



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"Service within and beyond our borders"

Annual Report 1996

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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a synopsis of the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1996. It outlines the activities carried out by the Political Affairs Department, the Economic Affairs Department, the Multilateral and Global Affairs Department, the Minister's Secretariat, Administration and Finance Department and the Protocol and Consular Affairs Department. This year the report also includes, specifically, reports from Guyana's missions overseas.

Activities for the year 1996 were conducted within the context of Government's economic diplomacy thrust. The Ministry, including its Overseas Missions focused efforts on investment promotion, resource mobilization, trade development and institutional strengthening. The Ministry also actively advanced Guyana's interests at the multilateral level particularly at the United Nations, CARICOM, the OAS and the Commonwealth. Other critical issues which attracted significant attention by the Ministry include the environment, post-Lomé IV arrangements, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the World Trade Organisation.

The year 1996 was, in part, distinguished by the tremendous level of goodwill shown to Guyana by the international community as it responded generously to this country's flood relief appeal.

The year was also characterized by the consolidation and extension of Guyana's diplomatic relations. Guyana appointed non-resident Ambassadors to Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, and Honorary Consuls to Belize and South Africa. A Head of Mission took up his post in Brussels as Ambassador of Guyana to the Kingdom of Belgium and to the European Community. Diplomatic relations were established with the Solomon Islands and Oman.

Guyana's relations with its neighbouring countries remained cordial. Delegations were received from Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela pursuing trade, political, military, agriculture and other issues. University level cooperation was maintained with institutions in Brazil and Suriname. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to spearhead the discussions concerning the operation of the Guyana-Suriname Ferry Service. The Government of Guyana/Venezuela Investment Fund Housing Project at Enterprise was opened.

Relations between Guyana and the Asia-Pacific region were intensified during 1996. Bilateral cooperation with China, India, Japan and Korea was particularly vibrant and this was reflected in the level of support received from these countries. A contract for the construction of a Hydropower Station at Moco Moco was signed with China, electronic and electrical equipment totaling US\$ 200,000 was received from Korea for 1995-96 and distributed to several government agencies. Japan provided US\$3 million in non-project grant aid for structural adjustment support.

Relations with Europe remained cordial. Guyana and Germany signed an Agreement rescheduling Guyana's total bilateral debt. Germany also agreed to write-off two thirds of the total sum of 27 million German Marks owed with the remaining to be repaid over a period of 23 years. Similarly an agreement was reached with the Government of Sweden for the cancellation of Guyana's outstanding debt to Sweden which totaled US\$488,742.00. However, Guyana was singled out among the English speaking Commonwealth Caribbean to be included on the European Union Common Visa list.

The highlights for the year included the visits of H.E. President Cheddi Jagan to Canada, the Middle East, and Rome respectively where he attended the World Food Summit. Other highlights included the hosting of the International Conference on the New Global Human Order, the China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Symposium, the China-Jiangsu Province Trade Fair, the celebrations for the 30th Anniversary of Independence and the G-77 Sectoral Review Meeting on Food and Agriculture. The Ministry also headed a task force which prepared activities in observance of the International Year for the

Eradication of Poverty. During the year the Ministry welcomed Dr. Julius Nyerere, Chairman of the South Centre to Guyana as well as Sir Allister McIntyre OCC, Representative of the United Nations Secretary General.

The election of the Hon. Indra Chandarpal, Minister within the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission on Women as well as that of Mr. Brynmor Pollard to the Inter-American Juridical Committee are among the Ministry's achievements.

During the year under review, the Ministry continued to lobby for the Regional Integration Fund and to this end a second set of successful consultations on its establishment were convened – the conclusions of which were submitted to the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Smaller Economies of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Similarly the Ministry continued its work in the area of intellectual property rights. In this regard the second seminar on Intellectual Property Protection was convened.

The Ministry monitored and participated in developments in the area of the environment at the international level and remained as coordinator of ACT matters in the Caribbean. A workshop on Eco-tourism in Protected Areas in the Amazon was also hosted.

During the year under review the implementation of technical cooperation activities at the bilateral level were vigorously pursued. Under the facility of its Joint Commissions, Guyana successfully negotiated to receive doctors from Cuba and China for hospitals in Georgetown and hinterland areas.

The Ministry also continued to execute its mandate as focal point for United Nations Technical Assistance in Guyana. The Ministry conducted a number of capacity building activities for public and private sector agencies during the year chief among these was the TCDC Sensitization Workshop jointly hosted with the United National Special Unit for TCDC in which participants were made aware of technical cooperation among developing

countries as a modality for national development. In addition, the Ministry was successful in facilitating the funding of the project *South-South Transfer of Experiences in Sustainable Agriculture* by the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) to the tune of US\$84,000.00.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs played a major role in securing opportunities for training in critical skills for national development. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme government officers participated in training courses in a number of areas including computer technology and quality control. Guyana also benefitted from training opportunities offered by the Governments of Japan and Malaysia.

The Ministry continued to advance its mission to procure technical assistance for key sectors. Under the ITEC programme of cooperation several experts were deputed to Guyana with the majority serving at the Ministry of Agriculture. The volunteer programmes with Voluntary Service Overseas, the Peace Corps and United Nations Volunteers were successfully implemented with the health and education sectors being the principal beneficiaries.

The year also saw the launching of the Ministry's newsmagazine 'Takuba News' which is intended to be part of efforts to enable Guyanese to understand the foreign policy of Guyana and to become aware of the tangible achievements of that policy.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

VENEZUELA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VENEZUELA

Relations between Guyana and Venezuela remained cordial in 1996. In April, a Venezuelan delegation of Congressmen visited Guyana. This visit was primarily aimed at forging links of cooperation with the Guyana Parliament and discussing bilateral issues, in particular, the maritime procedures as implemented by Guyana, with regard to the monitoring of fishing in Guyana waters.

In April, a Venezuelan military delegation visited Guyana as a continuation of the wide ranging collaboration between Guyana and its territorial neighbours.

On May 26, 1996, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Dr. Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas represented Venezuela among the delegates that came to Guyana for the 30th Independence Anniversary celebrations at the invitation of H.E. President Cheddi Jagan.

During the year under review, Guyana also proposed the appointment of Guyana Defence Force Officers as non-resident military attaches to Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela in a move to deepen the relationship with the defence forces of the neighbouring countries.

In 1996, Venezuela and Guyana expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved through the United Nations Process which is aimed at helping Guyana and Venezuela find a definitive solution to the territorial border controversy. In September 1996, Sir Alister McIntyre paid one of his periodic visits to Guyana through the Good

Officer Process.

During the UN 51st General Assembly the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Dr. Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas, and Guyana's Foreign Minister, Mr Clement Rohee, met with Senior United Nations officials to review the state of discussions on the controversy between the two countries. It was agreed that there should be more frequent meetings between the Facilitators from their respective countries, and between these officials and the Secretary General's Personal Representative.

