads of Government, in consideration of measures to enhance the region's coordination in and execution of the various external trade negotiations (WTO, Lome, FTAA etc.), established the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) to "maximise the region's chance of success in the negotiations."

Following the establishment of the CRNM CARICOM member states, in response to

a decision of the Heads of Government, established **National Advisory Committees** to complement the work of the CRNM at the national level – that is to facilitate effective national input into the regional negotiating machinery process. The National Advisory Committees, therefore, function within the evolving regional strategy and are integral to the effective operation of the CRNM.

Pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet, Guyana's **National Advisory Committee on External Negotiations (called NACEN)** was established on September 1, 1997 with the following objectives:

- To identify issues of national concern to Guyana pursuant to the country's strategic trade and economic objectives;
- To provide advice to the Government of Guyana on the multiplicity of issues in the area of international trade policy;
- To coordinate national positions on trade and economic negotiations at the regional, hemispheric and global levels;
- To facilitate Guyana's effective, informed and timely preparation for and participation in the negotiations related to the ACP-EU post-Lome IV arrangements, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the World Trade Organization (WTO) etc;
- To ensure national input into the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery process by serving as the designated national focal point in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The NACEN, which is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and comprises senior level representation from the public and private sectors, labour and academia, functions within the structured economic diplomacy policy framework of the Foreign Ministry.

The NACEN Secretariat

A natural consequence of the institutional response by the Government of Guyana to these developments is the pursuit of stronger inter-agency consultations and collaboration and a well-coordinated 'nerve center', so to speak, in this inter-agency network. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs functions as this 'nerve center.'

In June 1998, a Trade Policy Coordinator was appointed to organize and head a small NACEN Secretariat in the Ministry and coordinate the work of the Committee. During the period **July-September 1998**, the NACEN Secretariat was organized with the following key responsibilities:

- Monitor and execute the day to day activities of the NACEN;
- Coordinate research on critical issues as mandated by the NACEN;
- Provide guidance and support to working groups/sub-committees which the NACEN creates; and
- Assist the Chairman of NACEN in any other relevant duties necessary to fulfill the mandate of the Committee.

The Workprogramme

The Workprogramme of the NACEN Secretariat is structured along the following main thematic areas: Globalization and International Trade Policy, Hemispheric Relations, ACP-EU Trade Arrangements, and CARICOM Matters. During the year ended December 1998, activities consisting of analytical briefs, correspondence and overseas representation were undertaken as follows:

Globalization and International Trade Policy

Commenced initial research on issues pertaining to the 3rd WTO Ministerial Conference set for the end of 1999.

NACEN Coordinator attended WTO Regional Workshop on Dispute Settlement Measures, held in Barbados on November 9-12, 1998.

A special Meeting of the NACEN Technical Working Group was held with the Technical Advisor of the CRNM on September 17th at which a number of recommendations were made to strengthen the operations of the NACEN and the linkage with the CRNM. The NACEN Secretariat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was identified as the national point for a USAID/CRNM funded Regional Trade information Project which will link the national points across

the region with the CRNM Offices and the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats. This will be a computerised internet-based network.

HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

The Negotiation stage of the FTAA commenced in September 1998. Within the framework of CARICOM's joint approach to the FTAA Negotiations, the NACEN identified five (5) FTAA Groups/Committees of the established 12 Groups/Committees for priority treatment by Guyana. These five Groups are the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) which has oversight and coordinating responsibilities for the overall negotiations; the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies (CGSE); the Negotiating Groups on Market Access (NGMA), Negotiating Groups on Investment (NGIN) Negotiating Groups on and Agriculture (NGAG).

The NACEN Coordinator, Guyana's designated Representative on the TNC, attended the Second Meeting of the Committee in Suriname on December 1-2. Immediately following this meeting, the Coordinator commenced inter-agency consultations with respect to Guyana's input on the matter of Business Facilitation Measures to be adopted by the TNC for implementation by member states.

Non-FTAA Matters

On November 9, 1998, a Seminar on Mercosur was held at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). With the assistance of the Government of Brazil, Mr. Celso de Tarso Pereira, an Officer of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry with responsibility for Mercosur, visited Guyana and conducted the Seminar with members of the public and private sectors and NGOs in attendance. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook this initiative with a view to increasing awareness among the Guyanese public of the markets in Latin America and the positive thrust of the Government of Guyana with regards to forging trade and economic linkages with Latin America.

ACP-EU Trade Relations

The Negotiation of the post-Lome IV arrangements was launched in Brussels at a Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Council on October 1-2, 1998. At a Special Meeting of the Prime Ministerial Sub-committee on External Negotiations, held in Kingston, Jamaica, on July 24th, Guyana was given lead ministerial responsibility for commodities (rice, rum and sugar) within the Carforum Group.

CARICOM Matters

A special Meeting of the COTED was held with the CRNM at the CARICOM Secretariat on November 7th. The meeting dealt specifically with the Region's preparations for the various external negotiations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs led Guyana's delegation.

A Caribbean-Cuba Trade and Investment Symposium was held in Georgetown on November 20-21. The NACEN Secretariat collaborated with the Economic Affairs Department on the planning and implementation of this Symposium.

NACEN Coordinator collaborated with the Department of Asia and the Americas (DAA) with respect to national consultations on the Protocols amending the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Collaborated with DAA on ACS matters. NACEN Coordinator set out issues in initial response by Guyana to a proposal by the ACS Secretariat to establish a Preferential Tariff Scheme among ACS member states.

Followed up (with Ministry of Trade and the Customs Department) implementation matters pertaining to the CARICOM/DR Free Trade Agreement and the CARICOM/Colombia Trade and Investment Agreement.

Meetings of the NACEN

Two meetings of the NACEN were held on August 14th and November 23rd, respectively.

At the August meeting, the NACEN agreed, in keeping with an earlier decision of the Cabinet, that Guyana should give priority attention to the FTAA Groups listed at Section B (a) above. At the November meeting a small Technical Committee on Commodities was established in light of Guyana's responsibilities for commodities at the Cariforum level, in relation to the ACP-EU post-Lome IV negotiations. The Committee comprised mainly the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and the national agencies involved in the export of rice, rum and sugar to the EU.

Other Matters

The NACEN Coordinator made specific contributions to:

- The Ministry's Quarterly Publication **Takuba News** (May-July issue) – Article Review on Globalization.
- The Ministry's Radio Program **Foreign Policy Focus** (September) – Discussion on the role of the Ministry and operation of the NACEN in the External trade negotiations; and Issues on Trade and Agriculture in CARICOM (October).

REMIGRATION UNIT

During the period January to December, 1998 a total of 148 persons were granted Remigrant Status.

Applications approved in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, were 10, 17, 12, 7, 15, 12, 10, 11, 15, 15, 12, and 12 respectively.

Depending on their particular interest some prospective remigrants were also channeled to the Ministry of Agriculture, Geology and Mines, Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Finance.

The perusal of the total number of persons monthly per country highlighted the following:-

COUNTRIES	JN	FB	MR.	AP	MY	JU	JY	AU	SP	OT	NV	DC	TOT
U.S.A	5	12	8	4	6	8	4	6	5	6	2	9	75
CANADA	-	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	2	5	3	2	24
U.K.	2	2	1	1	4	1	3	12	1	3	4	2	26
SURINAME	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	5
HOLLAND	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
BRAZIL	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
CURACAO	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ST. LUCIA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
BARBADOS	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
CHINA	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SAUDIA ARABIA	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
BR. VR. ISLD.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
NEVIS. W.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
MONTSERRAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
ST. MAARTEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
T.&T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
IRELAND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
JAMAICA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

It is noted that the principal areas of skills/interest of persons granted the 'Remigrant Status' are Businessmen, Engineers, Medical Doctors, Teachers, Accountants, Farmers, Minister of Religion, and Craftsmen.

The remigration scheme is being handled in a business like manner and this Department has strictly followed the given Guidelines.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION UNIT

The production of our quarterly publication continued throughout 1998.

By means of this publication and the provision of monthly information on the activities of the Ministry and the Overseas Missions, it is hoped that Guyanese will have a better understanding of the foreign policy of Guyana and will have tangible evidence of the achievements of that policy. There has been overwhelming feedback from readers of this publication.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

The television series entitled "Towards the 21st Century" continued in 1998. Again this series of programmes featured the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, diplomats, Heads of International Organisations and leaders from civic society. On each programme discussions were centred on issues affecting Guyana's foreign policy.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO MISSIONS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE

The Unit distributed information, responded to requests by fax and telephone and distributed publications to local prominent individuals and organizations.

PROVISION OF POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The unit arranged appointments for the Minister with members of the public, organized public appearances of the Minister, invited the media to official activities of the Minister, responded to correspondence on behalf of the Minister, and provided status reports on various issues.

LIAISON WITH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MEDIA

The unit responded to queries and requests for information regarding the work of the Ministry, arranged visits to Guyana of personnel from overseas media establishments, and provided official information for use by media houses.

LIAISON WITH LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS

The unit organized public appearances of members of the diplomatic corps for public awareness purposes and assisted in organizing receptions for the diplomatic corps.

OTHER

The Unit throughout the year provided information on Guyana's foreign policy to students of schools and post-secondary institutions, including the University of Guyana.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

This Department is responsible for the support services in the areas of Personnel, Finance Registry, Maintenance and General Administration.

The Department is divided as follows:

- Registry
- Typing Pool
- Photocopy Room
- Receptionist
- Diplomatic Mail Room
- Filing
- Despatch and receipt of mail
- Personnel
- Finance
- Transport Section
- Security (provided by G.P.F.)
- Maintenance of Vehicles (provided by external sources)
- Maintenance of buildings (provided by external sources)

During 1998, the Department continued to carry out its responsibility of providing support services which facilitated the work of the Ministry through its various sections.

Staffing:

Staffing for the Administration Department continues to be a major problem, with the Personnel, Registry, and Finance sections suffering as a result.

Vehicles:

Most of the Ministry's vehicles suffered immensely from mechanical problems, with a high maintenance cost.

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It has been recommended that the vehicles so affected, be offered for sale through the Tender process.

Conferences

The Department, during the period, provided Conference support and facilities as requested by the Ministry and external agencies.

Korean Grant Aid:

A quantity of equipment was received from the DPRK as part of its Grant Aid to Guyana; most of the equipment received was issued to Departments, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Guyana Police Force (SB).

The remainder of equipment is yet to be issued.

PERSONNEL DIVISION

During 1998, twenty (20) new entrants joined the Staff of the Ministry. There were eight resignations, two dismissals and one transfer. Additionally, three members of staff went into retirement.

FINANCE & BUDGETING SECTION

The Finance & Budgeting Section on behalf of the Director General during 1998 operated the Ministry's finances within the ambit of the Budgetary Allocations. All funds were expended in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Programmes 1 and 2 Budgets for Current Expenditure of M\$ 917, 868 and Capital Expenditure of M\$14 were approved for 1998. During the year, Current Budget was revised

to M\$ 972. Actual Current Expenditure for 1998 was M\$950.464 and Capital Expenditure was M\$ 13.5.

Detailed statements of Current and Capital Expenditures are provided at Appendix 1.

The Finance & Budgeting Section collected Revenue at Head Office and from Overseas Missions for 1998 totalling M\$8.042 and paid same over to the Accountant General's Department.

PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

GOALS

- to ensure that the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations is observed;
- prepare for official visits to and from Guyana;
- facilitate the acquisition of visas for Government officials going abroad on business and - members of the diplomatic corps and international organisations coming to Guyana;
- facilitate access to privileges and immunities by members of the diplomatic corps;
- assist overseas Guyanese nationals and foreign nationals in Guyana to obtain or verify official documentation and other matters of general welfare;
- process applications for Diplomatic passports;
- ensure that documents are prepared and processed and events are scheduled pertaining to all Agreements, Accreditations, welcome and farewell arrangements for non-resident and resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners;
- prepare Letters of Credence/Recall
- prepare requests for Agreements
- maintain an up-to-date Diplomatic list
- facilitate approval for over-flights and landing rights
- prepare Credentials
- prepare Instrument of Full Powers

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 1998

1. Agreement granted by the Government of Guyana for eight (8) Ambassadors/High Commissioners from foreign countries.
2. Eight (8) Ambassadors/High Commissioners have presented Letters of Credence/Commission to Her Excellency the President of Guyana.

3. Four (4) Ambassadors/High Commissioners paid official Visits to Guyana
4. Four (4) Ambassadors/High Commissioners paid farewell visits on Her Excellency the President of Guyana and other Government Officials.
5. The Resident Representative of UNDP bade farewell to Her Excellency the President of Guyana and other Government Officials.
6. Farewell Receptions were hosted by the Foreign Minister for resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners and also for the resident Representative of the UNDP and the Deputy Heads of the Missions of India and the USA.
7. His Excellency Bayney Ram Karran, Ambassador of Guyana to Venezuela has been accredited as non-resident Ambassador to Colombia.
8. His Excellency Dr. Havelock Brewster, Ambassador of Guyana to the Kingdom of Belgium, has been accredited as non-resident Ambassador to Austria and Germany.
9. His Excellency Mr. Laleshwar Singh, Guyana High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, has been accredited as non-resident Ambassador to the Czech Republic.
10. Guyana requested Exequatur for Honorary Consuls to Greece, Saudi Arabia and Argentina.
11. Request for Exequatur was made to Guyana from Spain.
12. Performed protocol duties at the airport on several occasions for arrival and departure of foreign government officials, Ambassadors and High Commissioners.
13. Protocol duties for the Street Fair.
14. Requests for courtesies in connection with the visits of the President and Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Government to foreign countries.

15. Fulfilled requests from our Missions and Honorary Consuls for passport books, renewal forms, revenue stamps, etc.

Processed approximately 350 Custom Entry forms for duty-free concessions for diplomats.

Diplomatic Identification Cards issued	-	160
Diplomatic passport issued	-	25
Applications for Visas (approx.) by Government Officials travelling on official business	-	80
Requests for visas on arrival to persons at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri	-	165
Requests for the issuance of visas and extensions of Stay for Diplomats resident in Guyana (approx.)	-	105

Processed at least 25 renewals and 12 issuances of Passports per month for Guyanese nationals resident in Antigua

VIP Identification Cards issued for Government Officials and resident Ambassadors	-	30
Applications processed for police clearance	-	240
Applications processed for birth certificates(approx)	-	365
Marriage Certificates processed for Guyanese Nationals resident in Suriname	-	50

The Department continued to offer assistance on welfare matters to Guyanese both locally and overseas.

CONSTRAINTS

Although the everyday duties of the Protocol and Consular Department were fulfilled in a timely fashion, staffing and office equipment constraints did not allow for the preparation of a Manual on protocol practice.

The work of the Department was also hampered by slow movement in the re-organisation of the Protocol Registry due, largely, to the unavailability of trained staff to conduct the exercise.

Work on the physical restructuring of the VIP Lounge and the implementation of improved arrangements for its use have begun, but could not be completed in 1998, due to constraints of finance.

BEIJING

EMBASSY OF GUYANA

OVERVIEW

1998 was a year of mixed fortunes for the Embassy. On the positive side, refurbishing work to the Chancery and Residence Building was successfully completed by the third quarter of the year. Coupled with this exercise was the commencement of the gradual replacement of much needed office equipment and furniture.

However, the Embassy's overall rebuilding thrust which had begun about two years earlier, was negatively affected by the departure of one of the two career officers stationed at the Embassy. That departure placed added responsibility on the Embassy's limited human resources.

Notwithstanding the human resource limitation noted above, the Embassy's work programme for the year was executed with much enthusiasm and dedication.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

During the year the Embassy sought to utilize every opportunity to maintain friendly relations with the host government. The Embassy was successful in this regard due to the absence of any serious contentious bilateral issue between the two countries.

Visiting Delegations

In July the Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Mr. Qian Qichen, and a fifteen-member delegation visited Guyana. During that visit, the two Governments concluded three agreements, namely, a Framework Agreement, an Agreement on the Provision of Grant Aid, and an Agreement on the Mutual Exemption of Visas.

In November, a three-member delegation, led by the Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, paid a visit to Beijing. This visit was at the invitation of the Chinese Foreign Ministry to participate in the First Session of the Guyana/China Inter-Ministerial Discussions. While in Beijing the Delegation also met with Chinese Officials from the Housing and Personnel Service Corporations. At those two meetings agreement was reached on the settlement of the Embassy's fire damaged Apartment and increased local staff wages for 1999.

Commonwealth Group

Active participation in the meetings of the Commonwealth Group of Ambassadors continued in 1998. During the year the Mission was not called upon to host any of the Group's Meetings.

GRULAC

Throughout the year, the Embassy maintained a visible presence in all of the activities of the GRULAC. Notwithstanding the addition of Suriname to the Group during the year, the Spanish-speaking members continued to dominate. Yet within this environment Guyana remained active.

ADMINISTRATION

Local Staff

During the entire year the Embassy maintained its complement of three local staff, namely, Interpreter, Driver and Cleaner. As mentioned earlier, during the visit of the Director General a meeting was held to discuss local staff wage increases for 1999. Both sides agreed that a percentage of the increase would be paid directly to the staff.

Home Based Staff

The Embassy began the year with three home-based staff (two representational and one non-representational).

However, by mid -year the more senior of the two representational staff (Minister Counselor/Charg'e d' Affaires) proceeded on annual vacation leave away from post, but on completion of that leave resigned.

Utilization of Leave

All staff members, both local and Home-based were able to utilize all of their leave entitlement for 1998.

Housing

Housing for officers which remained an issue for most of the year, was finally addressed during the visit of the Director General to Beijing in November. During the DG's visit an Agreement was reached on the apartment by a fire in April 1997. This Agreement paved the way for suitable accommodation for Mr. Pollydore and his family. As mentioned earlier, by the third quarter of the year, refurbishing to the Official Residence had been completed.

Maintenance of Building & equipment

The maintenance works planned for 1998 were completed both in the Chancery and the Residence. In addition existing Embassy equipment were serviced on a regular basis in order to ensure their maximum output. One area that lacked much attention during the year was the Embassy compound. This was largely due to the continued absence of a Gardener.

Capital Purchases

Photocopier and fax machines were purchased during the year. However, the Mission's output continued to be affected negatively by the absence of a computer.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

For the entire year, the Mission continued to function (as it did since 1994) without the services of a trained accountant. This situation notwithstanding, the Embassy was able to maintain simple but accurate records of all its financial transactions.

The Embassy's accounting record keeping was reviewed during the visit of the Director General and instructions and advice given were immediately implemented.

The following accounting tasks were undertaken during the year.

- A. Daily cash book for petty cash expenditures
- B. Register for the issue of all cheques
- C. Register for receipt & payment of Station allowances
- D. Monthly expenditure statement
- E. Record of remittances for operational expenses
- F. Record of collection of consular revenue
- G. Preparation of 1999 Estimates of current & capital expenses

Operational Expenses

The Mission's financial situation improved towards the later part of the year, due to the fact that funds were no longer needed for Hotel accommodation. Nevertheless, there were still outstanding payments at the end of the calendar year. The amounts (about four months rent) were by far much smaller than previous years.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Guyanese Students

In August Ms. Bevon Mc Donald arrived in Beijing to study Chinese Language and Culture for one year at the Beijing Language and Culture University. The Embassy during the year continued close monitoring of all Guyanese students.

The PSM during the latter quarter of 1998 agreed to pay the students a supplemental stipend of US\$150 per month. Before the close of the year the Embassy was able to effect payment for the period September – December.

CARICOM Students

The Embassy during the year continued to avail itself whenever possible in providing (non-financial) assistance and encouragement to other CARICOM students in China.

CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

The Guyanese community in China continued to remain relatively small. Consular functions beyond the issuance and renewal of passport were not performed. Issuance of visas to Chinese passport holders continued although at a greatly reduced rate. The fact that only two tourist visas were issued, continued to demonstrate a cautious approach on the part on the Ministry of Home Affairs towards the movement of Chinese nationals to Guyana.

In July the Governments of Guyana and China signed a Visa Exemption Agreement which now makes it possible for certain categories of passport holders to be exempted from visa requirements.