In October 1996, the Government of Guyana/Venezuela Investment Fund Housing Project at Enterprise, East Coast Demerara was opened. The possibility of a joint venture arrangement between Guyanese and Venezuelan companies for the construction of similar houses on a large scale for domestic as well as export use is also to be explored.

In keeping with the Government's economic diplomacy thrust, a one-day trade exhibition and seminar was held in Venezuela under the theme 'Doing Business with Guyana'. This exhibition was aimed at fostering increased trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

Guyana continued to place emphasis on promoting economic and trade contacts with Venezuela and proposals were made to Venezuela concerning the resuscitation of the Joint Commission.

Incidents concerning the detention of Guyanese fishing vessels in Venezuela and vice versa occurred during the year.

In November 1996, Attorney-at-Law, Mr Bayney Karran was nominated as Guyana's Ambassador to Venezuela to replace former Ambassador H.E. Mr Satyadeow Sawh.

COLOMBIA

During 1996, a number of proposals were made to further technical cooperation between Guyana and Colombia.

In March 1996, a review meeting of the Guyana/Colombia Joint Commission was held in Guyana to discuss matters pertaining to technical cooperation in the areas of health, agriculture, energy, trade and tourism and issues such as the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

This meeting resulted in commitments being made by the Colombian delegation to assist in the health sector with the continued provision of DDT, in the area of human resource development and the establishment of an agency to protect the environment.

In September 1996, officials from the Carvajal Foundation visited Guyana. This Foundation's focus is on the planning and implementation of community development projects. While in Guyana, the delegation held wide ranging discussions on issues related to health, housing, finance, education, community services and micro-enterprise development.

Guyana is in the process of finalizing an agreement with the Colombian Government for the abolition of visas for the holders of diplomatic, special and official passports. Colombia has waived visa requirements for all Guyanese entering that country.

MEXICO

In April 1996, Ambassador Martinez del Sobral presented his Credentials as Mexico's Ambassador to Guyana. During his visit, an Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation and another on the Abolition of Visas for the holders of Diplomatic, Official or Special passports were initialled. These two agreements were subsequently

signed at the 26th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in June 1996.

Under the Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, human resources development, training, research and joint projects in the fields of scientific and technological development were identified as priority areas.

Mexico has indicated its desire to initiate greater political as well as economic contact with Guyana and the Caribbean Region. The conclusion of the above mentioned agreements should provide the framework for future collaboration and intensified economic cooperation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Relations between Guyana and the United States of America continued to be cordial. The United States continued to play a critical role in support of economic restructuring by providing economic and technical assistance particularly in the key areas of sustainable human development, capacity building and poverty elimination, reinforcing IMF conditionalities, promoting the reform of agricultural policies and providing macro-economic, trade and private sector policy advice.

The Carter Center provided support for Guyana's draft National Development Strategy which has established the policy framework for Guyana's development.

Another PL 480 agreement was signed this year which will help to improve Guyana's food security and promote sustainable development.

The United States provided assistance to the Guyana Defence Force and Guyana Police Force in the form of equipment and training in upgrading programmes. Guyana was invited to send military as well as civilian participants to several meetings/training courses sponsored by the United States.

In 1996, Guyana and the United States commenced negotiations to examine the parameters of a Bilateral Investment Treaty and an Intellectual Property Rights Agreement.

The United States Administration has agreed to review with the Government of Guyana the question of criminal deportees which has been one area of concern for Guyana.

In 1996, Guyana signed a photo reconnaissance agreement whereby United States planes would be allowed to overfly Guyana's territory in pursuit of planes suspected of carrying illegal drugs. Permission would have to be granted by Guyana prior to such flights.

CANADA

Canada continued to provide assistance to Guyana's national development and to offer technical assistance programmes to support the business sector and non-governmental organizations. Its development cooperation focussed on strengthening Guyana's economic competitiveness, environmental management and poverty reduction.

The most significant event in the year under review was the June visit of H.E. President Cheddi Jagan to Canada. He met with the Canadian Prime Minister, several officials of the government as well as with members of the business and Guyanese communities.

While in Canada, President Jagan promoted investment in Guyana particularly in the areas of mining and forestry. The decision was taken to conclude a Reciprocal Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

Guyana's bilateral relations with Canada have been complemented by our relations at the level of CARICOM. In March 1996, a Canada/CARICOM Heads of Government Summit was held.

In October 1996, the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. Alan Bowker presented his credentials.

The Eighth Meeting of the Canada/CARICOM Joint Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) was held in Ottawa from November 7-8, 1996. At this meeting it was agreed that CARIBCAN should be extended for another 10 years. The region will also continue to benefit from technical assistance and training in the trade and economic sphere

CENTRAL - AMERICA AND THE NON-CARICOM/CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

COSTA RICA

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Third Ministerial Conference between Central America and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in San José, Costa Rica during the period November 25-29, 1996. The Conference identified the strengthening of economic relations, tourism promotion and the fight against the illicit traffic in drugs and firearms as areas for immediate action.

Agreement was reached for the coordination of policy in Regional and International fora and the coordination of strategies on International Trade and Economic Policy. The CARICOM-Central America Framework Cooperation Programme was approved, including mechanisms for coordination and follow-up activities. The Conference expressed support for the promotion of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF).

PANAMA

His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Panama, Dr. Jorge Ramon Valdez, presented his Credentials to His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan on September 2, 1996. While in Guyana, the Panamanian envoy held discussions with several Ministers of Government and explored areas of possible cooperation between the two countries. Cooperation in trade, tourism and air transport was highlighted.

CUBA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Second ACS Ministerial Meeting held in Havana, Cuba during the period December 12-13, 1996. During the year under review, Guyana benefitted from cooperation in the areas of trade, health, and education under the aegis of the Guyana/Cuba Joint Commission.

In September 1996, Guyana approved an Agreement (signed in 1993) to promote cooperation between the two countries in the struggle against international trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic hosted the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of CARIFORUM from October 16 to 18, 1996. Guyana was represented at that Meeting by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HAITI

Haiti had agreed in 1996 to the appointment of Mr. Satyadeow Sawh, then Ambassador to Venezuela as Non-Resident Ambassador. However, Mr Sawh was recalled home to assume a Ministerial appointment.

GUYANA/ASIA-PACIFIC RELATIONS

Relations between Guyana and the Asia-Pacific region were strengthened and extended. The year saw the maintenance of close collaboration with those countries with which Guyana has traditionally had strong ties. It also saw the creation of a platform for increased cooperation with several small states and recent allies with which diplomatic relations are expected to accrue significant benefits.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (P.R.C.)

The productive nature of our relations was evidenced by the exceptionally active relations in 1996. This underscored the strong ties that have existed between Guyana and China and raised the promotion of cooperation to new heights.