Since the signing of this agreement the Embassy has ceased issuing Diplomatic and Official visas to Chinese nationals.

Visas

During the year the Mission issued the following visas:

Jan	-	4	-	-	-	4
Feb.	1	2	-	5	-	8
March	-	8	2	9	-	19
April	-	-	2	-	-	2
May	-	6	4	-	-	10
June	3	-	2	12	-	17
July	15	5	-	5	-	25
Aug	-	-	3	1	1	5
Sept	-	-	-	3	-	3
Oct	-	-	-	2	1	3
Nov	-	-	-	3	-	3

Passports

The following Passports were processed during 1998 by the Embassy:

MONTH	NEW	RENEWED	TOTAL
Jan	1	-	1
March	1	1	-
April	1	-	1
May	1	-	1
July	-	1	1
Oct	1	-	1

Consular Revenue

All consular revenue collected during the year was remitted to the Accountant General on a quarterly basis.

Consular Supplies

The Embassy was able to maintain an adequate stock of consular supplies at all times during the year.

BRASILIA

EMBASSY OF GUYANA

GUYANA/BRAZIL BILATERAL RELATIONS

During the period under review, this Mission continued in its efforts to expend and consolidate the existing ties of relations between Guyana and Brazil. Although many planned activities were not realized, there were some positive developments in quite a few areas. There was the visit of officials of the States of Roraima and Amapa at the Gubernatorial level to Guyana to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation. The border demarcation exercise, the participation of a Brazilian expert in a Private Sector/MERCOSUL Seminar in Georgetown, agreement to the final Drafts of the Agreement relating to the employment of dependents and visa abolition arrangements for Diplomatic and Service Passport Holders were some of the principal highlights.

Proposed State Visit by H.E. President Janet Jagan, O.E. to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Guyana accepted the Brazilian proposed time-frame of the first quarter of 1999, for the State Visit of Her Excellency President Janet Jagan, O.E. to Brazil. At yearend, the exact date had not been defined.

Mercosul Meeting

As a follow up to discussions between the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Guyana and Brazil during the visit by the former to Brazil in August 1997, a Brazilian expert travelled to Guyana to participate in a Mercosul Meeting hosted by Guyana on November 9, 1998. This Mission has, however, not received at yearend a report on this event.

Visit of Interdisciplinary Evaluation Team to Guyana

One of the decisions taken at the Review Meeting of the Joint Commission Work Programme on February 2 was the visit to Guyana by an Interdisciplinary Evaluation team from Brazil to assess the needs of Guyana in terms of Bilateral co-operation activities. Towards this end, Guyana submitted a list of its needs in order of priority. There was however much delay on the part of some agencies/institutions in Guyana in the submission of their needs. Consequently, a decision was taken in October for the team to proceed utilizing the data already received. This Mission was subsequently informed that due to heavy budgetary cuts made by Itamaraty following the financial crisis confronted by Brazil the Mission had to be postponed to 1999.

Training of Officials from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission

During the previous year, 1997, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission had submitted for the consideration of the Government of Brazil a request for the training of six (6) of its officials in the area of "mapping exploration and understanding of the lateralisation process in the tropical rainforest environment" at an institution in Brazil.

In January of 1998, a response was received from Itamaraty soliciting information on the level of training required and the academic qualifications of the officials identified to be trained.

The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission indicated that they were interested in having the staff members trained to the level of BSc in Geology and that transcripts for applicants would be submitted when required. There was no further development on this issue.

Guyana/Brazil Boundary Inspection

During the period February 9-11, 1998, the Extraordinary Meeting of the Guyana/Brazil Border Commission was convened in Belem, Brazil. Guyana's five-member delegation

was led by Mr. Fairbairn Liverpool, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. At this Meeting, a list of border marker inspection activities were identified.

A follow-up meeting was held at the First Special Platoon of the Brazilian Army in Bonfim on June 10, 1998, to finalise logistical arrangements for the impending inspection exercise of border markers identified during the extraordinary meeting. During these discussions the two sides agreed to begin the exercise of inspecting. Unfortunately the team from Guyana was unable to join their Brazilian counterparts to participate in this joint exercise and the latter proceeded on their own in this regard.

Subsequently, upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Brazilian authorities were approached for information regarding the outcome of the exercise conducted by the Brazilian team during the period as well as for data collected during the course of the exercise. This was subsequently received by this Mission and sent to the Ministry in October, 1998.

Military Cooperation

During the period under review the Guyana Defence Force continued to receive offers of short term training from the Brazilian Ministry of Defence. Several Officers had completed training in various fields in 1998 and returned home.

Cooperation with the State of Roraima

In March 1998, H.E. Ambassador Ivan B. Evelyn, received a two-member delegation from the State of Roraima led by Mr. Riobracó Brasil, Director of the Department of Industry and Trade/SEPLAN. The meeting with the Ambassador, according to Mr. Brasil, was primarily to gather market data which would assist in identifying potential for trade between Guyana and the State of Roraima.

During the meeting a number of issues were also discussed, including the Georgetown/Boa Vista road link, the bridging of the Takatu river, an airlink, deep water harbour facilities in

Guyana and cultural exchanges.

Visit of Guyana Trade Mission to Roraima

During the latter half of 1998, the Mission was approached by the Guyana Export Promotion Council for information on trade statistics of the State of Roraima as well as for a list of entities and Chambers of Commerce. This information was obtained with the help of the authorities of the State of Roraima and forwarded to the Guyana Export Promotion Council. This information was reportedly needed in order to prepare for a visit of a Guyanese Trade Mission to Roraima in October/November, 1998. The visit was subsequently postponed owing to general elections in Brazil at the time. No word has, however, been received as to whether the visit was realised at a subsequent period.

Visit to Guyana by Officials from the State of Roraima

During the period May 19-22, 1998, a three member team of officials from the State of Roraima visited Guyana. According to the information received from the Secretary of Planning, Roraima, the visit was fact-finding in nature and aimed at identifying the water and highway infrastructure of Guyana as well as, the conditions and harbour standards in existence capable of being beneficial to the commercial interchange between the frontier countries. A project document was also submitted entitled "Advantages of Terrestrial Interlinkages: Boa Vista/Georgetown/Paramaribo/Cayenne/Macapá."

The team met with Mr. Donald Abrams, C.C.H. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a representative of the Ministry of Trade and with the Minister of Works, Mr. Anthony Xavier. According to the Ministry's report on the visit, the team's visit was not in keeping with their initial request. There was no discussion on the road but rather an expression of interest in meeting with officials of local shipping agencies.

Georgetown/Boa Vista Road Link

During the first quarter of 1998, this Embassy was requested to establish, through the competent Brazilian authorities, the bona fides of the company Souto's Engenharia Ltd. which had expressed an interest in the construction of the Lethem/Kurupukari highway. This data was subsequently provided.

Visa Abolition Agreement on Diplomatic Service and Special Passports

In 1998 some advancement was made in the proposed Visa Abolition Agreement between Guyana and Brazil. The document was studied by the legal experts on both sides and adjustment and recommendations were made. It is expected that the Agreement should be signed during 1999.

Agreement on Remunerated Activities by Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative and Technical Staff

Modalities were finalised for the signing of the bilateral agreement on the performance of remunerated activities by dependents of diplomatic consular, administrative and technical staff.

However, Guyana communicated to the Brazilian authorities its preference of waiting for the conclusion of the Visa Abolition Agreement so that both could be signed simultaneously.

OAS/BCF Cooperation

In 1998, discussions were held with officials of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry regarding the possibilities of seeking alternative arrangements for the funding of projects submitted

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by Guyana under the Brazilian Cooperation Fund. It was proposed that some of these projects be funded within an IICA/ABC framework. This, however, was dependent on the outcome of the visit of the Brazilian Interdisciplinary Evaluation team to Guyana. It is anticipated that there will be positive developments in this regard in 1999.

VI Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Permanent Secretariat of the Treaty Of Amazonian Cooperation convened in Brasilia during September 10-11, 1998.

His Excellency Ambassador Ivan B. Evelyn and Mrs. Audrey Jardine-Waddell, First Secretary, represented Guyana at the abovementioned meeting. Appropriate reports and the relevant documentation arising there from were submitted to Headquarters.

Latin America and Caribbean – European Union Summit in Rio de Janeiro during June 28-29, 1999

During the year, this Mission continued its collaboration with Headquarters and the Brazilian Foreign Ministry on issues pertaining to the abovementioned Summit. Itamaraty was also informed that 'CARICOM' accepted the proposed dates for the Summit.

'PROCITROPICOS' Programme of Agreement signed by IICA and Amazonian Countries

At the end of the year, this Mission was still awaiting a response from our side with respect to the proposals for debt forgiveness and the Cooperation Agreement.

ANDES/Amazonas Project

This Mission had not received any response relative to Guyana's participation and collaboration in the ANDES Amazonas project.

Amazon System of Foreign Trade –‘SACE’

A two-member team from the General Coordination of the Project-Amazon System of Foreign Trade led by its Director – Superintendent held discussions with the Ambassador and presented the ‘SACE’ project for Guyana in the first half of December.

Notwithstanding, the presentations made to Headquarters by the Mission, there had not been any response.

Guyana/Malaysia Relations

During the period under review there were positive developments in terms of the forging of ties between Guyana and Malaysia.

Visits

There was the visit to Malaysia by the Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, Mr. Satyadeow Sawh for the International Timber Conference during March 1-9, 1998. During the Minister’s visit, it was reported that the opportunity was taken to meet with Malaysian officials to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation.

The Head of NARI accepted an invitation issued by the Malaysian Government to attend the Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council (MPOC) Palm Oil Awareness Programme, 17-21 August, 1998 in Kuala Lumpur.

Candidature

Guyana supported the candidature of Malaysia for re-election to the UN Commission on Human Rights for the period 1999-2001. Elections were held in May 1998.

Presentation of 'Letters of Credence' H.E. Ambassador S. Thanarajasingam of Malaysia

His Excellency Ambassador S. Thanarajasingam of Malaysia presented his 'Letters of Credence' in July and held bilaterals with appropriate Guyanese Government and Private Sector officials.

Scholarships

During the period under review Guyana continued to receive scholarship offers for courses offered by various Malaysian institutions under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

Guyana/Italy Relations

Soft Loan

During the year 1998, the Mission continued to liaise with the Italian Embassy and the appropriate authorities in Guyana concerning the Soft Loan to be granted by the Government of Italy for the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary Drainage and Irrigation Project.

In March, Guyana was given the go-ahead to begin the process of selection of Procurement companies to undertake the project. On December 31, this Mission received a Note from the Italian Embassy informing of a request from the Ministry of External Relations in Rome for a Report on the National Drainage and Irrigation Board of Guyana. This request was in keeping with a requirement to ensure transparency of the process.

Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between Guyana and Italy

Guyana is still awaiting the ratification of the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation on the part of the Italian Senate.

Guyana/Egypt Relations

Draft Economic & Technical Cooperation Agreement between Guyana and Egypt

Following repeated reminders from this Mission, the Embassy of Egypt submitted a revised Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between Guyana and Egypt for the consideration of the Government of Guyana.

Request for Agreements

During the year Agreements were sought and granted for the Ambassadors of Denmark and Egypt all of whom are based in Brazil but are concurrently accredited to Guyana. Unfortunately, they were both unable to present their 'Letters of Credence' this year and have requested a rescheduling for 1999.

Guyana/Denmark Relations

The Embassy of Denmark was approached regarding Guyana's request for relief following the damage done to crops and livestock in Guyana as a result of the effects "El Nino". The Embassy pledged a US\$15,000 contribution. However, Guyana at yearend, had not yet communicated its acceptance of the conditions of this offer. The release of the funds is dependent on this response.

Funds solicited for a warehouse project proposal were not accommodated.

Guyana/Turkey Relations

Suppression of Visas

In October, a proposal was received from the Embassy of Turkey for the suppression of tourist visas between Guyana and Turkey. The proposal was sent to the appropriate authorities in Guyana.

Caricom/Turkey Relations

The Embassy of Turkey submitted in October a formal Note outlining its Government's interest in developing closer relations with Caribbean countries and in applying to CARICOM for 'Observer Status'. This move is said to be part of Turkey's wide plan to increase its relations with the countries in the Caribbean especially within the economic field. This request was forwarded to the relevant authorities in Guyana.

His Excellency Dogan Alpan of the Republic of Turkey indicated informally that his Government has not yet decided whether non-representation to Guyana should be based in Brasilia or Caracas.

Invitation to participate in the Second Latin Meeting of Business Opportunities in the State of Goias during November 9-13, 1998.

The Mission received and transmitted an invitation and appropriate brochures to Headquarters for Guyana to participate in the Second Latin Meeting of Business Opportunities in the State of Goias during November 9 – 13, 1998.

The meeting was organized by SEBRAE – Goias- Brazilian Support Service to Micro and Small Enterprises of Goias. It provided an opportunity to expose the cultural, tourism, socio-economic, technical, commercial potential and possibilities for commerce and actual cooperation and business opportunities. It was also an international event focussing on small and medium sized companies to internationalize their products. A basic stand was reserved

for Guyana at no cost.

Administrative and Consular Activities

During 1998, this Mission continued to provide key consular services to both the Guyanese and non-Guyanese community in Brazil as well as some neighbouring countries such as Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile. Request from the latter countries were mainly for visas for Guyana as well as, for the renewal and issuance of new passports since Guyana does not have consular representation in these countries.

Visas

A total of 158 visas were issued in the following categories:-

Tourist	79
Business	21
Courtesy	50
Diplomatic	8

Passports

A total of 38 passports were issued while 35 were renewed. During the latter part of the year, there was a notable increase in the number of requests for replacement passports and new passports. This development was as a direct result of the Amnesty programme introduced by the Brazilian Government. Persons residing illegally in the country were given until December 7, 1998, to regularise their status. One of the requirements was a valid passport.

Consular Inscription:

A total of six Consular Inscriptions were issued to Guyanese nationals. This is a document prepared by the Mission certifying the identity of the individual.

Request for Information:

During the period under review the Embassy continued to respond as far as possible to the large number of requests for information on Guyana. These requests originate mainly from educational institutions and business entities in Brazil.

Stranded Guyanese:

The needs of several stranded Guyanese were addressed during the year with the Mission providing some form of subsistence as well as emergency travel documents. It should be noted that these developments could not be adequately accommodated by the Mission since proper financial provisions were not available for shelter, etc.

Government of Guyana Scholarship Awardees

There are currently three Government of Guyana sponsored students pursuing various disciplines at Universities in Brazil. These students are expected to complete their studies before the end of the year 1999.

At the beginning of the year, there was a total of four students. However, one student, Mariella Seepaul, successfully completed her studies and returned to Guyana during the month of October.

Administration

The Mission continued to operate under the constraints of limited personnel during the period under review. The required permission was not received from Headquarters to fill the vacant positions of Translator and Office Assistant/Driver.

Increase in Salary of Locally recruited Staff:

Notwithstanding the communication received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advising that the issue of an increase in emoluments of locally recruited staff would be addressed in January 1998, the matter was not finalized. The situation remained critical since staff members have not benefitted from increases since 1991.

The gravity of this situation has been compounded by the fact that Guyana has not addressed the long outstanding matter of social security benefits for Brazilian staff members. Since its existence, this Mission has not contributed to the Brazilian Social Welfare Scheme, which is in contravention of the Brazilian Labour Laws.

Lawsuit Filed Against Mission

A former employee of this Embassy, Mr. Aparecido da Silva, had in 1995 filed a lawsuit against this Mission for Social Security benefits which were not paid to him. Despite several approaches to the Ministry on this matter no response has been forthcoming. Meanwhile, the Brazilian authorities have been sending reminders to this Mission informing of the judge's decision in the court matter.

Finance

In 1998, this Mission was constrained to make further sacrifices to ensure the continuation and smooth functioning of the Mission as the remittances sent for operational expenses were not adequate enough to meet the basic needs of the Embassy. As a result, several planned visits by the Ambassador to other Brazilian states to promote Guyana's interests especially in the area of trade could not have been realised. Maintenance of buildings, servicing of motor vehicles and so on had to be reduced to the minimum. It is hoped that this situation would be improved in the new year.

Education Allowances

Despite several approaches made, the issue regarding the inadequacy of the existing ceiling for tuition fees for children of representational staff and for a revision to be made was not finalized. The current ceiling took care only of 40% of the tuition fees, the remaining amount has to be shouldered by the staff members. It is anticipated that there will be some relief in 1999.

Finance & Accounting

The Mission has been confronted with an increase in the cost of goods and services during the year under review. Given the current instability of the local currency against the US dollar, costs have been inflated by some 50%. In light of the devaluation of the Brazilian currency and the Guyana dollar during the year, there was a reduction in the actual US dollar value received by the Mission.

It should be noted that total allocation received for the year under review fell short of the budgeted amounts under various sub-heads. In addition to this short-fall, the Mission was informed in December that payments of salaries and station allowances were met from the Mission's allocation during the year. It should be borne in mind that these amounts were not budgeted for by the Mission, hence, there has been a further reduction of the amount remitted under Other Charges. This development resulted in the non-receipt of remittances for the month of December, since an over remittance of funds was reflected in the votes when the above payments were brought to account.

As a direct result, there has been an over expenditure under those heads that were inadequately financed, even after the revised allocation was received. At the end of the year, there were still unpaid accounts on hand due to the financial status of the Mission.

Audit of Accounts

The Mission's accounting records for the year 1997, and the months Jan-July, 1998

were audited by the Auditor General's department during the year under review.

Revenue Collection

The Mission experienced a reduction in revenue collection during the year under review, vis-à-vis that of 1997. The main source from which revenue were received were:-

- Issuance of visas
- New passports and renewal of passports
- Other consular services.

Given the fact that the US dollar is at present stronger than the local currency, it is recommended that a review be made of the fees Collected for consular services rendered by the Mission.

at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

At present all five students are undergoing studies at the post-graduate level in the following fields of study.

- Metallurgy & Materials Science.
- Environmental Design
- Earth Sciences
- Application of Modelling (Computer Science)
- Soil Science

The Consulate also in 1998 administered funds provided by the Office of the President for students in Cuba.

At the end of the 1997/98 Academic Year there were three continuing students and two students who commenced their studies at the beginning of the 1998/99 Academic Year.

Student records are kept up-to-date.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

The Consulate provided consular services related to passports, emergency certificates and visas as follows:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>RENEWALS</u>	<u>NEW PASSPORTS</u>
January	110	46
February	124	88
March	187	80
April	146	68
May	175	82
June	221	113
July	236	103
August	159	99
September	110	59
October	133	95
November	157	105
December	115	85

BRUSSELS

EMBASSY OF GUYANA

The year 1998 marked the formal commencement of substantive ACP-EU negotiations for a successor agreement to the LOME IV Convention which is scheduled to expire in February 2000. The mission continued to represent the CARICOM region on the Brussels Rio Group, an additional responsibility which was assumed in 1997. Guyana was also nominated to represent CARICOM in the Latin American/Caribbean-EU Summit preparation meetings in Brussels. In addition to the numerous meetings, conferences and consultations attended by the Ambassador and First Secretary, there were also some meetings attended by Government Ministers and officials from Guyana. Hon. Clement Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Brussels in September 1998 and participated in the ACP Council of Ministers Meeting.

ACP-EU Cooperation

The major part of the mission's work involved participation in the various ACP and ACP-EU fora, representing the interests of Guyana and the Caribbean, and monitoring developments in the committees, sub-committees and working groups.

During 1998, Guyana continued to hold the Presidency of CARIFORUM, which was then handed over to Haiti in October. Guyana also worked in close collaboration with other CARIFORUM members and the Regional Negotiating Mechanism on matters of special interest to the region.

The follow-up to the Libreville Declaration of the ACP Summit held in 1997 and preparations for the negotiations on a successor agreement constituted the main focus of work and discussions until October when the substantive negotiations officially commenced.

A request in early 1998 by Cuba to join the ACP group and become a party to the successor agreement was deliberated upon by the ACP membership. A decision was later made in May by the Council of Ministers in Barbados to grant observer status to Cuba.

Guyana's Instrument of Ratification for the accession to the EU by Austria, Sweden and Finland was deposited on 13 February.