On January 22, 1996, a four-member delegation from the Shandong Province met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, and discussed several issues relating to economic cooperation between Guyana and China. The two sides discussed matters of technical cooperation including Chinese assistance to Guyana in cotton cultivation, aquaculture, the setting up of a bicycle assembly plant and the resuscitation of the Bel-lu-Clay Brick Factory.

The Hon. Clement Rohee chaired the formal session of a China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Symposium held in Georgetown on March 2, 1996. Issues discussed include, economic and trade cooperation and investment possibilities between China and the Caribbean.

In conjunction with the Symposium, a China-Jiangsu Province Trade Fair took place from February 29 - March 2, 1996, at the Park Hotel. A delegation from the province, headed by Mr. Son Zhenyu, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic

Cooperation paid courtesy calls on H.E. President Jagan, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

First Lady Mrs Janet Jagan visited China from June 21-July 3, 1996. A delegation from Guyana, headed by Prime Minister, Hon. Samuel Hinds, visited China under the auspices of the Guyana-China Friendship Society from July 21-31, 1996.

The Guyana/China Joint Commission met in Beijing from April 20 - May 2, 1996, for its Sixth Session. The Commission reviewed progress since the Fifth Session and reached several agreements of mutual interest. Guyana's delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, and included Managing Director of D.D.L., Mr Komal Samaroo.

China was of great assistance in the Flood Relief effort. The Chinese Government gave over US\$50,000 worth of supplies, and President Jiang Zemin sent a sympathy message to the President and People of Guyana.

A construction contract for the Moco Moco Hydropower Station was signed on November 5, 1996, between the Government of Guyana and the Chinese National Complete Plant Import and Export Corporation (COMPLANT), a Chinese construction company. The Hydropower Station has the potential to relieve the national economy of a significant oil supply and transportation burden. Other benefits will include attracting industry, creating jobs and earning revenue.

His Excellency Zhang Yu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Guyana completed a two-year tour of duty. The Ambassador departed Guyana on December 5 last. The importance attached to its relations with Guyana was demonstrated by a speedy replacement. A new Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Wang Fuyuan was accredited on December 19, 1996.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (R.O.K.)

His Excellency, Mr Jai Ryong Jang was accredited as the Republic of Korea's non resident Ambassador to Guyana on July 26, 1996.

Through the Grant Aid Programme a gift of electronic and electrical equipment totalling US\$100,000.00 was received. A further US\$10,000.00 was received in Flood Relief assistance.

A three-member delegation from the HAN WHA Group, a major conglomerate in South Korea, led by the General Manager Mr Lee Shin Hyo, visited Guyana from August 28-31, 1996. The group held talks with President Jagan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other Ministers. The HAN WHA Group comprises 39 companies which are involved in the areas of chemicals, machinery, finance, leisure, distribution, social welfare and mass media among others.

Several initiatives were discussed, including the provision of Korean experts, greater access to technical training programmes in Korea, an Economic Development Cooperation Fund and the Korean Youth Volunteer Programme.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA(D.P.R.K.)

Relations remained cordial with continued cooperation at the multi-national and international level. Guyana benefitted from access to Group Special training opportunities and cultural cooperation.

JAPAN

Relations with Japan continued to be extremely productive. Guyana remained the number one recipient of Japanese assistance in the English speaking Caribbean. This is a favourable achievement in view of the fact that there is no diplomatic representation in each other's capital. Guyana has received Japanese assistance through such programmes as General Grant Aid, Small Scale Grant Aid, increased Agricultural Production, Training Programmes and the use of the skills of Japanese experts.

Several agreements between Guyana and Japan remain in force. Japan was a major contributor to the Flood Relief efforts with a donation of US\$100,000. worth of Medicines and Medical Supplies.

A major accomplishment was efforts made to coordinate and streamline technical assistance offers to Guyana to maximize benefits.

A week to celebrate Japanese culture was observed. The week's events were highly successful and served to emphasize the special relationship of friendship and cooperation which has developed between Guyana and Japan.

Mr Michael E. Brotherson, F.S.O. II, attended the Industrial Promotion Seminar in Tokyo sponsored by Japan. The Seminar was held from September 8-18, 1996, and was under the 1996 Japan Study Programme for young people from Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Fourth CARICOM/Japan Encounter was held from January 29-31, 1996.

NEW ZEALAND

H.E. President Cheddi Jagan met with visiting Ambassador H.E. Mr Maurice McTigue who was accredited as non resident High Commissioner of New Zealand to Guyana on March 18, 1996.

INDIA

Significant bilateral cooperation was realized through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme with several training scholarships being taken up. Guyana and India also collaborated in activities to mark the Anniversary of the Independence of India and the Thirtieth Anniversary of Guyana's Independence. The Government of India provided some US\$28,000.00 in medicines to assist in Flood Relief.

MAURITIUS

Mauritius was represented at Guyana's Thirtieth Independence Anniversary Celebrations by its Non-Resident High Commissioner to Guyana. Discussions took place on the further deepening of our relations.

PAKISTAN

Dr Farouk Rana was accredited to Guyana as Non-Resident High Commissioner of Pakistan on February 21, 1996.

VIETNAM

The Hon. M. Nagamootoo, Minister of Information paid a visit to Vietnam during the year.

MALDIVES

The friendship and solidarity of bilateral relations were demonstrated by the Maldives contribution of US\$1000.00 in Flood Relief assistance.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Government of Guyana and Solomon Islands established formal diplomatic relations at the Non-Resident Ambassadorial level. An agreement to this effect was signed by the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, Ambassador S.R. Insanally and his counterpart from Solomon Islands, Ambassador Rex Stephen Horoi on November 26, 1996, at the United Nations in New York.

AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH ASIA

VISITS TO GUYANA

At the Celebration of our 30th Independence Anniversary celebrations held in May, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe were represented by their non-resident High Commissioners accredited to Guyana.

As special guests of H.E. the President, the envoys were treated to a Special Programme designed to foster co-operation particularly at the economic level. This included tours to specific business concerns in Georgetown and its environs.

VISITS OUT OF GUYANA

In seeking to promote friendship and cooperation between Guyana and the Arab

World, H.E. the President visited the following countries in the Middle East during the first half of November, 1996.

(1) BAHRAIN

At the invitation of H.E. Shaikh Isa Bin Suiman AL Khalifa, the Amir of the State of Bahrain, H.E. President Dr. Cheddi Jagan paid an official visit to the State of Bahrain from November 5 - 8, 1996. In an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship, the two Heads of State expressed their desire to intensify the level and scope of their bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of economic and technical cooperation, trade and investment. Towards this end, Guyana presented a draft agreement on Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation for consideration by the Government of the State of Bahrain.

In a reciprocal gesture, His Excellency extended an invitation to H.E. the Amir of the State of Bahrain, to pay an official visit to Guyana. The invitation was accepted.

(2) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

H.E. The President, accompanied by a delegation including Foreign Minister Hon. Clement Rohee, Ambassador Dr Havelock Brewster, and Guyana's Special Envoy to the Middle East, Mr George Hallaq, paid a four day visit to the United Arab Emirates from November 8-11. In discussing ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries it was agreed that an economic delegation from the UAE would visit Guyana in the near future. The Guyana delegation also took the opportunity to meet with Guyanese resident in the Emirates.

(3) KUWAIT

A three (3) man delegation, led by H.E. the President, paid a visit to Kuwait on November 13. The President held talks with H.E. the Amir Sheik Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who accepted an invitation to visit Guyana.

As with the other countries visited, Guyana submitted a draft economic cooperation agreement for consideration by Kuwait's Government.

(4) SYRIA

At the invitation of President Hafez Al-Assad, H.E. President Jagan paid an official visit to Syria from November 4-5. During the meetings held, the two Presidents explored the likely areas for intensifying cooperation between the two countries at the political, economic and diplomatic level.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

In pursuit of its commitment to foster mutually beneficial relations with friendly countries, Guyana established formal diplomatic relations with Oman on January 17, and Qatar on August 23, 1996.

APPOINTMENT/ACCREDITATION OF ENVOYS TO GUYANA

During the year, three (3) Non Resident High Commissioners were accredited to Guyana:

1. In February - H.E. Dr Farouk A. Rana, High Commissioner for Pakistan.
2. In April - His Excellency Dr Gwendoline Npokho Malahleha, High Commissioner for the Kingdom of Lesotho.
3. In December - His Excellency Mr Bramer Majube Nxumalo, High Commissioner for the Kingdom of Swaziland.

GUYANA/EUROPE RELATIONS

Relations between Guyana and Western Europe continued to progress cordially. In keeping with Guyana's policy of attracting development assistance, Guyana continued to receive support by way of technical assistance to various agencies and projects.

UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom/Guyana Drugs Confiscation Agreement was ratified in October 1996.

At the end of the year, the matter of granting title to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in respect of the War Graves site at Rabbit Walk, Kingston, was near finalization.

In the area of military cooperation, the Royal Marines from the University of South Hampton conducted jungle training exercises in Guyana.

FRANCE

In February, Mr Pierre Ariola, Non-Resident Ambassador of France was accredited.

During October, Ambassador Ariola, accompanied by the Trade Commissioner of France, paid his second visit to Guyana. The Ambassador held discussions with senior government officials in the areas of trade and education. Ambassador Ariola also informed of France's willingness to provide assistance for the strengthening of French language skills in Guyana.

GERMANY

In November 1996, Guyana and Germany signed a bilateral Agreement

rescheduling Guyana's total bilateral debt. Germany also agreed to write off 2/3 of the total sum of 27 million German Marks owed, with the remaining to be repaid over a period of 23 years.

A German research cruise ship "FS METFOR" visited Guyana during March/April, 1996. During the year under review, Germany continued to offer scholarships to Guyanese students.

THE NETHERLANDS

In February 1996, Mr. Doeke Roos of the Dutch Foundation "Menno van Coehoom" visited several Dutch historical sites in Guyana, including Fort Zeelandia, Fort Kyk-over-Al and Fort Nassau.

The Guyana Defence Force and the Dutch Marine Corps conducted joint jungle training exercises in Guyana.

ITALY

In 1996, relations between Guyana and Italy were enhanced with the visit of H.E. President Jagan to Rome to attend the World Food Summit in November.

During the visit, President Jagan held discussions with the President of Italy, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, Prime Minister Romano Prodi, and other senior government officials.

The discussions covered a number of bilateral and international issues of importance to Guyana and Italy. In terms of strengthening bilateral cooperation, a Framework Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation was signed. A Credit Agreement was also concluded. While in Rome, President Jagan also had an audience with Pope John Paul II.

BELGIUM

H.E. Ronald De Langhe, Ambassador of Belgium visited Guyana in May to participate in the country's 30th Anniversary of Independence.

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Ambassador, Dr. Julio Mascarens, accompanied by Dr. Mario Martins of the Expo '98 Secretariat, paid an official visit to Guyana during the period February 27 to March 3, 1996.

During his visit in May to participate in Guyana's Independence celebration, Ambassador Mascarens indicated his Government's willingness to provide experts to train Guyanese negotiators for the FTAA process.

EASTERN EUROPE

In 1996, relations between Guyana and the former Communist States in Eastern Europe remained friendly.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation continued to offer scholarships to Guyanese students in the fields of journalism, law and economic management.

Efforts were made on the part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have a Protocol on Visa Abolition Requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports signed.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

The Economic Affairs Department shares responsibility with other Government Agencies and Overseas Missions for the promotion of Guyana's Economic Diplomacy Thrust, concerned primarily with economic growth and development.

OVERVIEW

In January, the Department was at the centre of coordination of activities for the G-77 Sectoral Review Meeting on Food and Agriculture, which was hosted by the Government of Guyana from January 15 - 19, 1996. The Meeting attracted wide representation from Developing Countries, especially those whose economies relied heavily on Sustainable Agricultural Development. It was a very successful Meeting. The Final Report was completed and accepted by the Plenary and the Georgetown Declaration was endorsed. The Final Report was submitted to the IFCC at its Meeting in Manila in February, 1996.

In keeping with its commitments to the Modality of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, (TCDC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened a Workshop in March. Participants were drawn from the Caribbean and Latin America. The TCDC Unit in New York participated in the Workshop and, its Director, Dr. Dennis Benn and other resource personnel provided valuable assistance.

The Department coordinated arrangements for a second set of Consultations on Proposals for the Establishment of a Regional Integration Fund. The Report of these Consultations was submitted to the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Smaller Economies, which was held in Caracas, Venezuela in November, 1996.

The Report was noted and Guyana was required to prepare a concise document

incorporating the recommendations of the two Georgetown Meetings and the observations and proposals of the various CARICOM Meetings which addressed this issue.

The Ministry, through the Economic Affairs Department, also coordinated in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) a seminar with special emphasis on the Judiciary and other Legal Experts. Representatives of WIPO participated as resource personnel.

During 1996, the Economic Affairs Department continued its consultations with the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, and the Private Sector on the various Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT), which have been proposed to Guyana by the United States of America, Canada, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Cuba and Italy with a view to responding to these countries.

There were several encounters with representatives of the Private Sector (Business Advisory Committee) in order to facilitate Trade and Investment Promotion opportunities through Guyana's Overseas Missions. The Private Sector was also involved in discussions with Guyana's International Economic Partners vis-a-vis Economic Cooperation Programmes with Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Malaysia and Suriname.

The Department coordinated Meetings relevant to Guyana's preparations for the FTAA Process. The Director participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Smaller Economies, and a National Task Force is to be established to deal primarily with the evolving arrangements for the establishment of a hemispheric Free Trade Area. On the multilateral front, the Department remained active in its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitating the implementation of projects and programmes which are being funded by the UNDP. The visit of Mr. Fernando Zumbado, UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean was very useful.