ACP-EU Joint Assembly

The 26th Session of the Joint Assembly was held in Port Louis, Mauritius on 20-23 April and the 27th Session took place in Brussels on 20-24 September. Guyana was not represented at the session in Mauritius, however Ambassador Brewster and First Secretary Martin attended the 27th Session in Brussels. Reports were submitted previously.

ACP Council of Ministers Meeting

The 67th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers was held in Barbados on 4-6 May and was attended by Minister Rohee and Ambassador Brewster.

The 68th Session was held in Brussels from 28 September to 2 October. The Guyana delegation was led by Minister Rohee. This session was interrupted on 30 September by the formal opening of the ACP-EU Negotiations for a successor agreement to LOME.

Other ACP Meetings

The ACP Ministers of Finance Conference on Monetary and Financial Issues was attended on 25-26 June by Ambassador Brewster who likewise participated in the 4th Meeting of the ACP National and Regional Authorizing Officers and Experts on debt in September. He also represented Guyana at the ACP Foreign Ministers Meeting on 25-26 September.

There was an ACP Ministers of Trade Meeting on 15 May which was attended by Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Michael Shree Chan. This meeting preceded the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Geneva.

RICE

The Embassy continued to liaise with the Guyana Rice Development Board to pursue Guyana's position on rice particularly in relation to the reduced levy, the OCT route and the post LOME implications for rice. A settlement of the issue was eventually reached with the Caribbean Rice Association adopting their position in June in the document titled "A New Arrangement for ACP Rice in Europe after the Year 2000". This document formed the basis of the position advanced in Brussels. Later in December the CRA produced a paper "A New Protocol for ACP Rice in a Post Lome Agreement" which further specified precise requirements of Guyana and Suriname.

As a result of representations made at the Joint ACP-EU Sub-Committee on Trade, the EU adopted a new rice regulation under Annex XL of the LOME IV Convention which provided for a reduction of the levy to 35% from 50%. This regulation was approved by the Council in July 1998.

SUGAR

Guyana assumed Vice-Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee on Sugar. The Embassy continued to participate actively in the Working Group on Sugar and coordinated with GUYSUICO's representative in London, Bookers which represents our interests in the London Sugar Group.

The Fifth Special Ministerial Conference on Sugar, held in Fiji in May, was attended by Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, Minister of Agriculture and Ambassador Brewster. Mr. Ian McDonald, Marketing Director of GUYSUICO also participated in this meeting. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Sigatoka Declaration. Guyana was instrumental in advancing a proposal for the formulation of an Action Plan to be implemented by a Ministerial Lobbying Team. The team is composed of Mauritius (Chair), Guyana, Jamaica, Fiji and Swaziland

In February, the Joint Sub-committee concluded negotiations on guaranteed prices for ACP sugar. The agreed prices remained the same as the previous year.

RUM

The West India Rum and Spirits Association (WIRSPA) submitted their position paper on rum "A Fair Deal for Rum in Europe after the Year 2000" in the context of future co-operation with the EU in a post Lome arrangement. This document is being used as the basis of the ACP position to lobby for a new arrangement before 2000 which should include an integrated package of measures to provide transitional protection, as well as marketing and other assistance to enhance the ACP competitiveness. The Mission continued to participate in the activities of the Working Group on Rum.

Rio Group/EU-Latin American and Caribbean Cooperation.

The mission participated in numerous meetings of the Rio Group during the year. Guyana is the representative of the Caribbean on the Rio Group in Brussels.

A High Level Meeting on Drugs was held in Brussels on 23-24 March to discuss the EU proposal to establish a drug co-operation and co-ordination mechanism. The Mission was represented by First Secretary Mann.

The mission actively participated in discussions on the drafting of the Declaration and other preparations for the VIII Institutionalised Ministerial EU-Rio Group meeting held in Panama in February. This meeting was attended by Ambassador Karran in Caracas.

Latin America/Caribbean – EU Summit

Guyana represented CARICOM in steering group and preparatory meetings held in Brussels and Vienna in connection with the Latin America/Caribbean-EU Summit. The Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Cheryl Miles and Ambassador Brewster participated in the Second Meeting of the EU-Troika-LAC Steering Committee in September in Vienna. The Director-General and the Ambassador also participated in the Seminar "Expectations and Prospects of the First EU-Latin American-Caribbean Summit held in Vienna on 14-15 September.

ENERGY

The feasibility study was conducted by EU Energy Consultant, Mr. Martin Mc Donald in April on renewable energy potential in Guyana. This feasibility study was the result of earlier consultations between Minister Rohee and the Commissioner for energy and subsequent follow up contacts between the Embassy and the EU Energy Directorate. The report of the study was subsequently submitted with proposals for training programmes, rehabilitation of existing renewable energy facilities and data collection amounting to an estimated budget of ECUs 60,000. The Commission further proposed the merging of these proposals with those of a similar study conducted by an Indian energy expert.

Centre for the Development of Industry

On 25 March, Ambassador Brewster and First Secretary Mann met with the CDI Director Surendra Sharma and Desk Officer for Guyana, Ms Acquah Dodet to discuss CDI projects in Guyana and potential for increased utilisation of the services of this institution and also to explore new non-traditional areas of cooperation.

Projects in Guyana included assistance to GRMEDA for research into diversification in the rice industry in Guyana and technical assistance to Patmar Industries in the production of synthetic marble and onyx products.

On 31 October – 3 November, a CDI-contracted media team visited Guyana to film the activities of the CDI in Guyana, namely the operations of Precision Woodworking Ltd which is a beneficiary of CDI support.

Agreements

A Financing Agreement between the EU, Guyana and Suriname in respect of the Guyana-Suriname Ferry Service was concluded in March.

In October, a Financing Agreement GUA/7200/003/EDF VIII between the EU and

Guyana concerning support programmes for economic reforms was signed.

Other Meetings

The United Nations Conference on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinians held in February in Brussels was attended by Ambassador Brewster and Honorary Consul to Greece Mr. George Hallaq.

In January, there was an Iwokrama Donor Support Group Meeting which was attended by Ambassador Brewster and Navin Chandarpal, Presidential Adviser on Environment, Science and Technology. The meeting was organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Commission and World Bank to raise funds for the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme. Pledges of \$8 million were made at this meeting.

Minister of Fisheries, Livestock and other Crops, Hon. Satyadeow Sawh attended a Meeting in November on the Guyana Shield Donor Coordination in Brussels.

Ambassador Brewster participated in the Expert Group on North-South Cooperation set up within the Independent Commission on the Oceans chaired by ex-Prime Minister Soares of Portugal. The Final Report of the Commission was submitted in August 1998.

Ambassador Brewster also represented the Government of Guyana on the Board of the Caribbean Development Bank and during the year participated in several Board Meetings in Barbados.

Accreditation

The Ambassador received accreditation letters to be presented to several countries including Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Italy. So far, he has only presented credentials to Germany. This took place in Bonn on 21 April.

Trade, Tourism and Investment

The Caribbean Group continued to work on the establishment of an Advisory Business Council. The Working Group on this project completed a revised paper on the constitution of the proposed council.

An offer was made by the EU to the ACP to finance its members participation in Expo '98' in Lisbon. The Embassy assisted in liaising between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commission to finalize arrangements for Guyana's participation and to obtain the necessary funding. Guyana was represented at the Expo by Errol Tiwari from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Orin Alexander from the Guyana High Commission in London.

The Embassy once again participated for the third time in the Annual Diplomatic Fair "Spielend Verstehen" (Mutual Understanding) in Bonn organised by the German Foreign Ministry under the patronage of the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Mayor of Bonn. This event afforded the opportunity for the mission to promote various aspects of Guyana including its products, culture and tourism. Despite the usual constraints, the Embassy succeeded in showcasing Guyana. The Guyana rum and various snacks were well received and appreciated.

An EU proposal to assist Guyana under ACP-EU Trade Development Project was forwarded to the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry for necessary action. This project proposes pilot trade promotion projects, beginning with twenty ACP countries including Guyana.

The Embassy responded to numerous requests for tourist information from nationals of various European countries including Belgium, Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Netherlands and France.

The Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry provided information to an Antwerp tourism magazine which was desirous of covering Guyana in its publication. A request was also made for their reporters to travel to Guyana on a familiarisation tour. However, this trip did not materialize.

Mr. Noel Minne, a Belgian, registered a company in Guyana to set up a micro enterprise involving food concessions around the city. However, it is evident that due to the high duties and taxes applicable to his venture, plans were aborted.

Relevant information was provided to a German company in Berlin interested in mining, agriculture and environment.

The Embassy assisted a Belgian NGO led by Marc Goffin and Aude Niffle who have established a fruit processing venture in Orealla for export to Europe. They are making fruit paste from pineapple, lemons and five finger.

A small factory is under construction and three shipments of the product have already been sent to Europe. The total investment will amount to about \$12 million and the profits will be used to develop the Amerindian community. They have also started a small library for the community.

At the request of Minister Sawh, Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, the Mission coordinated with the European Commission to have Guyana registered on the list of third countries authorised to export fishery products to the European Union. The Commission required detailed information on various aspects of sanitary and health regulations governing the processing of seafood for export. This information was transmitted to the EC. Relevant legislation had to be drafted to satisfy the EU requirements since the regulations in force were insufficient. At year end, an inter-agency committee was in the process of producing the draft legislation.

Administrative Matters

The Mission received official notification at the end of the year of planned movements of representational officers scheduled for the beginning of the New Year. Two new officers would be posted to Brussels while First Secretary Mann was recalled to Guyana.

There was an attempted burglary at the Embassy in April which resulted in damage to the door at the entrance. Repairs were effected and new locks installed. The Embassy has

since made a special request for funds for the installation of a security system which was recommended by the Brussels police. At the end of the year, approval was still pending.

Responses are still outstanding on a large number of matters referred to Headquarters.

Consular Matters

Visas issued	20
New passports	14
Passport Renewals	15

Total revenue collected for 1998	BF217,505 (G\$863,898)
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CARACAS

EMBASSY OF GUYANA

INTRODUCTION

A number of events combined to give stimulus to the relations between Guyana and Venezuela in 1998. The Embassy simultaneously managed all aspects of Guyana/Venezuela bilateral relations including political, commercial and trade relations; Consular affairs and Guyana's relations with 16 other countries in what turned out to be an inordinately busy year.

The following report sets out the main highlights of the work of the Embassy in 1998.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

The year 1998, the last of Rafael Caldera's presidency of Venezuela, was marked by a significant milestone in the Guyana-Venezuela bilateral relationship following a period of relative sluggishness. The trajectory in the relationship was provided by President Janet Jagan's state visit to Venezuela in July of that year which featured a meeting between herself and President Caldera, several meetings among business leaders of the two countries as well as a meeting of President Jagan and her delegation with Guyanese nationals resident in Caracas.

The principal result of the state visit was an agreement on the part of the two leaders to establish a High Level Bilateral Commission between the two countries. In October the same year officials of the respective Foreign Ministries finalised the terms of reference and work programme of the High Level Bilateral Commission at a meeting in Georgetown. The Commission is composed of sub-committees tasked with promoting bilateral cooperation in the following areas: Consular Matters; Health; Agriculture & Livestock; Trade and Economic Cooperation; Political Consultations; Culture; Transportation; the Environment; Marine Resources and Prevention, Control and Suppression of the Unlawful Consumption and Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances. The agreements arrived at, were embodied in a

joint communiqué which was issued at the conclusion of the state visit.

Given that Venezuela's general elections were scheduled for December 1998, the outgoing Caldera administration elected to provide the incoming government the opportunity of approaching the work programme of the Commission with a disposition of its own, with the result that the Commission held no further meetings for that year.

President Jagan was accompanied on her state visit by reportedly the largest business delegation to have left Guyana up to that time. Deliberations between national and business leaders of the two countries were upbeat and fruitful. They yielded an agreement to establish a Joint Business Council which was foreseen as the precursor to a bi-national Chamber of Commerce. Other aspects of trade and commerce with Venezuela are set out in the commercial section of this report.

THE TERRITORIAL CONTROVERSY

During the state visit, the two Presidents reaffirmed the will of their respective countries to continue the search for a peaceful solution within the framework of the United Nations' Good Officer process as provided for in the 1966 Geneva Agreement.

Nonetheless, the Joint Communiqué which was issued at the end of the visit indicated that the two countries would initiate negotiations to arrive at an agreement on environmental issues. Venezuela stirred a controversy over this issue with a statement by its Foreign Minister to the effect that the proposed environmental agreement would relate only to Essequibo. Guyana consistently reiterated its position that the proposed agreement was to be based solely on multilateral treaty obligations entered into by Guyana and Venezuela and must therefore relate to all the national territory of each country. Sir Alister McIntyre expressed an opinion on the issue which was perceived to be favourable to Guyana and which led some in Venezuela to call for his substitution as the United Nation's Good Officer. At the end of 1998 this matter was still in abeyance.

In November, President Caldera surprised his Brazilian hosts by using the occasion of the inauguration of the Santa Elena de Uairen - Manaus Highway to reaffirm Venezuela's

claim to Essequibo. The Venezuelan President pointed out that "Venezuela has rights in that area" upon seeing a Brazilian map which excluded a depiction of the "zona en reclamación".

During a seminar on Venezuela's borders in early February, however, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas remarked that "it seems difficult, at this point, that Venezuela can recover the entire 159,500 square kilometres of Essequibo". He added that this was because Guyana was in possession of the territory and was small and weak compared to Venezuela. The Venezuelan Foreign Minister probably did not expect his remarks to have been published. This was one of the scarce occasions in the evolution of the controversy when Venezuela publicly qualified its goal of acquiring all of Guyana's territory west of the Essequibo river.

During the Venezuelan electoral campaign of 1998, the controversy, unexpectedly, was not an issue on the front burner. Remarks attributed to the eventual winner of the elections, Lieutenant-Colonel Hugo Chavez, evinced a disposition on his part during the campaign to be patient and flexible on the issue, even though he was forthright in his conviction that all of Essequibo belonged exclusively to Venezuela.

However, in December, immediately after Venezuela's elections were over and President Chavez was declared the winner, Guyana's territorial integrity was violated by a Venezuelan army aircraft which swooped close to a Guyanese military outpost near the western border. Guyana protested the incident. Venezuela's explained unconvincingly that the incident was part of an annual salute to border garrisons and that no hostile intention lay behind the manoeuvre.

President Chavez won the elections on promises to eliminate corruption, raise the standard of living of Venezuela's lower classes, stimulate economic development and guarantee human rights. In foreign affairs he undertook to strengthen cooperation and integration with the countries of the Caribbean and South America based on the visionary pan-americanist outlook of Simon Bolivar. As the year came to a close there was much to look forward to.

CONCURRENT ACCREDITATIONS

Colombia:

In August, the Prime Minister and the Head of Mission represented Guyana at the inauguration of President Andres Pastrana as President of Colombia. The Guyanese delegation met with Colombian officials and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

The Mission assisted in coordinating the delivery of a donation of twelve tons of DDT from Colombia to Guyana.

Chile:

The Head of Mission presented letters of credentials to President Eduardo Freijs Guyana's concurrent Ambassador to Chile in March, 1998. On that occasion the Chilean authorities undertook to strengthen relations with Guyana.

Ecuador:

The Head of Mission and the Attorney General of Guyana formed Guyana's delegation to the inauguration of President Jamil Mahuad as President of Ecuador. The Ecuadorian authorities granted agrément for the Head of Mission to be Guyana's concurrent ambassador to that country.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Foreign Minister Mr. Clement Rohee and the Head of Mission formed part of Guyana's delegation to the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States in Caracas in June. At the insistence of the Guyanese delegation the Assembly passed a resolution reaffirming its support for the democratic process in Guyana. In the margins of the General Assembly, Guyana conducted bilateral

negotiations with Venezuela, Japan and Mexico. The latter meeting set up a subsequent visit to Guyana by Mexico's Director of International Cooperation. The OAS General Assembly was preceded by an extra-ordinary meeting of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, which was also attended by Minister Rohee and the Head of Mission.

- The Head of Mission represented the Guyana Energy Authority in signing a contract with Petroleos de Venezuela to supply Guyana's petroleum needs for the year 1998.
- The Head of Mission addressed the Institute of High Defence Studies and several universities on relations between Guyana and Venezuela.
- The Mission designed, edited and produced a trilingual booklet (Spanish, Portuguese and French) containing President Cheddi Jagan's proposal for a New Global Human Order.
- The Head of Mission briefed the media and the diplomatic corps on developments leading up to the state of political unrest in Guyana during the year.
- The Mission helped organise and host the annual CARICOM diplomatic reception.
- The Mission organised a diplomatic reception hosted by President Janet Jagan in honour of President Rafael Caldera at the Caracas Hilton Hotel.

OTHER COUNTRIES

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES THAT CONDUCTED RELATIONS WITH GUYANA THROUGH THEIR MISSIONS IN CARACAS

The following countries are covered in this Section of the Report:

- i Algeria
- ii Austria
- iii Belgium
- iv Czech Republic
- v Finland
- vi Greece
- vii Iran
- viii Israel
- ix Japan
- x Norway
- xi Panama
- xii Poland
- xiii Portugal
- xiv Republic of Korea
- xv Spain
- xvi Switzerland

ALGERIA:

There was little activity in Guyana/Algeria relations from the Caracas post in 1998 except for the accreditation the Ambassador of Algeria to Guyana, H.E. Mr. Mohamed G. Nedjan.

Information on Guyana's accession to the NPT Treaty was provided by Guyana to the Embassy of Algeria.

AUSTRIA:

Relations between Guyana and Austria continued to develop in 1998.

The Honourable Minister of Finance of Guyana Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo visited Austria during February 1998 to sign an agreement with OPEC.

Guyana and Austria also held consultations on the hosting by Guyana of the EU-Troika-Latin America and the Caribbean steering Committee in preparation for the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit.

BELGIUM:

Relations with Belgium did not witness much increased activity in 1998 from the Caracas post.

The Honorary Consul for Belgium in Guyana Mr. Paul Chan-a-Sue received an Honorary Award.

Agrément was granted in July 1998 for the appointment of His Excellency Baron Andre de Viron as non-resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Guyana.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Relations with the Czech Republic revolved around protocolar matters - transmission of messages etc.

FINLAND:

Guyana/Finland relations were largely protocolar in 1998. Agrément was granted for the accreditation of the new Ambassador of Finland to Guyana, His Excellency Mr. Livo Salmi.

GREECE:

Agrément was granted in April 1998 for the appointment of His Excellency Mr. Lazaros Nanos as non-resident Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic (Greece) to Guyana.

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However by year-end there was no response to the Government of Guyana's request to appoint Mr. Nabil E. Bahu as Honorary Consul of Guyana to Greece.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:

His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Keshavarzzadeh presented his credentials as Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Guyana, on 12 March 1998.

Upon the request of the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana the Embassy of Iran forwarded information on the Islamic Bank. Having reviewed the documentation it was observed that the options offered by the Bank to countries who were not members of the Bank, did not comply with terms under which Guyana could borrow.

At year end Guyana requested Iran to use its good offices as Chairman of the OIC, of which Guyana was a full member, to promote Guyana's interests with the Bank's authorities. Guyana was later advised to forward its application to the Bank as a normal client would do.

Relations between Guyana and Iran continued on a cordial note. Guyana was kept apprised by Iran on the situation in Afghanistan and the activities of the Taleban.

ISRAEL:

Guyana received several training offers from Israel in 1998. These included:

- Psychological and Physical Rehabilitation
- Urban Economic Development
- Management of Energy Utilisation and Conservation
- Crop Weather Modelling

- 1166
- Management of Groundwater Resources.

A candidate was nominated for the course in Psychological and Physical Rehabilitation in the Community.

His Excellency Mr. Yosef Haseen, Ambassador of Israel to Guyana visited Guyana in July 1998 and held discussions with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Home Affairs and the Public Service. He also called on Her Excellency the President and the Honourable Prime Minister.

JAPAN:

Guyana - Japan relations were further consolidated in 1998.

In March 1998 Guyana requested the extension, to the end of 1998, of the Japanese Non-Project Grant Aid. This was approved by the Japanese Government.

Assistance was also sought for spares and equipment for the MARDS Rice Milling Complex.

Japan offered training in:

- Television Engineering II
- Planning and Management of Fish Port Facilities and Marketing Systems
- Orthotics and Prosthetics
- Urgent Disaster Restoration Systems
- Upland Farming Management

- Hull and Engine Maintenance of Small Fishing Boats

Due to the late submission of documentation Guyana missed opportunities for training in Small Enterprise Development and Electrical Power Management.

NORWAY:

There was not much increase in the scope of activities in the relations between Guyana and Norway as compared with 1997.

PANAMA:

There was no appreciable growth in activities between the two countries in 1998.

Recommendations made in 1997 for expanding these relations are still relevant.

POLAND:

Agrément was granted in July 1998 for the appointment of His Excellency Dr. Jacek Perlin as non-resident Ambassador of Poland to Guyana.

There was little activity to report on during 1998.

PORTUGAL:

Relations with Portugal revolved around the participation by Guyana in Expo '98 which took place in Lisbon, Portugal from May 22 - 30th 1998.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA:

The financial crisis in Asia had a crippling effect on the Korean economy in 1998 which limited the grant-aid programme with Guyana. For this reason Korea was unable to entertain requests for donation of equipment and utilization of surplus funds.

A new Honorary Consul of Guyana was appointed in Seoul.

SPAIN:

Don Miguel Angel Fernandez Mazambroz y Bernabeu was accredited as Ambassador of Spain to Guyana on 5 March 1998.

Also, approval was granted for Mr. Jesus M. Rodriguez-Andia Parado to be appointed Honorary Consul for Spain to Guyana with residence in Caracas.

In the field of training, Guyana benefited from training in International Studies at the Spanish School of Diplomacy.

SWITZERLAND:

The new Ambassador of Switzerland Dr. Ernst Iten presented his credentials in Guyana in October 1998.

During the period under review Swiss assistance to Guyana continued to support Guyana's debt reduction efforts. A non-reimbursable grant of 2 million US dollars was made towards financing the second phase of Guyana's debt reduction operation.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

This area of activity received a boost from the Presidential visit in July 1998. The

accompanying business delegation was afforded the opportunity to meet with a wide cross section of the Venezuelan private sector. The signing of a line of credit with the Venezuelan Bank for Foreign Trade held out the promise of increased activity in the import sector.

The establishment of the High Level Bilateral Commission, which includes a sub-committee on trade, and the agreement to establish the Joint Business Council are set to produce favorable results in bilateral trade and investment depending on the policies and programs adopted by the newly elected Venezuelan government.

In 1998 the Mission provided information to scores of Venezuelan companies desirous of finding new markets for their products. Generally, the Mission actively encouraged investors' interest in Guyana. In executing economic diplomacy, meetings were arranged, itineraries prepared, translations provided and business facilitation agencies in Guyana were engaged.

The Mission fashioned a program of activities for the business delegation which accompanied President Jagan. The program featured meetings in each businessman's respective area of interest.

The following is a summary of bilateral trade in specific sectors:-

WOOD:

The names of sawmillers in Guyana were supplied in response to requests. Feedback from the majority of interested businessmen indicated that prices proffered were on the high side. A number of importers queried the exportable condition of Guyanese lumber. The implementation of international standards that require certain export conditions for lumber would apparently inhibit international lumber sales.

RICE:

Mission activity in this area continued the trend started in 1997. Industrialists as well as importers showed interest in acquiring rice from Guyana. The majority of these per-

sons met with a Director of GRDB during the presidential visit. Of note also is a Colombian/Ecuadorian group that had expressed an interest in purchasing rice from Guyana.

MINING:

Information on this sector was provided to CODELCO, the Chilean Copper Corporation. Similarly, the Mission facilitated two visits to Guyana by MINORCA, the Venezuelan subsidiary of the Anglo-American Corporation, which has expressed interest in doing business in Guyana.

OIL EXPLORATION:

Information was provided to Western Atlas, an American company desirous of exploring for oil in Guyana.

MANUFACTURED GOODS:

In this area the Mission received requests for information on possible retailers, wholesalers or distributors from a large number of Venezuelan companies.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The Embassy lost its Typist Clerk Mrs. Mohandai Surujpaul a locally recruited officer, who moved on to greener pastures.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE:

The Mission managed to acquire along with its Preliminary Budget Allocation for the year, approval for Supplementary Provision as requested and Virement was approved accordingly but not until December 11th 1998 when the Revised Allocation was received.

Due to this delay the mission had to put on hold many of its planned activities as set out in its 1998 Work Programme, which eventually could no longer materialise.

Financial constraints for the first eleven months of the year paralysed the production of the Mission's quarterly Newsletters. The Newsletter was provided only in the first quarter. The Newsletter is an important means of informing and sensitising the Venezuelan, Guyanese and Diplomatic communities on issues of Guyana - Venezuela relationship.

Other activities affected by funding flows were the proposed Reception and Day of Games at the Embassy for both Republic and Independence Days, In-House Business Seminars; and attendance at Trade Expositions/Seminar out of Caracas. The proposed installations of Embassy's Internet and Email Services never came about. Official trips out of Caracas to perform consular duties were limited to three.

A total of 83 % of the Mission's compulsory expenditures incurred for Operational Expenses were utilised under the following Subheads:

304-001 Rental of Buildings: Fifty-four (54) percent was paid for rental - a reduced amount due to negotiation done by the Embassy.

306-000 Electricity Charges: five (5) percent.

307-004 Vehicle Spares and Services: four (4) percent. Significant repairs had to be done on the Head of Mission's official car, a four year old Buick.

308-000 Telephone Charges: Twenty (20) percent. Liabilities under this subhead for the previous year 1997 was met from funds and allocation provided for 1998 as instructed by the Ministry. (The amount paid did not include that outstanding on telephone line # 978278, a total of G\$996,000, a liability prior to January, 1997.) Venezuela has the highest telephone charges in the world.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

On presenting of its 1998 Draft Estimate the Mission requested a quantity of Equipment and Furniture for the Embassy and Residence including fans, chairs and curtains for the Lower part of the Chancery and the offices of the Ambassador and Counsellor.

Audit of Accounts:

During the first part of September, 1998 an Audit of Accounts of the Mission's Finance was carried out by an Officer from the Auditor General's office. He was assisted by all relevant officers responsible in that area. A report was submitted to the Embassy via the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Embassy provided a response to this report.

REVENUE:

A total of eight hundred and fifty thousand one hundred and seventy-three (G\$850,173) Guyana dollars was collected for the year.

CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

Consular Duties

Mission staff undertook journeys to the states of Bolivar, Anzoategui, Carabobo and Nueva Esparta to perform consular duties for the benefit of Guyanese citizens who were unable to travel to the Embassy. The Mission also rendered assistance to a number of Guyanese citizen in distress including some who had been imprisoned in Venezuela.

The Mission organised a meeting between President Janet Jagan and her delegation with Guyanese citizens in Caracas. Among the issues ventilated were the need to give effect to a Cabinet decision to issue passports to Guyanese resident in Venezuela who were not passport bearers.

The Mission organised and hosted several Games Day activities for the benefit of the Guyanese community as time permitted.

The Mission extended courtesies and hospitality to various official and unofficial delegations transiting Caracas.

Passports

One hundred and seventy-four (174) new passports were issued, one hundred and sixty-five (165) renewed and sixteen(16) extended. Twenty-two Emergency Certificates were also issued, two of which were provided gratis to Guyanese who were deported to Guyana by the Venezuelan Immigration Authorities for Backtracking.

Visas

Three hundred and three (303) Visas were issued, fifty-nine (59) of which were for Business.

Marriages

Six marriages were performed by the Head of Mission.

MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

SELA

Destruction of SELA'S Headquarters:

SELA'S Headquarters were destroyed by fire in February 1998. Fortunately, host country, Venezuela, provided a rapid and practical temporary solution by offering SELA an alternative office.

VII Extraordinary Meeting of the Latin American Council and the Restructuring of SELA

The restructuring process in SELA was given added impetus with the holding of the VII Extraordinary Meeting of the Latin American Council on 31st May, 1998, at which Guyana was represented at the level of the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

This Council Meeting mandated the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue with its efforts for the restructuring of SELA which resulted in SELA'S Work Program being divided into the following thematic areas:

- Extra - Regional Relations
- Intra - Regional Relations
- Regional Cooperation

The restructuring process was finalised on November 10th, 1998.

On the payment of Outstanding Quotas the Ad Hoc Working Group was empowered by the XXIV Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council to prepare a Draft Decision to "facilitate and promote the payment of the member states' pending quotas."

Latin American Council

The XXIV Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council was held in Havana, Cuba from November 30th to 3rd December 1998. Guyana was represented by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Guyana Embassy in Havana, Cuba.

TREATY AMAZONIAN COOPERATION

In October 1998 Guyana along with the seven other members of the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation signed the protocol of Amendment of the Treaty thereby agreeing to

the creation of the Organisation of the Amazon Cooperation with a Permanent Secretariat headquartered in Brazil.

The Embassy participated in the following meetings of the TAC.

- VI Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the Permanent Secretariat of the TAC Brazil, September 10 - 11 1998.
- IX Ordinary Meeting of the Amazonian Cooperation Council 5 - 6 October 1998.

The usual transmission of documents emanating from the Secretariat was facilitated by the Embassy.

OTHER MEETINGS

The Head of Mission was in Guyana's delegation at the following meetings:

27th Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Aruba, May 11-16.

Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Colombia, May 18 - 20.

Second Meeting of National Coordinators of the Rio Group and Second Preparatory Meeting of the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Summit, Panama, May 20 -22.

Third Meeting of National coordinators of the Rio Group and First Meeting of the Thematic Committee of the EU-LAC Summit, Panama, July 8 - 10.

Meeting of CARICOM delegates to EU-LAC Thematic Committee and Preparatory Committee Meetings, Mexico, December 13 - 14.

Meeting of the Thematic Committee and of the Preparatory Committee of the EU-LAC Summit, Mexico, December 15 - 17.

HAVANA

EMBASSY OF GUYANA

GUYANA/CUBA RELATIONS

The year 1998 was another good year for Guyana/Cuba relations. The previous year had witnessed the celebration of twenty-five years of successful, strong and fruitful diplomatic relations between the two countries, and 1998 continued in the same pattern of striving to consolidate the existing goodwill and excellent relations between both countries.

At both the bilateral and multilateral levels, cooperation was mutually beneficial as both sides maintained the desire to improve on the level of relations.

At the bilateral level there was the on-going cooperation under the Guyana-Cuba Collaboration Programme which, for the 1997-1998 Work Programme, was expected to include cooperation in other spheres of activity previously not part of the programme. This will be elaborated later on in the report.

The Mission, during the year, therefore, in its work to fulfil its responsibilities of promoting Guyana's foreign policy concerns in relation to Cuba was able to do so in the usual atmosphere of friendliness and non-impediment, as Cuba itself sought more and more to open its doors to the region in an effort to consolidate its own position within the hemisphere.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

During the course of the year the Mission participated in the usual activities held in observance of Guyanese, Cuban and other countries National Days and other anniversaries as well as in other significant events including official visits of foreign Heads of State and other dignitaries.

In this regard, the year began auspiciously with the visit of Pope John Paul II to Cuba in January 1998, an occasion in which the Chargé d'Affaires was given an opportunity to

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participate in some of the activities held for the Pontiff during his stay, thus setting the tone for a year marked by its eventfulness both in terms of official visits as well as international meetings and conferences in which the Mission participated. (The latter would be elaborated later in this report).

It was a year of anniversaries, notable among which, was the observance by the Mission of the first anniversary of the death of former Guyanese President Dr. Cheddi Jagan and that of Jamaican ex-Prime Minister Norman Manley.

On March 10th 1998, the Mission along with that of Jamaica and with the participation of the Haitian and South African Missions in Havana and the Cuban Government, held a Symposium in the Aula Magna of the University of Havana to mark this Anniversary.

The Guyanese Chargé'd' Affaires, one of the speakers at the Symposium, spoke on the life and achievements of Dr. Jagan. Almost the whole Diplomatic Corps and several high-level Cuban Government officials turned out to attend this event which was given adequate publicity by the Cuban Government media.

During the year, Cuba celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the Attack on the Moncada Garrison, an event which was the decisive factor in ensuring that the war was won for the Cuban revolutionaries against the Batista dictatorship. As is customary, the Mission was required to participate.

The Mission took part in the commemoration of Guyana's National Day (February 23rd) as well as Guyana's Independence Day (May 26th). For these two occasions, the Cuban organisations – the Cuba/Caribbean Association and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) held activities, as is usual to observe these events, and the Chargé d' Affaires was invited to address the gatherings.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The Chargé d' Affaires participated during the course of the year in a number of International Meetings held in Havana, either as Guyana's representative, or to accompany

or lend support to representative/s sent up from Guyana. The meetings were as follows:

- February 2nd-5th, 1998: First Meeting of University Authorities Of Member Countries of the ACS. Dr Harold Lutchman, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, came to Havana to attend this meeting.
- February 10th-11th, 1998: Second Meeting of the Working Group of the ACS Special Committee on Tourism.
- April 6th-10th, 1998: IV Meeting of the Caribbean Ministers of Shelter and Settlement. Guyana's Minister of Housing Hon. Sheik Baksh was Guyana's representative.
- June 9th-11th, 1998: Meeting of the Caribbean Rice Association Ltd. A large Guyanese delegation headed by Parliamentarian Mr. Fazal Ally and including Mr. Charles.
- June 25th-26th, 1998: XXIII Meeting of Health Ministers of the Non Aligned Movement.
- July 13th, 1998: VI Meeting of the ACS Special Committee on Budget and Administration.
- July 15th-16th, 1998: Second Intersessional Preparatory Meeting of the ACS.
- November 30th-December 3rd, 1998: Meeting of the XXIV Ordinary Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA.

At the Ministerial part of this Meeting the Guyana Foreign Minister, Hon. Mr. Clement Rohee was present.

Reports were forwarded to Georgetown for all the Meetings at which the Chargé d' Affaires of the Mission was accredited as Guyana's representative.

VISITS

While there were no official visits exchanged between the two countries during this period, the year saw an improvement in the number of visits of officials from each country to the other. There were a number of high-level Guyanese officials who came to the island during the course of the year to attend several International Meetings held here. These, including Guyana's Foreign Minister, Hon. Clement Rohee, have been mentioned above also detailing the international conferences in which the Mission participated in Havana.

There were also several private businessmen who visited Cuba during the year to look into possibilities of trade and investments with Cuba.

On the Cuban side there were also a number of Cuban Government officials including the Cuban Minister of Trade, H.E. Ricardo Cabrisas, who visited Guyana in November of last year as part of Cuba's delegations to the CARICOM/CUBA Joint Commission Meeting held in Georgetown, as well as the Seminar and Exhibition on Possibilities for CARICOM Trade with Cuba.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Bilateral Cooperation between the two countries continues to be maintained primarily under the Guyana/Cuba Joint Commission Programme, although recently there have been some attempts at cooperation, especially at the level of trade, by means of direct contacts with the relevant authorities on both sides.

In this regard, the programme elaborated for Guyana/Cuba Cooperation during the 19th Session of the Guyana/Cuba Joint Commission in Havana in June 1997 for the period 1997-1998 is comprehensive and includes many aspects of cooperation between the two countries which previously had not been presented.

The areas of cooperation include health, education, culture and sport, science, technology and the environment, tourism, agriculture and forestry, fishing, technological cooperation, sugar industry and trade.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

This is an area of activity at the Mission which has still remained low key.

The area of most activity continues to be requests for courtesy visas for Cuban officials travelling to Guyana under the Guyana/Cuba Cooperation Programme or for purely commercial reasons.

Below is a list of all the visas granted by the Embassy for 1998.

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Courtesy	38
Diplomatic	2
Tourist	30
Business	4
	<hr/>
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STUDENT AFFAIRS

The number of students in Cuba has remained the same as last year i.e. – three (3). The students, two in Veterinary Medicine and one in Human Medicine, are all in their third year of studies and doing reasonably well academically.

The Mission continues to oversee their general welfare, to administer funds as allowances to them from the Public Service. Ministry Account which the Mission holds, to

liaise between them and the Public Service Ministry in relation to their studies here, and to assist in any problems which might occur from time to time.

During the course of the year, their PSM maintenance allowance was increased from CANS 100 per month to CANS 250, an increase which has obviously provided some relief to them in the difficult economic situation which obtains here for students.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

The Mission has continued in its responsibility to deal with other countries with resident Embassies in Cuba, which are concurrently accredited to Guyana in whatever activity/contact has been necessary to further relations between these countries and Guyana.

OTHER

The year saw an increase in the number of Guyanese businessmen who visited Cuba privately to look into possibilities for trade and other types of economic associations. The Embassy assisted in arranging meetings with Cuban Ministries/Organisations and in whatever other way it could in an effort to stimulate economic benefits for Guyana.

Throughout the year also the requests for economic information on Guyana continued as foreign businessmen in Cuba as well as Cuban agencies/organisation sought to look for export/import possibilities with Guyana.

The Mission facilitated these requests as best as it could in accordance with what information material was available at post.

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

During the course of the year, it was obvious that because of the continuing evolution in the Cuban situation, the relations between Guyana and Cuba have taken on a more active

and dynamic outlook.

Cuba has been attracting some interest in the Guyanese business community, as was evidenced by the number of private Guyanese businessmen who visited the island during the year.

Also, since Cuba, in an effort to earn hard currency has had an active programme of contracting out its enormous and highly qualified human resources reservoir to the region and further afield, Guyana, as well as others have been attempting to capitalize on the opportunity to utilize these experts, where possible, in our own developmental programmes in areas of need.

Because of these increasingly vibrant possibilities for bilateral cooperation, apart from the obvious political agendas, more and more Caribbean countries are now setting up Missions in Havana. Guyana, which for years was the only Mission here, has now been joined by Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and more recently Belize, all with representation at the level of resident Ambassadors, except for Haiti whose Ambassador is resident in New York.

Our Mission here is in a position to be useful in this atmosphere of increased possibilities for expansion of bilateral cooperation. However, the Mission must have the tools with which to work.

It is very important, therefore, that basic resources which are crucial to the Mission and which are still lacking be made available, including staff, if even a skeleton staff, so that we can be in a position to make the most of our presence here.

LONDON

GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION

Introduction

During the first two quarters of the year the Mission's work was concentrated a great deal on providing information to Guyanese in the United Kingdom, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Commonwealth Secretariat, High Commissioners and Ambassadors, International Organisations, agencies and the media on the post-elections situation in Guyana. The governments of France, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, and the Czech Republic were also formally informed of the results of the general and regional elections.

A Summary of Activities

Economic Matters

In pursuit of the Government's economic diplomacy, the Mission continued to promote Guyana to potential investors during 1998. In an attempt to support the export programme of the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC), a survey was made of companies in Britain dealing with cash crops to assist contact between GMC and British traders.

The Mission responded to over ninety (90) trade enquiries. These were mostly about the purchase of traditional commodities such as timber, rice and sugar, although the details of exporters of craft and fruit and vegetables were also requested.

The Mission also brought to the Ministry's attention, Consolidated Contractors International (UK) Limited's interest in investing in electricity and the airport terminals in Guyana.

The High Commissioner met with the Managing Director of International Media

Corporation (IMC) in September who indicated an interest in publishing a special section on Guyana in TIME magazine. The aim was to promote investment to Guyana by highlighting the extraordinary growth of the country's economy over the past few years and the economic potential of the main export sectors. These details were brought to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to be pursued with the President and Prime Minister of Guyana.

The Investment Pack of the Mission was continually updated and circulated to select and interested business people.

Tourism

The High Commission responded to requests from tourists and business persons for information on Guyana and continued to promote Guyana as an eco-tourism destination. Also, following the West Indies/England cricket match held in Guyana, further queries about tourist attractions in Guyana were made resulting in the despatch of brochures, posters, hotel and other information to the public and tourist offices in the wake of this increased demand.

During 1998 one hundred and nine (109) requests were received and information sent on Tourism.