TRADE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

THE AMERICAS

During 1996, the Government continued its efforts to strengthen economic and technical cooperation relations with Latin American states at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

BRAZIL

The Guyana/Brazil Joint Commission has not met since March 1994 due to the low rate of implementation of project activities. However, efforts have been made as far as possible to complete activities in keeping with the 1994/95 Work Programme.

Training

There are currently 16 Guyanese students pursuing undergraduate studies in Brazil. The unavailability of financing to cover air travel and in-country expenses has prevented the use of additional training offers.

Mining

Four mining projects earmarked for implementation through Brazilian technical assistance have been rescheduled for implementation in 1997. A mining mission from Brazil which was aimed at furthering discussions on the proposed projects was cancelled. An invitation has since been extended to an official of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission to visit Brazil with a view to discussing Brazilian assistance to the sector.

Investment

Officials of the Brazilian subsidiary SOPEMI/De Beers visited Guyana during the months of May and November. The aim of this visit was to gain a better appreciation of Government's policy and requirements for investing in the mining sector. Discussions were held with the Prime Minister, along with officials of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and Go-Invest. It is anticipated that SOPEMI would apply shortly to conduct reconnaissance activities over a two year period for the issuance of a prospecting Licence by the Government.

OAS/Brazilian Cooperation Fund (BCF)

Two years after the announcement and invitation to participate in the OAS/BCF, the Fund has finally been operationalized. Nine projects were submitted for funding covering areas such as Agriculture, Computer Science, Industrial Development and Education.

Energy

(1) Construction of a Transmission Line

Towards the end of 1996, the GEC followed up on a request previously made for a Brazilian expert to provide technical assistance in the construction of a 69 kv transmission line from Onverwagt to Sophia. A favourable response has been received from the Brazilians. Meanwhile GEC is working out the financial and other details with respect to the expert's stay in Guyana.

(2) Purchase of Fuel

Discussions were initiated with the Brazilian Ambassador and local private and public sector representatives, with respect to the purchase of aviation fuel from Boa Vista

to be transported to Lethem to service the interior region. Consultations are still in progress on specifications and price determination.

COLOMBIA

Training

At the commencement of the year, Drs. Maxine Swain and Shuresh Ganesh proceeded to the Universidad del Valle on ICETEX scholarships to complete studies leading to a Master in Public Health Degree.

Visit of Officials of the Carvajal Foundation

Based on an invitation extended by H.E. President Cheddi Jagan, three officials of the Carvajal Foundation visited Guyana during the period September 9 - 13, 1996. This visit was geared to identify suitable areas for cooperation.

Review Meeting

The first Review Meeting of the Guyana/Colombia Joint Commission was convened in Guyana on March 22, 1996. The main focus of the meeting was to conduct a joint assessment of agreed activities and to discuss measures for the intensification of collaboration. The areas reviewed include: Human Resources Development, Tourism, Health, Sports, Energy, Trade and Investment, Education, Environment and International Technical Cooperation.

MEXICO

The Government of Guyana and the United Mexican States signed a Basic Agreement for Scientific Technical Cooperation on June 3, 1996, in Panama City. The

Document has since been ratified in both countries. This Agreement has been sent to the various sector agencies for their consideration and to identify possible areas of cooperation.

SURINAME

E.U. Funded Ferry Project

Work continued in Guyana and Suriname during 1996 on the EU funded Ferry Project. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in mid 1997. In preparation for the operationalization of the Ferry it has been proposed that the Minister of Finance, Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, meet with Suriname's Minister of Planning, Dr. Ernie Brunings for further discussions.

Agriculture / Fishing

There have been periodic meetings between Surinamese and Guyanese Fisheries Authorities as well as fishermen of the Upper Corentyne. The SK Licence fee was reduced in 1996. The major concern of the Surinamese authorities is the reluctance of Guyanese fishermen to submit fishing data. The Surinamese have also indicated a desire to conduct shrimping in Guyana's EEZ. In addition, joint surveillance exercises were carried out along the banks of the Corentyne River in the interest of the eradication of the Carambola Fruit Fly.

Trade - MOU Governing Cross Border Trade

Since 1994, there has been no further discussions on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding governing Cross Border Trade. Both sides are expected to identify competent officials to continue discussions.

A twenty five member delegation from the Suriname Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Guyana during the period November 11 - 15, 1996, with the aim of strengthening trade relations.

Bilateral Air Services Agreement

Officials of Guyana and Suriname have met to discuss the Surinamese proposed Bilateral Air Services Agreement. The Guyana side is currently reviewing the proposed Agreement.

Finance

Suriname has proposed the conclusion of a Bilateral Treaty on the avoidance of Double Taxation and SLM's request for Corporate Taxation. Both issues are receiving the attention of the Ministry of Finance.

Health

Surinamese health officials have approached the local Ministry of Health requesting payment for the medical treatment of Guyanese nationals in Suriname. This matter is being followed-up through diplomatic channels.

Inter-University Cooperation

During 1996, the cooperation between the University of Guyana and the University of Anton de Kom continued.

Inter-Guiana Games

The Inter-Guiana Games which was scheduled to be held in French Guiana, during

the period November 29 - December 2, 1996, had to be postponed due to riots in that country

Guyana Geology and Mines Commission/Staatsolie Cooperation

Members of staff of the Petroleum Unit of the GGMC have undergone two weeks of training on Petroleum exploration and production at Staatsolie. This activity took place from November 1 - 14, 1996.

CARICOM-Canada Joint Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana was among CARICOM Member States which signed the proposed draft protocol to provide for the Government of Suriname to become party to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and Canada. This also included becoming party to the Protocol on Rum which was signed during the Canada/CARICOM JTEC Meeting held in Ottawa in November, 1996.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Dominican Republic and CARICOM was proposed. Discussions on these proposals are expected to continue in 1997.

CARIBBEAN

COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

The Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica concluded an Agreement on Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation during September, 1996. The Agreement also provides for the establishment of a Joint Commission. It was circulated to all Government Ministries for the identification of areas for possible cooperation.

CUBA

At their own expense, Cuba's TEC repaired a number of transformers for the GEC as compensation for previously unfinished work.

English Language Course

Six Cuban professors took part in this course, which was conducted by the Institute of Adult and Continuing Education during the period July 8 to August 16, 1996. The course itself was successful, but the late and inadequate funds provided by the University of Guyana limited the scope of activities and payment of stipends.

Debt

A team from the National Bank of Cuba visited for discussions. It was claimed that Guyana owes Cuba US\$800,000 under a previous Barter Agreement. The Ministry of Finance and the GNCB are working towards a reconciliation of the Cuban Statements.