The Mission continued to receive a number of requests for posters, maps and photographs of Guyana.

Collaboration with the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), U.K. continued, as well as with the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Georgetown, and the Guyana Tourism & Hospitality Association.

Destination '98'

Guyana was featured at Destination '98' the world-renowned holiday and travel show, which was held in London from 26th February to 1st March. Mr. Orin Alexander made a presentation to visitors at a special interactive session on Guyana as a nature and adventure

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destination. The session was held under the auspices of tour operator Trips Worldwide which is promoting Guyana as an alternative Caribbean destination.

World Travel Market

World Travel Market '98' was held in London from 16th to 19th November. Guyana was promoted within the Caribbean Village as part of the Three Guianas in order to highlight the sustainable tourism products offered by Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

Guyana's delegation was headed by Hon. Shree Chan, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry and included officials from the Tourism Association of Guyana. Mr. Orin Alexander of the Guyana High Commission was requested by the Ministry of Trade to perform the duties of Stand Director in the absence of the Director of Tourism.

The High Commission received the Guyana delegation at the airport and organised the delivery of the promotional material to the exhibition site.

The High Commissioner and Mr. Alexander attended a Board of Directors meeting held on 15th November by the Caribbean Tourism Association (CTO), U.K..

A brief report on Guyana's participation at World Travel Market ;'98' was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1997 Caribbean World Magazine Award

In March, Guyana won the prestigious 1997 Caribbean World Magazine Annual International Award as the best Caribbean eco-region. The High Commissioner accepted the award on Guyana's behalf. A press release was issued and circulated on the award.

Republic Day

To mark the 28th Anniversary of the Republic of Guyana, the staff of the High Commission along with members of the Guyanese community in the U.K. attended a special Evensong Service on February 24th, which was organised by Westminster Abbey.

Independence Celebrations

The High Commission met with Guyanese organisations and individuals to discuss a community input in preparation for the "week" of activities planned for the period 20 – 31 May to commemorate the anniversary of Guyana's independence.

The activities included an Inter-Faith Service, an Exhibition of Guyanese art, craft, books and videos, a Fun Day, a Reception hosted by the High Commissioner, an Independence Dance and a Concert by Ray Luck.

Expo '98

Two members of staff of the High Commission, Mr. Orin Alexander and Mr. Carl Abrams represented Guyana in Portugal from July 30 to August 15 during Expo 98.

The Mission had been involved in organising the participation of the Holder brothers in Guyana's cultural evening. They were joined by the Shaws who reside in Sweden. The Mission submitted a report on the event.

Amerindian Exhibition

The High Commission hosted a preview of its 2nd Annual Amerindian Art & Craft Exhibition on September 15 to commemorate Amerindian Heritage Month. The works of Genevieve Cox, Kamal Matthews and George Simon were on display. The exhibition was opened by the High Commissioner who was joined by the winner of the 1997 Commonwealth

Writer's Prize for First Novel, Pauline Melville.

Guyanese flautist Keith Waithe, and cultural artiste, Doris Harper-Wills were part of the programme for the evening. The exhibition was open from 16 – 30 September. The Mission issued a press release on the event.

International Social Service (ISS) Fair

The High Commission participated in the annual International Social Service spring fair in May. The Mission was able to contribute £250.00 to the ISS (UK) due to the success of the Guyana stall.

CCL Fair

The High Commission participated in the annual Commonwealth Countries' League (CCL) Fair on 7th November. The success of the Mission's two stalls (food and craft) enabled the High Commission to donate £624.50 to the League, a charity for disadvantaged girls in the Commonwealth.

CARICOM Day Reception

The High Commission was represented at the annual CARICOM Day Reception on 8th July hosted by Caribbean High Commissioners in London. Guyanese Keith Waithe and the Macusi Players joined other Caribbean artistes in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Community.

Drought Disaster Fund

Following the State of National Emergency called in March by the President of Guyana in response to the El Nino phenomenon, the High Commission launched a Drought Disaster

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Appeal Fund to enable the Guyanese and international community in the United Kingdom to contribute to relief efforts in Guyana.

The overwhelming support received enabled the High Commission to transfer to Guyana, the sum of G\$9.52 million. This sum consisted of £8,444.98 (G\$2.06 million) and US\$50,000.00 (G\$7.46 million) – the latter representing a contribution by the Government of Mauritius.

Death Anniversary of Late President Jagan

On March 6th the High Commissioner and Ambassador-at-Large, Professor David Dabydeen hosted a reception at the High Commission to launch the book Tributes in commemoration of the first death anniversary of the late President.

A Prose and Verse wide cross-section of the Guyanese community attended and this provided an opportunity for reminiscences on the virtues of the late President and to exhibit and sell his works. The Mission issued and circulated a press release on the launch.

Guyanese Community in Britain

The High Commission continued to publish its bi-monthly newsletter for circulation within Britain, France and The Netherlands.

In July the High Commission was represented at the funerals of Guyanese lawyer Rudy Narayan and of Canon John Dorman, a British missionary who spent more than forty years in service to Guyana in the interior region.

Other events at which the High Commission was represented included a concert in July sponsored by the Association of Guyanese Nurses and Allied Professionals (AGNAP) to raise funds for cancer relief in Guyana, and the Miss Guyana U.K. Beauty Pageant in August.

Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) Programme 1998

Information was circulated to Guyanese and Guyanese organisations in the United Kingdom and in the Netherlands informing that the Government of Guyana would soon be embarking on another phase of the TOKTEN programme.

Information received had also been inserted in a special issue of the Newsletter outlining the Mission's programme of activities for the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of Guyana, which was issued in April 1998, and also placed on the Mission's notice board and in the reception area.

The administrative arrangements were outlined and interested persons were asked to submit their curricula vitae to the High Commission for onward transmission to the relevant authorities in Guyana for selection.

Caribbean Diplomatic Corps

During the year, the Mission continued to consolidate its relations with the Caribbean and Latin American Diplomatic Corps in London. The Caribbean High Commissioners met monthly to discuss current issues affecting the region, particularly in Guyana and preparations for the UK/Caribbean Forum.

As a member of the CARICOM Day Sub-Committee, the High Commission was involved in preparations for the CARICOM Day Reception and Cultural Evening, which were held on 8th July. Keith Waithe and the Macusi Players of Guyana were invited to contribute to the Cultural Evening, and the British distributors of Banks DIH and DDL donated their rums/liqueurs for the occasion.

Visits of the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Director General

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Clement Rohee visited the U.K. from

6th to 8th July. A press conference was organised at the High Commission on 6th July to provide the Minister with the opportunity to update the press and the wider community in London on the St Lucia Statement, which was signed between President Janet Jagan and Mr. Desmond Hoyte of the People's National Congress. The following day, the Minister held talks at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and visited the University of Warwick for a roundtable discussion on Guyana.

Mrs. M.C. Miles, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid a private visit to London in September. She paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner and the usual courtesies were extended to her on her departure from London.

Meeting with the Trades Union Congress (TUC)

As part of a joint strategy established by Caribbean High Commissioners and the West India Committee to secure support from the British Government and other agencies in the United Kingdom regarding the negotiations for the successor arrangement to the Lome IV Convention, Caribbean High Commissioners met on 9th December with the Executive of the British Trades Union Congress. A detailed report of the meeting in which matters of mutual interest and concern were discussed was presented in the High Commissioner's December report along with a copy of the High Commissioner's presentation.

Meetings of Circle of Friends for the Promotion of the New Global Human Order held during the year 2000.

The Circle of Friends for the Promotion of the New Global Human Order held four meetings at the High Commission.

On Sunday 26th April 1998 the Circle of Friends (UK) for the Promotion of the New Global Human Order (NGHO) held a lecture entitled "The Caribbean in a Globalised World," by Professor Bishnodat Persaud who addressed the topic in the context of the late President Jagan's call for a New Global Human Order.

Professor Persaud who was born in Berbice is a member of the UN Secretary-General's Committee for Development Planning, Co-Chairman of the UN Expert Group on the Vulnerability of Small States, and member of the Advisory panel of the UNDP's 1998 Human Development Report. He has been a consultant to many institutions and governments including a recent IDB Socio-Economic Mission to Guyana.

The High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Laleshwar Singh chaired the discussion. He outlined some of the main points in Dr Jagan's concept of a New Global Human Order. These included people as the focus of development, dealing with the debt crisis, the transfer of capital for economic development, access to the markets of the north and a fair trading system.

The Circle of Friends held a meeting at the Guyana High Commission on Wednesday 24th June 1998. At that meeting members discussed in detail, plans and strategies to be adopted to promote the New Global Human Order.

Members of the Circle of Friends met at the High Commission on Wednesday 15th July to discuss and decide on the approach to be taken at a meeting with Mr. Thomson of the Department for International Development on 22 July 1998.

Mr. B. P. Thomson of the Department for International Development addressed members of the Circle of Friends on development issues in Guyana at the High Commission on Wednesday 22 July.

The Circle of Friends presented a paper on specific proposals the DFID should examine when granting aid to Guyana. They also stressed the importance of democracy, good governance and local commitment to policies for poverty reduction and the need for more debt relief for Guyana and increased Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) cover.

Meeting of Caribbean Advisory Group with Caribbean High Commissioners

Caribbean High Commissioners were invited by Baroness Symons, Parliamentary

Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth office to meet with the Caribbean Advisory Group headed by Baroness Scotland on 10th December at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. High Commissioners were informed of the role of the Advisory Group and some initial objectives. Questions relating to nationals returning to the Caribbean were discussed. A report of the meeting was outlined in the High Commissioner's monthly report.

Commonwealth Foundation

On 18th November the High Commissioner met with Dr Humayun Khan, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation to discuss Guyana's outstanding contribution to the Foundation. A detailed report of the meeting was forwarded to the Ministry on 27th November.

The High Commissioner recommended and the Director agreed to the identification of a person within the Ministry to whom all correspondence and communication should be sent so as to be better able to monitor the benefits of Guyana's membership in the Foundation. Ms. Cherub Nichols of the Multilateral and Global Affairs Department of the Ministry was the person identified.

Meeting with Officials of the Guyana Airways Corporation

The High Commissioner met with a delegation from the Guyana Airways Corporation at the High Commission on 10th September. The delegation, which was on a fact-finding mission, comprised Dr Cedric Duncan, Chief Executive Officer and four other officials of the Corporation.

A report on the meeting was forwarded to the Ministry.

Newsletters distributed during 1998.

Three issues of the Guyana High Commission Newsletter were circulated to over 2,000 Guyanese and non-Guyanese within Britain, France, the Netherlands and the Russian

Federation.

A special issue covering the results and aftermath of the December 1997 General and regional Elections held in Guyana was released in January.

Donations sent to Guyana during 1998

During 1998 the following donations were sent to Guyana:

In February, the following six (6) boxes of donations were shipped to Guyana

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Consignee</u>
2 boxes	Typewriters	The Headmaster Grove Primary School C/o Dr Roger Luncheon MD Head of the Presidential Secretariat
4 boxes	Cricketing Gear	Mr. Neil Kumar National Sports Development Council C/o Dr Roger Luncheon MD Head of the Presidential Secretariat

During the month of May, the Mission shipped 30 school chairs and 22 benches to Georgetown. The donations were consigned to the Headmaster, Grove Primary School in care of the Head of the Presidential Secretariat.

In November, 32 boxes of donations and 1 walking frame were shipped to Georgetown to be distributed to government departments and agencies, and 11 boxes of books were forwarded to Major-General Joseph Singh.

A cheque for one hundred and seventy-six pounds (£176.00) was handed over to the

National Relief Council.

Elections 1997

Following the address to the Nation by Her Excellency President Janet Jagan, on 23rd December 1997, a Press release was issued and circulated to inter alia, Caribbean High Commissioners and Latin American Ambassadors in Britain, the British press, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Commonwealth Secretariat and Guyanese organisations.

The aforementioned also received regular updates on the situation in Guyana.

An all -Missions Note Verbale was circulated to Commonwealth High Commissioners on the situation in Guyana following the general unrest in the country. This Note was based on the text forwarded to the High Commission by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The High Commissioner met with and updated the Commonwealth Secretary-General on the situation in Guyana on 14th January.

The High Commissioner invited representatives of the Media to a Press Conference at the High Commission on 13th January to update them on recent developments following the General and regional elections. A personal invitation was also extended to selected influential individuals. The forum, which was well attended, provided the High Commissioner with the opportunity to clarify many misconceptions brought to the fore.

One-to-one interviews were given to inter alia The Times, The Guardian, The Gleaner, New Nation (community paper in the U.K.) and the BBC Caribbean Service.

On 19th January, the Mission issued a Press Release on Guyana's Post-Elections Agreement between the PPP/Civic and the PNC. The Release was distributed to the media, all Guyanese Organisations in the U.K., Commonwealth Secretariat, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Commonwealth High Commissioners, Guyanese in the Netherlands, France and the Russian Federation. The Release was also handed out at the Mission and on the whole, was widely distributed.

On 30th January, the High Commissioner invited the 41 Guyanese organisations based in London to send representatives as well as selected individuals to a briefing at the Mission on the post-elections agreement signed between President Janet Jagan and Mr. Desmond Hoyte.

At that meeting it was decided that a statement should be issued by representatives of Guyanese organisations in Britain expressing deep distress and disgust over events, which unfolded in Guyana after the December 15 elections and their support for the Herdmanston Agreement. At another meeting on 13th January, a statement was agreed to by all the organisations present.

Immediately after the news bulletin containing the summary of the findings of the CARICOM Audit Commission on the general elections was received, the High Commission circulated copies to : the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Caribbean High Commissioners, all the Ambassadors of the countries to which the High Commissioner is accredited based in London – the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands, and the Russian Federation, selected members of Parliament and the House of Lords.

A press release was also circulated to all the Guyanese organisations based in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, Guyanese and friends of Guyana in the Netherlands and France, the Ambassador of the Embassy of Jamaica in Moscow and Guyana's Honorary Consul to Pakistan, the Caribbean and British Press including the BBC Caribbean Service, Guyanese and British Businessmen, the media, and a large number of selected individuals in Britain. Copies were also made available at the reception desk of the High Commission and also despatched along with other mail from the Mission.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The High Commission continued to pay close attention to the work of international organisations and to monitor as far as possible with its limited resources their meetings and activities.

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Secretariat held its Resource Week from 22nd to 26th June to apprise member governments of the work of the Secretariat and the Foundation. Reports on meetings of the Commonwealth Foundation and the Finance Committee were forwarded to the Ministry. The Secretariat's review of its administration programme was debated during Resource Week. A separate report on the deliberations of Resource Week was submitted.

Copies of the reports of the Commonwealth Observer Mission to Guyana in December were secured for the attention of the relevant authorities in Guyana.

As a member of the Finance Committee of the Commonwealth Secretariat as well as the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Institute, the High Commission was represented at all meetings related to the Committees over the first quarter of the year.

In March the High Commissioner met with representatives of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum regarding EU-funded training for Guyanese Local Government Officers and Mayors. As a result of that meeting, training commenced in September. In July, the Director of the Forum paid a visit to Guyana and was able to confirm Guyana's membership as well as arrangements for forthcoming project activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government.

On 15th July, the High Commission was represented at the meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Mission on Small States, which was headed by the Prime Minister of Barbados. A report on the meeting was submitted and the Mission's report was forwarded for the attention of the President of Guyana.

The High Commission represented Guyana at the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting, which was held in London from 9th to 11th November. A report was submitted to the Ministry on the conclusions of the meeting. The points raised from Guyana's presentation on Education to reinforce democratic values formed part of the conclusions of the Meeting. Emanating from this, the Commonwealth of Learning expressed an interest in supporting Guyana's proposal in a tangible manner.

The Minister of Education of Guyana was contacted regarding the matter. Other follow-up action by the Commonwealth on Guyana's presentation included a request from the Human Rights Unit of the Secretariat for additional information on the teaching tools used by the Ministry of Education of Guyana in promoting this type of education.

Guyana was represented by Hon. Bernard De Santos, Member of Parliament and former Attorney-General at the Commonwealth Convention on Advancing Economic, Social and Cultural rights which was held from 7th to 10th December in Ghana. The Convention formed part of the activities to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Attendance was facilitated through the efforts of the High Commission is seeking funding for representation by Guyana. The High Commission also made arrangements for Mr. De Santos' intransit stop in London and visa for Ghana.

The High Commission was represented at the Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf Earcare 2000 which was being implemented in Guyana was the focus of attention of the Chairman's annual report. Both the Charity Board and the Department for International Development had contributed the sum of £150,000 towards the programme which represented 47% of the total income received by the Society. Dr Ruth Qyaico from Guyana had earlier in the year undertaken studies in the audiological field at Manchester University.

A report on the conclusions of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Foundation was submitted to the Ministry. One of the issues raised and approved was the extension of the contract of the current Director of the Foundation until the end of November 1999 to enable him to report to CHOGM and launch the Millennium Project. Details on nominations for the post as well as on the Project were forwarded to the Ministry for its information and consideration.

Ms. Karen De Sousa of Red Thread Women's Development Programme was identified by the Foundation as its National Partner in Guyana in promoting the Millennium Programme.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs attention was drawn to the revised Memorandum of

Understanding to be signed between the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat on technical co-operation activities.

A brief entitled "Issues engaging the attention of the Commonwealth Secretariat" was prepared by the Mission for the consideration of H.E. the President of Guyana in view of proposed talks with the Commonwealth Secretary-General during the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting.

With regard to Commonwealth Technical Assistance, Guyana submitted a request in October to the Commonwealth Trade and Investment Access Facility (TIAF) for provision of an International Trade Policy Advisor who would, inter alia, review Guyana's trading agreements to ensure that they were WTO compatible.

The Ministry was invited to make nominations for the post of Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General (Economic and Social Affairs) and Deputy Director, (Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division).

Nominations for the post of Regional Director (Caribbean) of the Commonwealth Youth Programme based in Guyana were requested.

Guyana contributed US\$87,419.92 to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, which was warmly welcomed by the Secretariat particularly given that the sum was twice that pledged for the financial year.

In October, Guyana paid £25,256.54 towards its arrears to the assessed financial contributions. The sum of £92,053.30 remained outstanding. The Commonwealth's decision that countries which failed to meet their financial obligations and were two or three years in arrears would not be considered for future technical assistance, was communicated to the Ministry.

In terms of Guyana's financial obligations to the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the sum of £5,371 was outstanding and a letter to this effect was despatched to the Minister of Culture of Guyana.

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In observance of Commonwealth Day, the High Commission was represented at Westminster Abbey followed by the reception hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Commonwealth Day speeches by Her Majesty the Queen and the Secretary-General were brought to the attention of the Ministry.

UNESCO

Throughout the year the High Commission continued to act as a conduit for correspondence between UNESCO and Ambassador Dabydeen and to liaise with the Ambassador on matters relating to the organisation.

Requests for Guyana's support from Japan for its candidature for the post of Director-General and from Paraguay and the Dominican Republic for seats on the Executive Board were brought to the attention of the Ministry.

The Mission forwarded the Dominican Republic's appeal for assistance, which was launched in the wake of Hurricane George.

The Mission coordinated requests from Guyana for funding from UNESCO for 1998 – 1999 under its Participation Programme for projects on the DG's Human Rights and the Culture of Peace initiative, biological diversity, lessons for the promotion of its conservation and sustained use, institutional strengthening: masters degree programme offers in counselling and special education, facilitating the preparation of teachers to teach CXC music in secondary schools, the Martin Carter project; and educational media production training project.

IMO

In 1998 Guyana acceded to a number of Conventions and Protocols administered by the IMO. The High Commission informed the Ministry of the dates these agreements came into effect as well as restrictions on acceding to the 1992 Protocol to the 1971 Fund Convention.

These accessions, however, enabled the Mission to represent Guyana as an Observer

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to the Executive Committee of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund. A report was submitted in this regard.

A request was made for Guyana to consider accession to the International Agreement on the Use of Inmarsat Ship Earth Station.

Guyana submitted the appropriate Instrument of Acceptance of the Amendments to the IMO Council.

The High Commission was also represented at a similar meeting of the Centre for Bio-Sciences International (CABI) on 29th July.