Geology and Kaolin Experts

This project was cancelled for 1996 due to the lack of funds. The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission had budgeted for the team in 1995, but not in 1996.

Employment Request

Several non-Guyanese, including medical personnel have approached Guyana's Ministry of Health/Public Service Management seeking employment opportunities. To date, the Ministry of Health has offered employment to Dr. Watinous Armand Brice who is now attached to the Georgetown Hospital.

ASIA

BANGLADESH

Draft Protocol for Economic, Technical and Economic Cooperation

This document was submitted to the Honourable Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh by His Excellency Dr. Cheddi Jagan in March, 1996.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Sixth Meeting of the Guyana/China Joint Commission was held in April, 1996. The Guyanese delegation was headed by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Chinese delegation tabled a draft Framework Agreement for the Provision of Interest Subsidized Loans to Guyana. Negotiations on the draft Framework Agreement continued

throughout the remainder of the year.

A delegation from the Shandong Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation visited Guyana in January, 1996. Discussions commenced between the Guyanese and the Shandong delegation on the implementation of the Berbice River Project.

The China - Caribbean Symposium on Economic and Technical Cooperation was held at the Pegasus Hotel on March 1 and 2, 1996.

INDIA

Indian-Guyanese Cooperation

Guyanese in the Public Sector are continuing to benefit from the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme which is being administered by the Government of India. Public Sector officials have been granted scholarships to India that are fully funded and training is being carried out in a number of areas, (Computer Technology, Agriculture, Human Services, Health, Architecture, International Trade, Quality Control, Marketing, etc.).

The deputation of experts from India under the ITEC programme is continuing. A total of eight experts are in Guyana with the majority attached to the Ministry of Agriculture. During 1997, experts are expected to be deputed in the areas of legal draftsmanship, agriculture and development alternatives.

Donation of Water Pumps to Guyana

The Government of Guyana is awaiting the arrival of 50 water pumps which have been donated by the Government of India, to improve pure water supply.

Utilization of Indian Experts under the FAO Facility

Guyana has concluded an Agreement with the FAO which would enable Indian experts to come to Guyana under the FAO Facility.

Coir Production

The Government of Guyana has completed the necessary procedures for the deputation of a specialist to the Ministry of Agriculture:

JAPAN

An Agreement was concluded in March for a grant of US\$3 Million for Balance of Payment support. This non-project grant, which is being administered by Ministry of Finance, was the first such grant received by Guyana. Opportunities to participate in fifteen training courses were processed through the Japanese Embassy in Caracas. Monitoring of the implementation of the installation of a diesel Generator at Garden of Eden continued.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Equipment valued at US\$200,000 was received for 1995 and 1996, and was distributed to the relevant Government agencies. The opportunity for two nominees to attend a Vocational Training Course was provided to Guyana.

MALAYSIA

Guyana-Malaysia Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement

Two Agriculturists, Dr. S. Surujbally and Dr. N. Mc Lean successfully attended courses at the Veterinary Research Institute, Malaysia during the period August - October, 1996.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Guyana was represented by its Honorary Consul (designate) to South Africa at the IX UNCTAD conference, which was held in that country during the period April 27 - May 11, 1996. The Report submitted recommended that Guyana endeavour to participate more actively in the Organization given the benefits to be gained, which include trade promotion, access to technology, research as well as financial and technical assistance.

United Nations Development Programme 5th Cycle Programme Development

GUY/94/002 - Enhancement of Socio-Economic Capacities Through Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC)

Activities conducted during the year under the above project focused on the sensitization of Government Agencies, Private Sector Organizations and NGOs to the TCDC modality as a strategy for National Development. In this regard, a Sensitization Workshop was held in March, 1996.

During the period April - September, 1996, a survey of TCDC Capacities and Needs was carried out resulting in the compilation of a Compendium of TCDC Capacities and Needs for Guyana.

GUY/95/004 -Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)

So far, Guyana has benefited from the expertise of the expatriate nationals under this project - Dr. Klautky who was attached to the Ministry of Health; Dr. Fraser who did his study at the Office of the President and Dr. Case who was attached to the Guyana National Service.

GUY/95/001 - Strengthening National Capacity for the Execution and Implementation of Development Projects and for Coordinating Development Assistance

With respect to the above project, a Manual on Financial and Accounting Procedures has been drafted in preparation for a Workshop to be held on the said topic for early next year. An assessment has also been done on the weakness within the system of data collection, storage and retrieval in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and recommendations for more effective computerized systems are being drafted.

UNDP Squatter Settlement Regulations And Depressed Areas Upgrading

The implementation of this project incurred some managerial problems during 1996. However, through some changes initiated by the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security the implementation rate received a boost during the latter half of 1996. A Town Planner was attached over a three-month period to assist in the preparation of physical designs.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Activities were conducted in the ambit of the 1996 - 1999 UNDP/Government of Guyana Country Programme. Further to this, Guyana has been urged by Mr. Kaman to seek a seat on the UNICEF Board, to select a premise for UNICEF and monitor the compilation of the Government's Report on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Additionally, the Government of Guyana was able to submit to the UN the report of the UNICEF Mid-decade Goals.

United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA

The Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association's request for Mr. Bhagwan Shrestha's continued attachment under the terms of a UNFPA consultant was not accepted by the UNFPA Caribbean Regional Office. The UNDP therefore granted a further three month extension to his contract, which served to provide for the formulation of successor arrangements.

United Nations Volunteer Programme - UNV

The Ministry succeeded in gaining financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme to extend the attachment of two UNV doctors working in the Health Sector. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have agreed to promote an Integrated Health Sector Project. This project, while it will encourage continued UNV assistance, will seek to target for support areas in the Health Sector including Child Care.

LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA)

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana during 1996 was able to participate in a number of SELA activities of relevance to our national interests.

Guyana's quota to the Latin America Economic System is up-to-date.

The Regional Development (now Integration) Fund was tabled for discussions at the XXIII Regular Meeting of the Latin American Economic Council.

PEACE CORPS

A new batch of sixteen Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in Guyana in July 1996. These have been deployed to the health and development sectors.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS (VSO)

The Government of Guyana continues to utilize the skills of VSO volunteers. At the end of 1996 there were 36 volunteers, with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health being the main beneficiaries. During the First Quarter of the year, a Review Meeting was convened to appraise the programme and its operations.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued its work aimed at ensuring that Guyana is responsive to the changes in the International System with regard to Intellectual Property Protection. To this end, the Commonwealth Secretariat was requested, and has provided its views on Draft Legislation on Copyright and Related Rights and Industrial Property. These views have been submitted to the Attorney General's Chambers for its consideration

The Ministry also coordinated a Second Seminar on Intellectual Property Protection. This seminar was conducted by four officials provided under the auspices of WIPO, and was specifically designed to meet the information needs of members of the Judiciary.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION FUND (RIF)

A second round of consultations was held in Guyana prior to the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Smaller Economies (CARACAS). A draft declaration for the implementation of the "FUND" was adopted for submission to the Caracas Meeting.