In terms of Guyana's financial obligations to the Organisation, the sum which was overpaid in previous years, went towards offsetting Guyana's obligations for 1999.

Preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the IMO were communicated to the Ministry.

Other International Organisations

The Mission continued to monitor and inform the Ministry of activities related to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Trade Organisation (WTO), International Sugar Organisation (ISO), the International Bureau of Expositions, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

BILATERAL RELATIONS

BRITAIN

During the year efforts were made to consolidate the relationship between the High Commission and other High Commissions/Embassies accredited to Britain. Special attention was paid to maintaining close links within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development in relation to Guyana/UK relations.

These offices were apprised of post-general elections development in Guyana. In addition, special meetings were held with British Members of Parliament, Messrs. Bowen-Wells, Anderson and Bernie Grant, Chairmen of the British Parliamentary Committee on International Development, Foreign Affairs and the Caribbean respectively, to brief them on the situation.

A courtesy call was paid on the High Commissioner by Mr. Ian Whitehead, newly appointed British High Commissioner to Guyana. The opportunity was taken to discuss Guyana's political, economic and social situation.

With regard to the UK/Caribbean Forum held in the Bahamas from 12th to 13th February regular meetings were held with the Secretary of State, Clare Short and Minister for International Development, Baroness Symons. The Minister of Foreign Affairs was kept abreast of all the arrangements for the Forum as well as the issues most likely to be raised.

Consequent to the Forum the Mission was involved in follow-up action. Meetings were held with Baroness Symons on the creation of a Caribbean Inward Investment Office. Guyana proposed to host the third Forum following Britain's offer to have the second one in Britain.

The High Commissioner participated in discussions on the way Guyana's relations with Britain would be affected following the reorganisation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in which the Caribbean was incorporated into a new Latin America and Caribbean Department of the FCO.

In May Britain hosted the annual G8 meeting. The Guardian newspaper in conjunction with the NGO Jubilee 2000 led a campaign prior to the meeting to sensitise the public to the third world debt issue. The High Commission alerted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the campaign and also sought meetings between the Guardian Environment Editor who visited, and government officials so that Guyana's case could be highlighted in the campaign. The Guardian coverage of Guyana was forwarded to Georgetown.

The following were activities aimed at strengthening and improving bilateral relations between Guyana and Britain.

A meeting was organised on 22nd July at the High Commission for interested Guyanese in Britain to meet with Mr. Thompson, Head of the DFID office in Barbados to discuss the priorities for British assistance to Guyana. The Circle of friends for a New Global Human Order submitted a paper to Mr. Thompson outlining various areas to which DFID should give preference.

Guyanese-born Baroness Amos was congratulated following her appointment as Baroness-in-waiting, Whip and government Spokesperson in a Junior Ministerial capacity on Women, Social Security and International Development.

Information on the research undertaken by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on Guyana's forestry sector for a European Commission meeting of donors was communicated to Georgetown. Ms. Haden, the Research Assistant, met with the High Commissioner and Ms Elliott to inform of the ambit of the paper and her proposed visit to Guyana.

The High Commissioner met with Lord Waheed Ali to discuss the situation in Guyana and to propose a similar briefing to Members of the House of Lords with an interest in the Caribbean.

The Ministry was updated on the peace process in Northern Ireland including statements by Sinn Fein.

France, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Czech Republic

Financial constraints prevented visits during the year to these countries to which the High Commissioner is accredited. The unstable political and economic situation in Russia was monitored through news reports from Britain. However, the High Commission had envisaged visits to these countries in 1998 so as to consolidate relations.

A report on France's regional elections held in March and information on arrangements for the International Conference on Water Policy held in March were submitted to the Ministry.

Details on the initiative Edufrance by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education were communicated to Georgetown. The initiative was an attempt by France to reach out to Asia and Latin America at the economic, cultural and scientific levels.

The Convention for Pacific Settlement of International Conflicts came into effect for Guyana. This was facilitated through an interchange between the Mission and Dutch officials.

The details of the new appointments on 3rd August in The Netherlands of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Development Co-operation and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs were communicated to the Ministry.

Consequent to the appeal received by Guyana from the people of St. Martin, the assistance of the Dutch government was sought in confirming the status of the agreement between that government and France vis-à-vis St. Martin.

The speech of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands on the occasion of the Plenary Session of the States General of The Netherlands was brought to the Ministry's attention. The speech addressed current issues of concern to the Dutch people..

Information on programmes by the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) was conveyed to Georgetown.

The Czech Republic signed a free trade agreement with Estonia as it prepared for membership of the European Union. The text of the agreement was forwarded to the Ministry. The High Commission noted the need to develop closer trade links with the Republic and to monitor how EU membership would affect future trends.

With regard to The Holy See, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Guyana presented his Letters of Credence to His Holiness The Pope on 17th December. A copy of the High Commissioner's speech and report on the visit were communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The High Commissioner also took the opportunity to pay official calls on representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

ADMINISTRATION

The vacant positions of Chauffeur/Office Assistant and Typist/Clerical Assistant were advertised.

The Mission submitted a new and updated inventory of the High Commission to the Ministry.

On 29th January a new Panasonic Telephone System was installed at the Mission, replacing the old one. The new system, which cost £4,206.50. had a tremendous impact on communication between the public and the Mission and has been of great value in the Mission's committed objective of disseminating information on happenings on the political, economic and cultural fronts in Guyana.

As part of its work programme for 1998, the Registry was moved from the third floor of the Mission to the basement. The Registry was equipped with three computers.

The Mission purchased a new computer at a cost of £1, 246.70 from proceeds from the Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) Fair to assist with the computerisation of all its offices.

A sofa was also purchased to replace the suite in the High Commissioner's office at a cost of £1,000.00. This was made possible from the proceeds of fund raising events.

CONSULAR SECTION

The Consular Section continued to serve the Guyanese community and foreigners in Europe, Africa and Asia. In addition to the issuing of passports and other legal documents, the Section dealt with a significant number of requests for information and assistance in areas of welfare, immigration, import/export, tourism, remigration, employment and students' affairs.

In order to effectively carry out its functions the Section has had to request information

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from Ministries and government departments in Guyana. These included information requested from the Immigration Department and the General Registrar Office. The Section was adversely affected by the lack of quick responses to correspondence sent to some Ministries.

There were a number of requests for general and specific information on Guyana. It was therefore necessary for the Section to be in possession of up-to-date statistical information, which was frequently what the public required. Requests made to Georgetown were usually unanswered.

During 1998 the Section offered guidance and advice to several nationals seeking various forms of assistance. The Section also responded to the requests for assistance from nationals incarcerated in the United Kingdom.

The Section maintained contact with the Embassy of Jamaica in Moscow and dealt with problems encountered by students regarding return tickets and legalisation of their documents.

The Course reports for a student studying in India were submitted to the Mission as well as those for two officers of the Guyana Defence Force who completed training at the Royal Military School, Sandhurst, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Logistic Officers' Course.

REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE CONSULAR SECTION FOR 1998

MONTH	AMOUNT COLLECTED
	£
January	1,875.03
February	2,096.37
March	2,112.68
April	1,783.85
May	1,542.18

June	1,765.78
July	1,845.78
August	1,549.06
September	1,722.80
October	2,046.83
November	1,879.44
December	1,243.26

MAIN REVENUE EARNERS FOR 1998

New Passports	£ 9,357.00
Renewals	£ 4,576.00
Shipping Documents	£ 2,355.00
	£16,288.00

Revenue is also earned from the following services:

- Powers-of-Attorney
- Deed Poll
- Affidavit Fees
- Authentication and Notarisation
- Citizenship Registration and Renunciation
- Registration of Births
- Visa Fees
- Addition of Children to Passports
- Emergency Travel Documents
- Passport Forms.

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS — NEW YORK

INTRODUCTION

While not a very dramatic year in the context of the United Nations' agenda, 1998 however saw a number of significant issues addressed and decisions taken at the level of the Assembly which impacted directly on the Mission's work programme for the year. The most significant were the holding of the Special Session on Drugs, June 1998, the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session on the Palestinian Issue and meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, both bodies in which Guyana was a member. The Mission was also engaged in preparing for the visit in September of Her Excellency the President to the 53rd Session of the General Assembly. In addition to Guyana's election to the United Nations Children's Fund and reelection to the Commission on Sustainable Development, Guyana's election, by acclamation, in September, to the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 for 1999 was an event of major significance for the year.

53rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The highpoint of the Mission's agenda for 1998 was the first visit as President of the Republic of Her Excellency Mrs. Janet Jagan O.E., who addressed the Fifty-third UN General Assembly on September 22. The President's address stressed the need for support by the international community to new restored democracies such as Guyana. She also called for concerted effort in the fight against poverty. The President's programme included meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of Colombia and the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. In addition, the President addressed a number of other meetings and gatherings at locations away from the United Nations. These included lectures on New and Restored Democracies at Princeton and Columbia Universities and Medgar Evers College. The President was also engaged in a number of public lectures and meetings with groups of Guyanese nationals.

TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION:

The Tenth Emergency Special Session resumed on March 17, 1998 to continue its consideration of "Illegal Israeli Actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory".

It was a follow-up to three previous sessions, which took place in 1997. Once again, Guyana participated. At the end of the meeting, the General Assembly adopted another resolution which reiterated the demands and recommendations made in resolutions issued at the other previous sessions. The Government of Guyana has indicated its official agreement with the recommendation that the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 convene a conference on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem and to ensure its respect in accordance with common Article 1.

In addition to the Tenth Emergency Special Session in July, and as a result of a decision of the Assembly, Palestine was granted additional rights and privileges of participation in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DRUGS

The Permanent Representative of Guyana, H.E. Mr. Samuel R. Insanally addressed the Special Session on Drugs which was convened at the United Nations Headquarters from 8-10 June, to assess the international drug problem and develop a forward-looking strategy for the next century. The Mission also participated in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole which met simultaneously to the high-level segment to finalize negotiations on the texts, which were then submitted to the Assembly for adoption. In addition to approving the session's final documents, the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed adherence to and implementation of international drug control treaties and the international drug control regime.

At the conclusion of the session Member States adopted, without a vote, a Political Declaration, a Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and a resolution on measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem.

G-77 CHAIRMANSHIP

On the 25th September, Guyana was elected by acclamation to the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for 1999 after being unanimously endorsed as the candidate of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. Guyana's election took place on the occasion of the Twenty-second Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China held in New York. This was only the second time that an English-speaking country from the region has been elected to serve as Chair in the Group's 35-year history. Guyana will lead the 133 member grouping at a crucial time both for the UN and for the G-77. The Group of 77 and China, founded in 1964, is the largest association of developing countries. In addition to coordinating the Group's activities at the UN, Guyana will also coordinate preparations for the first ever South Summit to be held in Havana in the year 2000.

NEW GLOBAL HUMAN ORDER

As in previous years, the Mission during 1998 continued to promote the concept of a New Global Human Order. In addition to drawing attention to the concept in various statements, the Mission has continued to reach out to delegations and secretariat officials in an effort to mobilize support. Efforts are also being made to constitute a group of friends of the New Global Human Order in New York.

SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

During the year, Guyana continued to serve as co-ordinator for CARICOM on the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council which concluded its fifth year of discussions at the end of the fifty-second session. Although the Working Group achieved a remarkable amount of progress on issues related to transparency, working methods and general functioning of the Security Council, it proved impossible to make any progress on issues relating to the enlargement of the Security Council, in either the permanent or the non-permanent category.

The position of CARICOM continues to be guided by our principled object on to the veto and by our attempts to find a solution which could command wide support both from the majority of the membership, which also objects to the veto, but could perhaps ultimately even be accepted by the Permanent Members of the Security Council. The Permanent Members have so far refused to allow a discussion on how the veto could be limited. The Working Group will resume discussions in January 1999.

ELECTIONS TO MAJOR BODIES

At elections held in May 1998, Guyana gained membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and was re-elected to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Guyana's term on both bodies will be for three years. While Guyana's term on the Executive Board of UNICEF begins on 1 January 1999, our second term on the Commission on Sustainable Development will commence at the end of the Commission's seventh session in April 1999. Guyana also lent its support to various candidatures at elections which were held during the year.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Commission on Sustainable Development held its sixth session from April 20 to May 1, 1998. The Commission addressed the following issues: integrated freshwater management, industry and sustainable development, review of selected chapters of the Barbados Programme of Action on small island developing states, and the cross-sectoral themes of technology transfer, capacity-building, education, science and awareness-raising. Mr. Navin Chandarpal, Adviser to the President on Science, Technology and Environment, delivered Guyana's statement at the high-level segment, which was attended by a large number of Ministers. Guyana was also elected to the CSD Bureau as a vice-chairman from the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD

In preparation for our membership on the Executive Board of United Nations Children's Fund which will commence on 1 January 1999, the Mission participated as an Observer in the various sessions of UNICEF which were held in February, June and September at the United Nations Headquarters. Representatives of the Mission also participated in a briefing session for new members of UNICEF in December. Participation in the meetings provided for an understanding of the workings of the Board as well as of the issues with which we would become engaged on taking up our membership.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

This year Guyana completed its three-year tour as a member of the Economic and Social Council. During its one month substantive session held in June-July, the Council addressed the issue of market access in the light of developments since the Uruguay Round. Guyana's delegation was headed by the Honourable Michael Shree Chan, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry who made a statement at the high-level segment.

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Over the course of the year, Guyana's delegation attended the meetings of the Coordination Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement. During 1998, the Bureau organized three meetings:

Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement which took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 19-20 May, 1998.

Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the Fifty-third Session of the General Assembly, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 25 September 1998.

Twelfth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Durban, South Africa from 29

August to 3 September 1998.

At the last meeting, the Government of Colombia handed over the Chairmanship of the Movement to the Government of South Africa. Guyana was represented at all of the meetings and used each forum to promote the New Global Human Order and other issues of interest.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

At the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States which took place on October 1, 1998, Guyana was admitted as a full member of the Organization. Guyana previously participated in the meetings of the OIC as an Observer. The delegation of Guyana attended the meetings of the Organization that were held periodically during the year and intends to continue participating in all of the OIC's activities in the forthcoming year.

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Being a member of this Committee, the Mission attended a number of meetings of the Committee during the course of the year. The highlight of its activities in 1998 was a high level "Conference in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" which was organized in collaboration with the OIC and the League of Arab States and held in Brussels, Belgium from 24 to 25 February. Guyana was represented at this forum by its Ambassador to Belgium, Dr. Havelock Brewster. On November 30, the Committee observed the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People with a special meeting at the United Nations. This is an annual event to which the Government of Guyana always sends a message of support.

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION

Once again, as a member of this Committee, the Mission participated in its twentieth annual session which took place at the United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 May, 1998. With the reform of the Department of Public Information (DPI) underway, the Committee concentrated on reviewing the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Task Force on the Reorientation of United Nations Public Information Activities. The main aim is to communicate the message and activities of the United Nations effectively. The Committee on Information has asked the DPI to undertake a pilot project to assess the feasibility of establishing an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations.

OTHER MEETINGS

As a part of its work, the Mission also represented Guyana at the meeting of the states parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea held at the United Nations. The last meeting took place in May.

The Mission also attended the annual sessions of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. This year the Committee met from January 26 to February 6.

In March, the Mission participated as an observer in the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

CARICOM

Co-ordination and co-operation at the level of CARICOM Permanent Missions to the United Nations with a view to carrying out the mandates of the Foreign Ministers continued during the year. In this regard, Guyana served as co-ordinator of the Group for the last quarter of the year, September – December. In addition to co-ordinating meetings of the Group, since this period coincided with the General Assembly, the Mission was faced with the huge responsibility of having to prepare and deliver statements on behalf of the Group on a number

of Agenda items during the session. Representatives of the Mission also formed part of Guyana's delegation to the Second Informal Consultations of the CARICOM Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) held in October. The delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Clement Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A major highpoint for the Group this year was the hosting by the Foreign Ministers of a reception in September at the United Nations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of CARICOM. Guyana played a leading role in coordinating the reception.

RIO GROUP

During the year, but more particularly for the entire 21-25 September, the Permanent Mission of Guyana as a representative of CARICOM in the Rio Group, attended meetings of the Rio Group with the Russian Federation and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Mission was also represented at the Ministerial Meetings of the Rio Group and the European Union.

A range of issues were discussed at these meetings. At the meeting of the Rio Group with the Russian Federation, the financial crisis, democracy, and the Security Council reform were among the issues discussed. The meeting of the Rio Group with the Gulf Cooperation Council discussed the situation in the Middle East and the financial crisis. The Rio Group and the European Union addressed matters pertaining to the First European Union/Latin America and Caribbean Summit which will be held in 1999, as well as the international financial crisis, the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations on Drugs, and other issues.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to attending meetings here at the United Nations, during the course of the year, representatives from the Mission also attended meetings and other fora away from New York where matters of interest to Guyana were also addressed. H.E. Ambassador Insanally was part of the Guyana delegation to the Ministers' Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in Colombia in May, and the Twelfth Summit of the Heads of Government of the NAM held in Durban, South Africa in August. The Permanent

Representative also traveled to Jamaica in April to attend the award ceremony of an Honorary Degree conferred on the United Nations Secretary-General by the University of the West Indies.

Officers from the Mission also attended the Regional Conference on the International Criminal Court which was held in February in Guatemala, and the G77 High-level Conference on regional and sub-regional Economic Cooperation held in Bali, Indonesia from December 2 to 5, 1998. The G77 Conference adopted the Bali Declaration and Plan of Action aimed at fostering greater cooperation between and among regional and sub-regional economic groupings of the South. It is expected that the outcome of the Bali meeting will be one of the inputs for the South Summit to be held in Havana, Cuba in the year 2000.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

In 1998, the Government of Guyana, in keeping with its desire to strengthen relations and co-operation at the bilateral level, established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with the Government of Jordan on 19 August 1998 in New York, after a signing ceremony which took place at this Mission.

Also in 1998, arrangements were made through this Mission for the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations to present his credentials to the Government of Guyana as High Commissioner of Namibia to Guyana.

The Mission also arranged a number of bilateral meetings for Their Excellencies the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs who visited New York for the 53rd Session of the General Assembly. The meetings discussed issues of importance to Guyana and the countries concerned and explored ways of enhancing existing relations.

INTERNS

As in previous years the Mission, during 1998, continued the practice of engaging interns, mostly University students, on short and long term basis. Specific activities were

assigned the three interns engaged this year, one of whom continues on attachment with the Mission.

OTTAWA

GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION

Guyana/Canada relations were given a boost in 1998 with a visit to Canada in May by Prime Minister, Hon. Samuel Hinds, by a visit to Guyana also in May by Canada's Secretary of State for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. David Kilgour, and a visit to Ottawa in August by Finance Minister Bharrat Jagdeo. These visits were used to discuss matters of interest to Guyana and Canada as well as the strengthening of our bilateral relations.

1998 also saw continued collaboration between Guyana and Canada in a number of areas such as Transportation, Trade and Investment. There was however little or no movement on the Foreign Investment Protection Treaty and the Social Security Agreement.

Throughout the year Mission representatives attended a number of seminars and other meetings hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, and Trade Facilitation Office Canada that were of importance to Guyana. By way of continuous reporting the Ministry was kept informed of their outcome.

Canada's involvement in the region came under focus during the year with the holding in Georgetown in February of the 9th JTEC meeting and the Caricom/Canada Summit which was held in April in the Bahamas. Both meetings addressed mechanisms for enhancing cooperation between CARICOM and Canada.

The year ended on a low note for the High Commission when in November the staff had to say "good-bye" to High Commissioner Benn and Mrs. Benn. High Commissioner Benn departed the High Commission after five years of credible service in that position. For the rest of the year the duties of Head of Mission were carried out by then First Secretary, Mrs. Jennifer Tiwari.

VISIT TO OTTAWA BY PRIME MINISTER SAMUEL HINDS

The visit to Ottawa from 19-21 May, 1998 saw the Prime Minister meeting with a

number of high levels officials as well as Government representatives from various sectors that were directly involved in working with Guyana. Among those persons with whom the Prime Minister met were the then Governor-General of Canada the Rt. Hon. Romeo Le Blanc, Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Mrs. Hugette Labelle, and the Deputy Minister and other senior officials of Transport Canada. CIDA 's President, Mrs. Labelle also hosted a luncheon in honour of the Prime Minister.