CARIFORUM

Major activities centered around preparation of the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme under the Second Financial Programme.

PEREZ - GUERRERO TRUST FUND (PGTF)

The sum of US\$84,000 has been allocated by the Committee of Experts of the PGTF for the project 'South-South Transfer of Experiences in Sustainable Agricultural Development'. The project involves the compilation of case studies on Sustainable Agricultural Development presented at the G-77 Sectoral Review Meeting on Food and Agriculture, as well as other countries around the world. The Ministry of Agriculture shall serve as the executing Agency for the Project.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATIES

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued its role as coordinator of the Working Group on Bilateral Investment Treaties. Draft Treaties were received from the following countries:

CANADA

In 1996, the Government of Guyana informed the Canadian Government that its Draft BIT is an acceptable basis for the commencement of negotiations. Guyana also informed the Government of Canada of its proposed amendments to the Draft.

ITALY

During the visit of H.E. President Cheddi Jagan to Rome for the World Summit Guyana formally submitted a response to the Italian Draft BIT.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Guyana in 1996, responded to the draft BIT submitted by the Government of the Republic of Korea. The Korean Government has provided its views on Guyana's response. These views are receiving the attention of the Government.

POLAND

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs commenced local Consultations on the Draft BIT submitted by the Republic of Poland.

SWITZERLAND

The Government of Guyana presented a preliminary response to the Draft BIT which was submitted by the Swiss Confederation. The Swiss Government presented its views on Guyana's response in December 1996.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The first round of negotiations on the Draft took place in Washington D.C. on October 16 - 17, 1996. The report of this round of negotiations was circulated to members of the Working Group seeking further advice on outstanding issues in relation to the Draft.

OTHER BILATERAL COOPERATION

AUSTRALIA

The Government of Guyana was offered one post-graduate scholarship under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme (CSFP), arising out of the meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Australian High Commissioner in January, 1996. The nomination to be made by the Public Service Management shall be processed for the 1998 Academic Year.

ISRAEL

In 1996 three Guyanese received training in Israel in the areas of Medical Management, Meteorology, and Agriculture.

NAMIBIA

Draft Protocol - Guyana/Namibia Economic, Technical, Educational and Scientific Cooperation

The Government of Namibia is still considering the Draft Protocol that was submitted for its consideration.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe Trade Tour of the Caribbean Community Region

This proposal was raised during Mr. Abrams' (Director, Economic Affairs Department) discussions with High Commissioner Brigadier Agrippa Mutambaia. The proposal was submitted to CARICOM, which in turn forwarded it to the Director of Caribbean Export. Caribbean Export is working on a project to have Southern African businessmen visit the Region in the near future.

MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

1. UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations and its related bodies continued to engage the attention of the Department, but with an added focus on the reform issue. The intensification of this question has permeated several other issues and will continue to have an influence.

The Department liaised with Guyana's Permanent Mission to the United Nations on several issues including reform of the organization, crime prevention and criminal justice, drug trafficking, human rights, and disarmament and international security. The Department was also responsible for some legal matters.

In every area mentioned, it was necessary to work in close cooperation with Government Ministries and other local entities to ensure that subjects were treated in a comprehensive manner.

A UN Reform

Guyana participated in debates on the subject at the level of its Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Reform issues are targeting the UN budget and the Security Council in particular.

B Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Matters relating to crime prevention and criminal justice were forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action.

C Drug Trafficking and International Drug Control Treaties

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs acted mainly as a conduit for these matters. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health were requested to provide information in keeping with UN Resolutions and the provisions of Drug Control Treaties.

The Department also liaised with the Ministry of Home Affairs on matters related to the fight against illicit drug trafficking in Guyana. In this regard, the Department coordinated the James Hendricks Memorial Drug Treatment Workshop in Guyana from June 03 to 07, 1996. The workshop was sponsored by the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, in collaboration with the US Department of State, and Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL).

D. Human Rights

The Department continued to work on outstanding human rights reports. Progress however was very slow since compiling the reports depended largely on information being provided by the other agencies. This did not materialize as readily as expected. In July 1996, a Cabinet proposal was submitted and approved for the establishment of a Programme for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the UN Decade for Human Rights Education.

E. Racism and Racial Discrimination

Guyana submitted a report to the United Nations on measures taken in connection with the implementation of the programme of action for the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.

F. Disarmament and International Security

The Department liaised with Guyana's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and provided advice where necessary.

G. Eradication of Poverty

The Department monitored government policies and implementation at both national and international levels related to the eradication of poverty. In this regard, the Department headed a Task Force which was involved in the preparation of a one-week programme of activities in observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty from October 17-24, 1996.

The Department was also represented at the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication which was held from October 28 to November 1, 1996, in Trinidad and Tobago. The delegation was headed by the Hon. Indra Chandarpal, Minister within the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

II. COMMONWEALTH

The Department was represented during October/November 1996 by Ms Deborah Yaw at the Commonwealth Workshop for officials in charge of compilation of reports under the various international and regional instruments, which was held in Jamaica.

Guyana was represented by Ms. Sonia Elliot of the Guyana High Commission, London, at the 13th Commonwealth Foundation Induction Programme for Diplomats, which was held in London during the period October 7 to 9, 1996.

III. ENVIRONMENT

A. Amazon Co-operation Treaty

In February 1996, a Workshop on Eco-tourism in protected areas of the Amazon was held in Guyana. This activity was a collaborative effort between the Government of Guyana and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Amazon Co-operation Treaty (ACT). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its capacity as coordinator of the ACT matters in Guyana, played a significant role in preparations for this activity. It was the first ACT activity to be held in Guyana.

During the year, the Special Commissions of the Amazon Co-operation Treaty held their annual meetings in various cities of the member countries. Guyana was represented at most of these meeting. The Ministry facilitated Guyana's participation.

The activities of the Amazon Co-operation Treaty is coordinated by a Pro Tempore Secretariat. However, Member States, at the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Lima, Peru, agreed to the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia, in an effort to more efficiently manage the activities of the Treaty. Towards this end, three meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat were convened in Brasilia during the year. The Government of Guyana was represented at those meetings by Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil, H.E. Ivan Evelyn.

B. Hemispheric Summit on Sustainable Development

As spokesperson for CARICOM on the Environment, Guyana initiated a CARICOM Technical Consultation in Georgetown on September 23-24, 1996, in preparation for the Hemispheric Summit on Sustainable Development. The Ministry

of Foreign Affairs was tasked with the responsibility of co-ordinating the consultations. The results of those consultations were incorporated into a CARICOM position at the Summit.

C. Habitat II

The Ministry played a significant role in the preparation for the HABITAT II Conference or City Summit, in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. The Ministry is also actively involved in the follow-up to the HABITAT II meeting through its representative on the National Committee on follow-up to HABITAT II.