The discussions during these meetings covered such issues as the political situation and other developments in Guyana as well as possibilities for strengthening Guyana/Canada relations. CIDA's core programmes and its assistance for the EL Nino disaster were also discussed.

Following his visit to Ottawa the Prime Minister proceeded to Toronto where he participated in the independence celebrations organized by the Consulate General. The Prime Minister took the opportunity of his visit to meet with the Guyanese community in both Ottawa and Toronto.

Accompanying the Prime Minister was Mr. Feroze Mohamed, Presidential Advisor on Internal Affairs. High Commissioner Benn was an official member of the Prime Minister's party throughout the visit.

VISIT OF FINANCE MINISTER TO OTTAWA

The then Minister of Finance, Bharrat Jagdeo visited Ottawa from August 30 to September 01, 1998. This visit was solely for the purpose of meeting with officials from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The meeting with CIDA took place on 31 August and dealt mainly with development assistance to Guyana. Mr. Robert Anderson, Vice President, Americas Branch, CIDA, hosted a lunch on the same day in honour of the Finance Minister. The lunch, attended by a number of senior officials from Foreign Affairs and CIDA, as well as the High Commissioner, allowed for further discussion of Canadian assistance to Guyana and of other issues relating to Guyana/Canada relations.

Support for the visit was provided by the High Commission.

VISIT OF HON. DAVID KILGOUR TO GUYANA

In May 1998, the Hon. David Kilgour, Canada's Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, paid an official visit to Guyana. During the visit, May 21-23, Mr. Kilgour met with President Janet Jagan, who at the time was also performing the duties of Foreign Minister and then Finance Minister Bharrat Jagdeo. Mr. Kilgour also met with Ms. Carla Barnett, Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM and Mr. Desmond Hoyte, Leader of the PNC.

Mr. Kilgour's discussions with these officials covered such issues as Guyana/Canada bilateral relations, trade and investment opportunities, social development and poverty alleviation and Canada's commitment to development assistance. He also travelled to Berbice where he visited two CIDA funded projects.

While in Guyana the Secretary of State also met with Canadians living there, many of whom were investors, aid workers, and volunteers involved in NGO activities.

9th CARICOM/CANADA JTEC MEETING

The ninth meeting of the CARICOM/Canada Joint Trade and Economic Committee was held in Georgetown, Guyana from 19-20 February, 1998. Among the issues addressed were CIDA's programming, the FTAA, the Summit of the Americas held later in the year in Chile, as well as political hemispheric issues such as Cuba, Haiti and the Association of Caribbean States. The CARICOM/Guyana initiative and the CARICOM/Canada Summit which were to be held in April in Nassau were also addressed. Prior to the Georgetown meeting, CARICOM High Commissioners in Ottawa met in February to discuss matters on the meeting's agenda such as the Canada/CARICOM Summit and the Summit of the Americas. The High Commissioners in their discussions noted that Canada was committed to the goal of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

On 12 February CARICOM High Commissioners in Ottawa also attended a luncheon

meeting with Canada's Deputy Minister, Mr. Michael Kergin, at which the JTEC meeting was discussed in detail. The hope was expressed that the High Commissioners in Ottawa would not only participate in the Georgetown meeting, but that they would undertake necessary follow-up actions in Ottawa as well.

A number of CARICOM High Commissioners in Ottawa travelled to Georgetown to participate in the meeting.

MISSION ACTIVITIES

Trade and Investment

This Mission, throughout the year, worked closely with the Trade Facilitation Office Canada (TFOC) with a view to exploring possibilities for expanding marketing opportunities in Canada for products from Guyana.

In this regard, and in response to queries received from the "New" Guyana Marketing Corporation, the Mission in March forwarded to that Corporation material on key marketing considerations for fresh fruits and vegetables in Canada.

During April-May, the Mission and Consulate in Toronto collaborated in arranging meetings for a trade team from Guyana which visited Toronto in May. The team headed by Mr. Chandraballi Bisheswar, Chairman of the Board of the "New" GMC, held a number of meetings with business representatives. The First Secretary in this Mission at that time travelled to Toronto to participate in those meetings after which a report was submitted to the Ministry.

As a result of consultation with Georgetown, Guyana's pineapple was selected for an export market research study, which was organized by the Trade Facilitation Office of Canada in conjunction with the University of Ottawa. The study which commenced in September, examined all aspects of exporting pineapple to Canada.

The objective of the project was for the recommendations put forward in the report to be used to aid the marketing of this produce in Canada.

Support for the researchers in this project was provided by the High Commission, in collaboration with the "New" Guyana Marketing Corporation.

In keeping with the nature of assistance provided by the Trade Facilitation Office Canada and based on needs identified by Guyana, by December arrangements were well in train for a team from TFOC to visit Guyana in early 1999 to conduct a training course on Export Promotion. The Guyana Export Promotion Council was responsible for organizing the Guyana part of the programme.

FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS

Throughout the year the Mission ensured that all correspondence and material it received from the Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade Canada in relation to the FTAA were transmitted in a timely manner to the respective officials in Georgetown.

In November the Mission participated in a round table discussion on the challenges facing the smaller economies in the FTAA process, which was held at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. These exchanges were led by the Chair of the FTAA Consultative Group on Smaller Economies (CGSE), Ambassador Bernal, Jamaica's Ambassador to the USA and Permanent Representative to the OAS.

The round table addressed such issues as the challenges facing the smaller economies, the status of activities to address emerging concerns about the FTAA and the way ahead as well as Canada's role in the process.

SEMINAR ON WTO RULES

Early in the year the Mission participated in a luncheon seminar on the subject of 'Defusing Conflicts in International Trade – Making the WTO Rules Work'. Ms Heather Forton of Canada's Permanent Mission to the WTO, delivered the main presentation which focused on the blend of pragmatic and legalistic approaches in the dispute settlement mechanisms aimed at achieving predictability and the prompt settlement of disputes. In exchanging views

on the presentation, participants acknowledged that the 29 new agreements on the WTO agenda have placed a tremendous human resource constraint on developing countries and even on some developed countries in dealing with issues at the WTO.

COOPERATION IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

During 1998 Guyana received ongoing assistance in the transportation sector from Transport Canada.

In April, a three-man team from Transport Canada International Corporation (TCIC) Division carried out a mission to Guyana to discuss the advancement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Technical Cooperation in the area of transportation. The visit allowed the TCIC officials to gain a complete understanding of the context within which transportation services are delivered in Guyana and also saw the commencement of the Strategic National Transportation Policy Projects as called for under the MOU.

Further discussions on the MOU took place in Ottawa in May during the meeting between Prime Minister Samuel Hinds and officials from Transportation Canada. Issues discussed during that meeting included a review of achievements under the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation, the Strategic Transportation Policy Project and the Caribbean Regional Aviation Safety Initiative.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation between Canada and Guyana was signed in May 1997.

Close collaboration between the High Commission and Transportation Canada was maintained throughout the year.

MEETING WITH POTENTIAL INVESTORS

During the first quarter of the year the High Commissioner met with a group of businessmen who raised with him the possibility of engaging in agricultural activities, mainly

the sale of urea and cement in Guyana. The question of a loan to assist with the housing sector was raised as a follow-up to discussions held previously with the Minister of Finance. The issues raised were channelled to the appropriate Ministries and private agencies in Guyana for appropriate follow-up.

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

During 1998 the High Commissioners in Ottawa from Bangladesh, Pakistan, New Zealand and Swaziland remained accredited to Guyana. Close collaboration was maintained throughout the year with their respective missions.

In August the High Commissioner for New Zealand to Guyana travelled to Georgetown and presented his credentials to Her Excellency Janet Jagan, President. During his stay from August 24-25, the High Commissioner also met with the Prime Minister, as well as the Minister, Director General and Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In preparing for the accreditation, this Mission liaised closely with both the Ministry and the New Zealand High Commission to ensure common understanding on all matters regarding the accreditation.

COLLABORATION WITH CARICOM

On an ongoing basis close collaboration was maintained with CARICOM High Commissioners present in Ottawa.

Throughout the year, the High Commissioner or his representative attended meetings of the Group whereby issues of common interest were addressed. Particular attention was paid this year to such issues as the CARICOM/Canada Joint Trade and Economic Cooperation activity the Caricom/Canada Summit and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Particular effort was made to ensure adequate representation by CARICOM Missions at all meetings/briefings in Ottawa relating to these issues.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

Copies of the New Global Human Order statements by Government officials, information on Guyana, Takuba News and Guyana newspapers were made available to Guyanese in Canada, other Missions and Embassies, schools, universities and other organizations.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

In keeping with the Ministry's regulations, monthly statements and estimates of expenditure were submitted as stipulated. By mid-year the Mission had also concluded and submitted to headquarters an inventory of the Mission's assets.

By the time allocations were received in June, requests had to be made to the Ministry for variants in a number of subheads due to over expenditure. This problem was caused in large part by the directive to maintain expenditure for "other charges" at the 1997 level despite the devaluation of the Guyana dollar relative to the Canadian currency. It is hoped that attention would be given to such factors in future.

VISITS TO OTHER PROVINCES

Regrettably, visits to other provinces were not undertaken this year due to the lack of funds. Since such visits normally allow for contacts with Guyanese as well as persons from the business communities, it is hoped the required funds to allow for such visits would be forthcoming in future allocations.

CONSULAR & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year services provided to Guyanese resident in Ottawa and other provinces included the issuance of passports, travel documents, and life certificates. With regard to applications for birth, marriage and death certificates these were channelled to the

Registry in Georgetown for processing. Other services provided included authentication of documents. Notwithstanding the infrequent supply of passport forms and stamps from Georgetown the various services indicated were nonetheless effected in a timely manner.

Revenue for the various consular activities in 1998 totalled C\$6,376.73

A number of queries relating to remigrating to Guyana were also addressed in all instances those persons who approached the Mission were provided with copies of the remigration booklet and other material on the subject.

Throughout the year the Mission's attention was also focused on the deportation of Guyanese from Canada. In this regard close collaboration was maintained with the respective Canadian officials, as well as with our Consulate in Toronto, Head Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

At various times throughout the year, the Mission lent its support to events organized by Guyanese resident in Canada which were aimed at generating funds and other supplies for assistance to individuals and organizations at home such as the rehabilitation of the Palms, schools and hospitals.

In honour of our Republic Anniversary, on 23 February, the High Commissioner hosted an Open House which was attended by a number of Guyanese and other friends of the High Commission. In a very short address to those gathered the High Commissioner referred to the post election situation back home and called on the gathering to use their influence and urge their friends and family in Guyana to observe the CARICOM Agreement and the Rule of Law.

PARAMARIBO

EMBASSY OF GUYANA

GUYANA/SURINAME RELATIONS

Guyana had always maintained a policy of expanding and intensifying its bilateral relations with Suriname using all available means to achieve these objectives. Unfortunately, Suriname did not reciprocate and many opportunities for concretizing and advancing these initiatives and agreements did not materialize.

PRESIDENT JAGAN's STATE VISIT

The high-point of our bilateral relationship was a State Visit undertaken by Her Excellency, President Janet Jagan, to Suriname over the period October 30-31, 1998. President Jagan was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included several Ministers, Senior Government Officials, social partners and representatives from the business sector. Both Presidents expressed their satisfaction at the level of co-operation and noted the potential for enhancing Economic, Social, Cultural, Scientific and Technical cooperation between the two neighbouring Republics. They also undertook to provide all necessary assistance to the Private Sectors for the establishment of a Joint Business Council.

In the course of their deliberations, the two Heads of State expressed their avowed intention to re-vitalize the Guyana/Suriname Co-operation Council, the Border Commission and the Fisheries Agreement within one month. Guyana's Foreign Minister, Hon. Clement Rohee, seized the initiative and proposed a date for the meeting which, unfortunately, was not convenient to his Surinamese counterpart. Despite several additional attempts by Guyana, the meeting failed to materialize.

FISHERIES AGREEMENT

For several years, the Government of Guyana had been working assiduously to implement a Fisheries Agreement with Suriname. All efforts had so far proved fruitless. Guyana had submitted a copy of a Draft to the Surinamese Government but a response was still to be forthcoming. Consequently, our nationals who operated in the Corentyne river and adjacent waterways, continued to suffer severe hardships. The year began with a group of sixteen (16) nationals in police custody pending the outcome of charges against them for allegedly fishing illegally in Suriname's waters. A ministerial delegation, led by Ministers Rohee and Satyadeo Sawh, accompanied by senior Governmental functionaries, paid a one-day visit to Suriname in December, 1998, to resolve the issue, but the matter was finally settled by the judicial authorities.

BORDER ISSUE

The Border issue, though it did not feature prominently over the year, came into sharp focus in August. President Wijdenbosch, in an address to the National Assembly, expressed his deep concern about a map which appeared in an International Magazine with the New River Triangle as an integral component of Guyana's territory. He promised that he would raise the issue with the United Nations Secretary General. The Government of Guyana sought an explanation from the President who claimed that his statement had been misconstrued. Nothing further was heard on the matter.

Cross-border trade continued to engage the attention of both countries, given the potential for closer ties. The advent of the ferry service was viewed as an opportunity for Guyanese businesses to create a niche market for their products and the Embassy redoubled its efforts to sensitize the Suriname business community about trade opportunities. Some businessmen in Suriname did not share the same enthusiasm as it was generally felt that the influx of cheaper and superior quality goods from Guyana would provide unfair competition. At the same time, smuggling of goods across the river came in for a great deal of attention, especially in the light of Suriname's economic difficulties where a reverse trend of goods being smuggled from Guyana became evident.

VISITS

There were several governmental and private visits undertaken to Suriname at varying levels. In keeping with past trends, a number of sports organizations were engaged in friendly tournaments with their Surinamese counterparts. There were visits by teams from the Volleyball Association, as well as the Basketball Association. Lieutenant Colonel, Chabilall Ramsarup, non-resident Military Attache, paid his first official visit in August and later a group of teachers from St. Stanislaus College spent five days and established contacts with their counterparts.

INTER-GUIANA GAMES

The Inter-Guiana Games were held in Suriname from April 2-5. The Embassy was fully involved in the preparatory meeting and contributed meaningfully to a number of modifications to the itinerary. Guyana relinquished the championship trophy to the hosts but displayed creditable performances in several of the disciplines, particularly in athletics. Apart from the Inter-Guiana Games, teams from the Swimming Association participated in a tri-partite competition with Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. On that occasion, Mr. Juman Yassin, in his capacity as Chairman of the Guyana Olympic Committee, held discussions with Ambassador Arjun, exploring avenues of closer collaboration with their counterparts. A team from the Guyana Lawn Tennis Association also participated in a good-will tournament.

DEPORTATION/CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

There had been a noticeable decline in the ill treatment of our nationals and the number of Guyanese deported from Suriname. However, isolated incidents have occurred and they were dealt with accordingly. Of singular importance was the death of Guyanese national, Colin Jones, who was in Police custody. The Embassy, among other interested groups, took up the matter and three policemen were subsequently charged, two were convicted and imprisoned. Another Guyanese, Mark Ifill a/k Mark Archer, was shot by the Police after it was alleged that he participated in an armed robbery and then later discharged several rounds at a police officer. He was hospitalized, but no formal charges were laid against him, pending his recovery.

CONSULAR FUNCTIONS

The operations of the Embassy were mainly centred on the provision of consular services to the large Guyanese population domiciled in Suriname, French Guiana and Islands in the Dutch Antilles. A conservative estimate indicated that there were approximately 45,000 living in Suriname. The Embassy also offered a wide range of notarial services in addition to the issuance and renewal of Passports (see Annex A). To facilitate nationals who lived outside of Paramaribo and in areas such as District Nickerie, Commewijne District, Sipalwini District, Brokopondo District and French Guiana, special arrangements were instituted for priority treatment.

The Embassy wishes to place on record its deep gratitude to those Government Departments and Agencies which provided support over the year. A large number of applications for Guyanese Birth Certificates and Police Certificates of Character were received from Guyanese nationals throughout the period. However, the system through which these applications were processed and forwarded in Guyana, created inordinate delays. The Mission was particularly concerned about this issue, given the fact that our nationals required these documents to apply for resident status and other business.

The Embassy maintained its close relationship with members of the Police and Judicial services in Suriname and a significant number of officials were included on the Embassy's mailing and invitation lists, respectively. Consequently, a number of welfare matters were easily and quickly solved and at a high level of satisfaction. Guyanese in Suriname and French Guiana featured prominently in the execution of criminal activities but in several instances they were wrongfully accused as the perpetrators spoke English to cover their true identities. The crimes included disorderly behaviour, domestic violence, robbery, rape and drug trafficking.

In 1998, there was a significant decline in the number of requests for assistance relating to deaths, medical help and destitution. Deserving cases had to be dealt with at a personal level by members of staff.

The Embassy maintained close relations with all nationals and was ably assisted at our social, cultural, sports and other activities by a large number of groups and individuals who donated generously in cash and material to our numerous requests for assistance. The

Calvary Baptist Church was singled out for special thanks for the donation of a Windows 98 state-of-the-art computer. This acquisition impacted significantly on our secretariat services and enhanced the production of our Newsletter.

The number of nationals who sought information on re-migration had been significantly reduced to a mere trickle.

CONSULAR VISITS

The Ambassador, accompanied by Mr. Lester Bourne, Executive Officer (Consular/Translator), undertook a visit to the Central Penitentiary Institution (CPI) at Santo Boma. He held discussions with the Administration of the Prison, addressed the Guyanese nationals, up-dated them on developments in Guyana and encouraged them to play a meaningful role in Guyana's economic thrust whenever they were released. They were provided with newspapers, drinks and snacks. Unfortunately, planned visits to other prisons and detention centres in Paramaribo did not materialize.

One (1) consular visit was made to District Nickerie by Ambassador Arjun who was accompanied by First Secretary (Consular) Mrs. Yvonne Lesperans. There was a noticeable decline in the number of nationals seeking consular assistance. However, the Ambassador held fruitful discussions with the local authorities, Guyanese nationals resident in New Nickerie, visited the Hazard Penitentiary and the site of the terminal buildings of the Guyana/Suriname Ferry Project at South Drain.

MATTERS OF CONCERN

Despite the laudable economic and social contribution of Guyanese nationals to the Surinamese society, they were frustrated by numerous problems that demanded attention. A significant number of Guyanese nationals had been forced to endure inordinate delays in obtaining residence and work permits, thus adversely affecting their quest to reside and work in the country. They were also subjected to unwarranted harassment by landlords and on several occasions were verbally abused by the Police Authorities when lodging complaints.

In addition, the high cost of medical treatment and other essential services placed a heavy burden on them. Several complaints were filed with the Embassy by Guyanese who, when taken into police custody, were forced to sign statements in Dutch. In some instances, after completing varying periods of imprisonment, they had to wait for extensive periods before being deported, technically suffering an additional period of incarceration. The Embassy's assistance was solicited on several occasions and due to the excellent relationship with the local authorities, a significant number of these cases were solved.

EMBASSY STAFFING

The Embassy's existing responsibilities of catering for its political, consular and administrative functions remained intact with the Head of Mission supervising over those areas and directly supported by the First Secretary, Head of Chancery and the First Secretary, Consular.

A high turn-over of locally-recruited staff was experienced in the category of drivers and security guards. One member of staff, Mrs. Janet Narine (Clerical Assistant) resigned in August and Mrs. Savita Williams (Receptionist/Typist) was assigned her duties. Ms. Chandrowtie Nathoor, a Guyanese by birth, fluent in English and Dutch was recruited to fill the vacancy. The staff as a whole, gave their whole-hearted support in every way and were always willing to work beyond the normal call of duty.

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

The year 1998 was another eventful one for the Embassy and it is apposite to highlight the following:

Death Anniversary

On the occasion of the First Death Anniversary of the late President Cheddi Jagan, a special ceremony was arranged at the Embassy on March 6. The audience was addressed by Ambassador Arjun and Pastor Cedric Singh of the Church of God of Prophecy who shared

their personal recollections of his life and works. The Embassy also distributed to the Diplomatic Community copies of the publication: Portrait of A People's President.

Phagwah

For the first time the Guyana Embassy was the scene of a Phagwah Festival. Two Hindu religious groups visited the Embassy over a two-hour period, sang chowtals (songs) and exchanged Holi greetings.

Special Appeal:

In April, a group of nationals met at the Embassy and Drafted a Special Appeal to the Political and Civic Organisations, relatives and friends in Guyana and urged them to work together to achieve peace and national unity. The document was transmitted to Guyana for country-wide dissemination.

Annual Fair

The Embassy organized an Annual Fair on the lawns on July 11. The event was well-attended and was supported by a Cultural Extravaganza that show-cased Guyanese and Surinamese talents.

Mass Meeting

On the occasion of the State Visit to Suriname by H.E. Mrs. Janet Jagan, Guyanese nationals in their hundreds, converged on the Embassy, met and listened to Her Excellency and members of the visiting delegation which included Hon. Clement Rohee, Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, Hon. Satyadeo Sawh and Dr Roger Luncheon.

Reception/Press Conference

When Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee attended the COFCOR Meeting, the Embassy arranged a reception in his Honour. The event was fully supported by our nationals and members of the business community. In his address, the Honourable Minister gave a brief overview of recent political events in Guyana and encouraged the business community to forge closer ties with their Guyanese counterparts. Later in the week, before his departure, the Minister hosted a Press Conference.

Diwali Fair

A Diwali Fair, organised by the Guyana Embassy, was held at the Cultureel Centrum Suriname (CCS), on November 8. Proceeds from this venture were utilized for the Children's Christmas Party.

Yuletide Events:

Over the Christmas Season the following were held:

- (a) December 12: Children's Party on the lawns of the Embassy. More than two hundred children were entertained.
- (b) December 23: Staff Luncheon at Chindy's Restaurant.
- (c) December 27: Old Year's Drinks at the Embassy. It included a special ceremony on the distribution of Certificates of Appreciation to Guyanese Nationals and Surinamese who had supported the Embassy over the year.

TORONTO

GUYANA CONSULATE

The year 1998 was highlighted by official visits to Toronto by Her Excellency President Jagan, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, Presidential Adviser on Internal Affairs, Feroze Mohamed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hydar Ally, Director GO INVEST Deochand Narine, New GMC Executives J. Dass and C. Bisheswar, Amerindian Research Unit (U.G.) personnel Desery Fox and two Amerindian Students, Ambassador Odeen Ishmael from Washington and High Commissioner Benn from Ottawa.

The Consulate continued to collaborate with a wide cross section of the Guyanese community and Guyanese Organisations in pursuit of Guyana's development.

ADMINISTRATION

1998 witnessed major changes in the staffing of the Consulate. In September 1998 Consul General Mr. Geoffery Da Silva was recalled to Guyana and Mr. Danny Doobay was appointed as Honorary Consul General in November 1998.

In December 1998 Ms Gale Lee, Consul, made preparations for her departure from the Consulate.

The Consulate continued to notarize Powers of Attorney and other legal documents, Life Certificates for pensioners and Letters of Authorisation for financial institutions.

TRADE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Given the political uncertainties in Guyana, business enquiries were minimal. There were enquiries about rice and sugar exports, but due to supply inadequacies and high prices, nothing materialised. Investment information packages were distributed to a few interested

persons who promised to follow up after considering the various opportunities and incentives.

Mr. Frank Corbin who had applied for permission to purchase land and establish a commercial complex on the West Bank, pursued his project with the Consulate. Mr. Da Silva was following up with the relevant authorities in Guyana.

There were a few enquiries about the possibility of attending any GUYEXPO trade fair, but evidently none was held in 1998.

CGX Resources (formerly Northwest Explorations) – a Company which liaises regularly with the Consulate, signed an agreement with the Government of Guyana to explore for oil offshore. This Company has a 12,800 sq. km. (3,200,000 acres) off shore oil and gas concession in Guyana.

It is imperative that the Missions be provided with regular up-dated briefs covering the various sectors like rice, seafood, lumber, agricultural products etc. indicating the supply situation and potential for export.

An updated list of major exporters in the different sectors who are interested in the Canadian market would also be useful. It is not always advisable to depend on the Yellow Pages, since many of the Companies listed may not be interested in exporting to the Canadian market. If we are to embark on an aggressive promotional campaign for Guyana's products, such information is absolutely vital.

TOURISM

The Consulate continued to provide tourism information and copies of tourism literature to the general public. The lack of attractive promotional material, such as colourful brochures and posters is a hindrance to the extent of the Consulate's promotion activities.

GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS 1998

The Guyana Independence Festival held from May 22-24 encompassed a wide variety of activities, such as a Conference for Overseas Guyanese Organisations, a Cultural evening in tribute to Martin Carter, Flag-Raising Ceremony, a Festival and Concert, an Inter-Faith Service and a Celebrity Cricket Match. About 12,000 people attended the week-end activities. The Conference Agenda comprised discussions on Health Care, education, women's affairs, trade, investment, media, sports and culture. Organisations from ten cities across Canada and the USA were represented.

Highlight of the celebrations was the official visit of Prime Minister Samuel Hinds to Toronto to attend our Independence Celebrations. There were also visits by other Officials and Representatives from Guyana, including Feroze Mohamed, Presidential Adviser on Internal Affairs, Hydar Ally, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Deochand Narine, Director, GO-INVEST, New Guyana Marketing Corporation executives, J. Dass and C. Bisheswar, Desery Fox, Amerindian Research Unit, University of Guyana and two Amerindian students. Ambassador Odeen Ishmael from Washington and High Commissioner Einn from Ottawa also travelled to Toronto for the Celebrations.

The New Guyana Marketing representatives met with a number of importers/distributors of Guyanese agricultural products, and visited their warehouses and stores to gain an insight into the dynamics of the Toronto market. They established useful contacts and had fruitful discussions on the promotion of Guyanese produce in Toronto.

Deochand Narine, GO-INVEST, was the main presenter at the trade seminar at the Conference and gave an overview of the investment incentives and opportunities in Guyana. He also spoke with interested businessmen and potential investors.

Hydar Ally, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, held meetings with many school Alumni Groups to discuss assistance to the Education sector in Guyana. He also had discussions with officials at the University of Toronto.

VISIT OF NEW G.M.C. OFFICIALS – MAY, 1998

The two officials from the New GMC, Mr. Chandraballi Bishesswar, Chairman and Mr. Joseph Dias, Marketing Advisor, completed a brief but hectic trip to Toronto where they met with the major importers of Guyanese agricultural products, as well as potential customers. Ms. Jennifer Wills, First Secretary, Guyana High Commission travelled from Ottawa to meet with them. Ms. Gale Lee and Ms Wills accompanied the officials at the various meetings.

The two major importers/distributors of Guyana's fruits and vegetables Latchman Narine (KISKADEE VENTURES) and George Prashad, (CARIBBEAN ORIENTAL SPECIALITY FOODS) provided very useful insights into the dynamics and difficulties of the business as well as the great potential for increased trade should certain obstacles be properly dealt with. The smaller businessmen shared similar views. Many were former importers, or did import in small quantities on the odd occasion whenever possible, but were discouraged by the many difficulties and sometimes losses they incurred. They all expressed a desire to import more regularly if all the obstacles were cleared up.

The salient points which were emphasised by practically all of the businesses were:

The lack of adequate cargo space on the only direct flight by GUYANA AIRWAYS. Very strong views were expressed regarding the difficulties with GAC cargo officials. Given the relatively large market in Toronto and the very limited cargo space, there was fierce competition for space, hence implications by some importers of favouritism and other unfair practices. This was a very sensitive issue for many importers who expressed reservations regarding making official complaints to the GAC management for fear of reprisals and losing their limited cargo space.

Inadequate/weak packaging of produce was another major complaint by all importers. They experienced losses due to spoilage caused by weak and inadequate packaging.

Importers would all like to have the duties on their package-material waived since it was not for resale and would actually just pass through Guyana and out again with their produce.

Should the above problems be addressed, the potential for Guyana's exports of non traditional agri-products is immense.

Sri Lankan, Mohan Perrera of M&M TRADING was especially interested golden apples and sijan which he said he was prepared to import by the container loads for the Sri Lankan market.

Other products very much in demand were pumpkins, bora, peppers, saeme , squash, carilla and pineapples. Ochroes were also very popular but it was pointed out that the smaller size was preferred.

Messrs Bisheswar and Dias advised that the New GMC would make every effort to improve the situation through consultation and lobbying on their return to Guyana.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On June 6, 1998, the Consulate hosted an evening of literary works in Honour of Guyanese authors and poets.

Carmichael Thome, a top student at CXC exams in 1997 visited Toronto in August and was awarded a bursary by the Miss Guyana Canada Pageant for his achievements. His air ticket was an award from Royal Airlines. He was also representing the True Vision Foundation, a charitable organisation run by his father in Albouystown. Thome met with various Guyanese organisations who made donations to the organisation. These included cash, computers and clothing from Horace deBarros, Guyana Christian Charities, Guyana Pioneer Fundraising Group.

A Tribute to Habib Khan was held by the Consulate at the Roof Garden Restaurant. All proceeds from the door were donated to Habib Khan and a videotape of the event will be sold, the proceeds of which will be donated to Mr. Khan.

The Link Show held a performance for the first time in Toronto. Promoted by Luther Hansraj and Ned Blair, it ran from September 12-13, 1998.

Organisations held functions: UG Guild, Peel Guyanese Assoc, Indo Caribbean Golden Age, Senior Guyanese Friendship Association, Alliance of Canadian Guyanese Organisations, Miss Guyana Canada pageant, Guyana Pioneer Fundraising, Kaiteur Lions Club, Bishops Alumni, St Stanislaus, St Roses & Hopetown Assoc.

The Consulate continued to organise and participate in numerous cultural/social events mentioned above aimed at promoting Guyanese culture and fostering the Guyanese spirit of unity, camaraderie and goodwill. The Consulate also supported many fund raising and social events organised by the various Guyanese Community organisations in Toronto.

Many of these activities are closely tied-in with our resource mobilisation drive since the funds raised from the events are donated in cash or kind to educational, social and charitable agencies in Guyana.

In October 1998, the Consulate received an award from the Guyana Relief Committee in recognition of its support and commitment to the poor and needy in Guyana.

Farewell receptions were held in October in honour of Honorary Consul General Da Silva and High Commissioner Benn.

In December the Consulate hosted an open house. More than 125 persons attended this event.

PRESIDENT JAGAN'S VISIT TO TORONTO

Her Excellency President Jagan visited Toronto during December 1998 on a private trip. She took the opportunity to meet with the Guyanese community, which turned out in large numbers to honour the president with extreme love and respect.

On December 19, the President met with the A.C.G. which was celebrating its 25th Anniversary. She presented Certificates of Commendation to some members of the Organisation for their unwavering support over quarter of a century. Awardees of this recognition included Honorary Consul General Mr. Danny Doobay. Her Excellency explained

Government policies and initiatives to the audience.

The Consulate General of Guyana sponsored a brunch, Cultural Show and Awards Presentation for the President on December 20, 1998. The President addressed several topics of concern to the large gathering. She presented awards to several groups including the A.C.G., The Guyana Pioneer Fundraising Group, The Bishop's High School Choir, J.C. Chandisingh Secondary School Alumni Associatio, the Guyana Ex-Police Association, the Peel Guyanese Association and the Guyana Christian Charities.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

For the year 1998 the Consulate provided service to five (5) students across Canada, through scholarships offered to them by/to the Government of Guyana by agencies such as the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and Canada Caricom Scholarship Program, to pursue studies at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

At present, all five students are undergoing studies at the post-gratudate level in the following fields of study.

- Metallurgy & Materials Sciemce
- Environmental Design
- Earth Sciences
- Application of Modelling (Computer Science)
- Soil Science

The Consulate also in 1998 administered funds provided by the Office of the President for students in Cuba.

At the end of the 1997/98 Academic Year there were three continuing students and two students who commenced their studies at the beginning of the 1998/99 Academic Year.

Student records are kept up-to-date.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

The Consulate provided consular services related to passports, emergency certificates and visas as follows:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>RENEWALS</u>	<u>NEW PASSPORTS</u>
January	110	46
February	124	88
March	187	80
April	146	68
May	175	82
June	221	113
July	236	103
August	159	99
September	110	59
October	13	95
November	157	105
December	115	85
TOTAL FOR 1998	1,873	1,023

Emergency Certificates: 193 (This includes 4 for deportees).

VISAS

Visas were issued to nationals of the following countries:

India	4	China	1
Egypt	1	Pakistan	3
Austria	1	Brazil	1
Honduras	1	Malaysia	1
Zimbabwe	3	Cuba	1

WASHINGTON

GUYANA EMBASSY

During the year under review, the Guyana Embassy in Washington D.C., continued to advance the national interest priorities of the Government of Guyana through the process of Economic Diplomacy and active collaboration at the levels of the United States Administration, the Organisation of American States (OAS), the CARICOM -Central America Caucus of Ambassadors, at multilateral fora including The World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank, The International Monetary Fund and at International Conferences and Meetings.

During the reporting period, the Embassy and the Guyanese Organisations in the Washington/Metropolitan area were mutually supportive of the activities which they organised.

VISIT BY HONOURABLE CLEMENT ROHEE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Honourable Clement Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Washington D.C., during the period January 20-23, 1998. Minister Rohee was heading a group of Guyana public and private sector officials who were part of a CARICOM delegation visiting South Africa.

While in Washington D.C., Minister Rohee held discussions, inter alia, with Senior Officials of the State Department, Organisation of American States, (OAS) and the Guyanese Organisations in the Washington/Metropolitan area.

At a meeting of the OAS Permanent Council which was held on January 21, Minister Rohee gave details of the Agreement which was concluded between CARICOM and the major Political Parties in Guyana following the December 15, 1997 General Elections.

WORLD BANK

On November 12, 1998, Ambassador Dr Odeen Ishmael signed, on behalf of the Government of Guyana, the IDA Credit 3139 for the Guyana El Nino Emergency Assistance Project and the IDA Debt Buyback.

MIAMI CONFERENCE

While attending the Miami Conference, Her Excellency President Mrs. Janet Jagan, accompanied by Ambassador Dr Odeen Ishmael met with members of the Business Community in Miami.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Ambassador Dr Odeen Ishmael headed the Guyana Delegation to the 15th Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) meeting. The meeting, inter alia, received the reports of the Ministerial Meetings which were concluded in the areas of Education and Labour and the launching of the FTAA negotiating process.

Against the background of the II Summit of the Americas Conference, Ambassador Ishmael attended the Transportation Ministerial Meeting in New Orleans.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

In the area of Trade and Investment, the main focus of the Embassy in 1998 was to intensify efforts to attract investors to Guyana. To this end information was constantly circulated by the Embassy.

During the year under review, the main achievement was the establishment of a display unit, at the Embassy, of Guyanese products. Major trade related agencies in Guyana have been requested to submit samples of their products for display. Go-Invest has assisted this

project greatly by providing information on all sectors of the economy which have been made part of the display.

MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE- FAO

The Embassy continues to monitor the meetings of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

OAS/INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Guyana continues its active involvement in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS).

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)

Minister Indra Chandarpal was elected Vice Chair of CIM for the 1998 – 2000 biennium at the recently concluded 29th Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women, CIM, which was recently convened in Washington D.C.

Delegates discussed topics including the CIM Plan of Action and the Biennial Work Programme and Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas as it related to the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

MODEL OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ambassador Dr Odeen Ishmael briefed the students of the Nicolet High School who represented Guyana at the Seventeenth Model OAS General Assembly of High School students.

On delivering the keynote address at the Assembly, Ambassador Ishmael reiterated

the need for a Regional Integration Fund, stressing that smaller economies need to become more competitive in order to ensure their meaningful participation in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Ambassador Ishmael briefed the students of the Rutgers University who represented Guyana at the Model OAS General Assembly for University students.

37th GRADUATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENCE COLLEGE

Ambassador Ishmael delivered the feature address to the graduating class of the Inter-American Defence College.

In his address, Ambassador Ishmael stated that financial assistance for integration of the smaller economies is vitally necessary. He further stressed the need for the creation of a Regional Integration Fund.

EMERGENCY AID ASSISTANCE

The Government of Guyana received financial grant assistance from the OAS Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM). This was in response to a request for assistance resulting from the El Nino weather phenomena.

MEETING WITH THE OAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

Ambassador Ishmael accompanied Dr Roger Luncheon, Head of the Presidential Secretariat and delegation to a meeting with Ambassador Christopher Thomas, OAS Assistant Secretary General and Officials of the CIDI Secretariat to discuss continuing funding for the Intermediate Savannahs Project.

Both sides agreed that there is need for a review of this project with a view to further consideration for OAS funding. To this end, Ambassador Ishmael will again raise this matter

at the meeting of CEPCIDI which is scheduled for January 1999.

CARICOM/CENTRAL AMERICA AMBASSADORS CAUCUS

The Embassy continued its active collaboration in the deliberations of the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors and the meetings of the CARICOM and Central American Ambassadors.

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

During the year under review, in addition to accompanying Her Excellency President Mrs. Janet Jagan to the 53rd General Assembly of the United Nations and meeting with the Business Community in Miami, Ambassador Ishmael attended the following meetings.

- Official visit to Michigan:
- High Level meeting on Special Security Concerns of Small Island States/Second Meeting on Confidence and Security Building.
- Third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee for Integral development, CIDI.
- CARICOM/Canada Summit
- 11 Summit of the Americas Conference
- Meeting on the FTAA and Smaller Economies
- OAS General Assembly, Caracas
- Meeting of the Regional Negotiating Machinery
- Guyana 28th Republic Anniversary celebrations which were organised by the Guyanese Community in New York.

32 INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Embassy in collaboration with Guyanese Organisations in the Washington/ Metropolitan area organised the following activities in commemoration of the Thirty-second

Independence Anniversary.

Ecumenical Church Service at the Church of the Holy Comforter.

Art exhibition/reception at the main building of the Organization of American States – the artists who displayed their works were Mr. Dudley Charles and Mrs. Patsy-Ann Rasmussen;

Food Fair and Cultural Presentation on the grounds of the residence of Ambassador Ishmael.

COURTESY CALL BY UG STUDENTS

Professor Doris Rogers and a number of students from the University of Guyana Faculty of Arts, Division of Creative Arts paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Ishmael.

The visit to Washington D.C. was part of an Exhibition on tour by the students. The Exhibits were displayed at the Hampton University in Virginia.

CONSULAR SERVICES

The Embassy continued to provide Passport, Visas and other Consular Services to the Guyanese Community, Embassies, International Organizations and Individuals.

EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAMME

The Embassy continued its involvement in the Embassy Adoption Programme. The students and teachers of the Benning Elementary School were hosted by the Ambassador and staff at a luncheon.

The students recited aspects of politics, economy, geography and culture of Guyana. A group of Guyanese from the Washington Metropolitan area provided a cultural presentation.

Since Ambassador Ishmael was out of Washington at the time, Mrs. Evangeline Ishmael addressed the students.

In keeping with the Embassy Adoption Programme, the Embassy was represented at the Mini United Nations General Assembly by the Benning Elementary School.

CEREMONY FOR THE THOMPSON SEXTUPLETS

The Washington Cherry Blossom Foundation organised a Ceremony to honour the Thompson Sextuplets. The male child was crowned by Mrs. Evangeline Ishmael. Mr. Thompson is Guyanese and his wife is a native of Trinidad and Tobago.

MEETING WITH GUYANESE ORGANISATIONS

Dr Roger Luncheon, Head of the Presidential Secretariat recently met, at the Embassy, with the membership of a number of Guyanese Organizations and briefed them on current socio-economic and political activities in Guyana. Following his presentation, Dr Luncheon answered a number of questions which were posed to him.

MISSION AUDIT

During the year under review, Mr. G.N. Dwarka, Senior Deputy Auditor General conducted an audit of the accounts of this mission.