D. World Food Summit

Guyana's delegation to the World Food Summit was led by President Cheddi Jagan. The Ministry was instrumental in co-ordinating activities for Guyana's participation at that important event.

E. Other Environment Meetings

A number of important meetings took place during the year, which were environment related. They included a seminar on Eco-tourism in Protected Areas of the Amazon Region; the IV Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; Preparatory Meetings for the Hemispheric Summit on Sustainable Development, among others. The Ministry was instrumental in facilitating Guyana's active participation at these meetings.

IV. ACP-EU MATTERS

In view of the fact that the Lome IV Convention comes to an end on February 28, 2000, CARICOM Heads of Government at their 17th Meeting in Barbados, from July 03-06,

1996, urged Member States to undertake consultations to assist with the preparation of national positions and strategy for post-Lome negotiations. In this regard, the Department co-ordinated the convening of a meeting in the Ministry's Conference Room on August 31, 1996, to initiate a Guyana position.

V. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

A. Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

The election in November 1996 of Hon Minister Indra Chandarpal to the Executive Committee of CIM was co-ordinated by this Department, in keeping with its responsibility of monitoring issues related to women's affairs.

B. INSAP et al

Correspondence/documentation flowed between Washington and Georgetown in respect of the Intermediate Savannahs Project, among others. Funding was assured once all criteria were satisfied. To that end, there was constant liaison with the Ministry of Agriculture.

C. Inter-American Juridical Committee (IAJC)

Guyanese, Mr. Brynmor Pollard, was elected to the IAJC in a great show of support for Guyana's judicial strides.

VI. CARICOM

The Department assisted in the co-ordination of the 7th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, and was also represented at the Meeting

Support was provided by the Department to His Excellency the President in the pursuit of his policies with regard to advancing the regional integration process during his tenure as Chairman of the Bureau of the Conference of Heads of Government, which ended on June 30, 1996. During this period, support was actively canvassed for his proposed New Global Human Order, and for the Regional Development Fund (RDF).

Preparations for and follow-up to a number of meetings convened by the CARICOM Secretariat were co-ordinated by the Department and there continued to be close consultation and collaboration with line Ministries and with the CARICOM Secretariat.

Activities were followed up by the Department in relation to decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

Preparatory and follow-up activities were co-ordinated for the following activities:

- (a) The Third CARICOM/Japan Encounter, which was convened in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during the period January 30-31, 1996;
- (b) The China/Caribbean Trade and Investment Symposium, which was convened on March 1-2, 1996 in Georgetown, Guyana; and
- (c) The CARICOM/Canada Summit Meeting, which was convened in Grenada during the period March 4-5, 1996.

The China/Jiangsu Province Trade Fair was also held during this period (February 29 - March 2, 1997).

Follow-up actions emanating from the Seventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government were co-ordinated and pursued.

The Department was actively involved in the preparations and follow-up activities

in relation to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government which was held in Barbados during the period July 1-6, 1996.

Preparatory and follow-up activities were co-ordinated in respect of participation at a number of meetings including:

- (i) the Fifth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Task Force on the revision of the Treaty of Chaguaramas which was convened in Georgetown, Guyana, during the period April 15-19, 1996;**
- (ii) the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs (SCMFA), which was convened in Jamaica during the period May 9-14, 1996;**
- (iii) the Inaugural Meeting of the Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians, which was convened in Barbados during the period May 27-29, 1996;**
- (iv) the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council, which was convened in Georgetown, Guyana, in June 1996;**
- (v) the CARICOM/Venezuela Joint Council on Trade and Investment Meeting, which was convened in Venezuela in July 1996;**
- (iv) the First Meeting of the CARICOM/Colombia Joint Council, which was convened in Colombia in July 1996;**
- (vii) the Third CARICOM/Cuba Joint Commission, which was convened in Cuba during the period July 31 to August 1, 1996;**
- (viii) the Meeting of CARICOM/Cuban officials, which was convened in Cuba in**

- July 1996;
- (ix) the Eighth Canada/CARICOM JTEC, which was held in September 1996;
 - (x) the Sixth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Task Force, which was convened in Georgetown, Guyana during the period October 2-4, 1996.
 - (xi) the Informal Consultations of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs (SCMFA), which was convened in New York on October 5, 1996;
 - (xii) the Fourth CARICOM/Japan Encounter, which was convened in Tokyo, Japan, during the period October 15-16, 1996;
 - (xiii) the Ninth Meeting of the Bureau by Teleconferencing on October 21, 1996;
 - (xiv) the Third CARICOM/Central America Ministerial Conference, which was convened in Costa Rica during the period November 26-29, 1996;
 - (xv) the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Budget Committee, which was convened in Georgetown, Guyana during the period December 3-5, 1996;
 - (xvi) the Seventh Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Task Force, which was convened in Barbados during the period December 16-19, 1996.

An Inter-Agency Consultation was convened on 26 November 1996, in preparation for the Seventh Inter-Governmental Task Force (IGTF) Meeting, which was held in Barbados during the period 16-19 December 1996.

VII ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)

The Department, through the official Liaison to the ACS, monitored the start-up activities of the ACS Secretariat in Port-of-Spain, which focused on the appointment of the high level officials of the Secretariat and the establishment of the Special Committee of the ACS. In this respect, there was a certain degree of collaboration and coordination with the rest of CARICOM on issues such as:

- A. Identification of Special Committees on which Guyana should sit.
- B. Monitoring the implementation of the ACS Plan of Action.
- C. Technical Meeting of the ACS, Mexico City, May 27-29, 1996.
- D. Second Technical Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the ACS, Cuba, 10-12 December, 1996.

VII. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The Regional Director for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Jean Francois Olivier, visited Guyana and met with Mrs Cheryl Miles, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While expressing his concern over the growing loss of civilian lives in countries infested by land-mines, the Regional Director also appealed for financial assistance from the Government in the projected work of the Committee.

VIII. CANDIDATURES

The Multilateral and Global Affairs Department continued to coordinate activities relating to candidatures. Most of the Department's recommendations, and campaigning on behalf of the Ministry/Government, were fruitful. A notable success was the election of

Mr. Brynmor Pollard to the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

IX. STREET FAIR '96

The Department was the focal point in co-ordinating Street Fair '96, which was held on Saturday, September 28, 1996. Participants included Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations stationed in Guyana, and the local Private and Public Sectors.

MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

LEGAL ADVISER

During 1996, the Legal Adviser provided advice to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Director General and the Departments within the Ministry. The proper discharge of his functions also required the Legal Adviser to address requests for advice from other Ministries and Government Departments. Whereas the provision of such advice involved, in some instances, the submission of recommendations and solutions, the issues which attracted a role for the Legal Adviser were both national and international in character.

Advice was given on Guyana's bilateral and multilateral Treaty obligations and on Treaty relations in general. The relevant Instruments for Ratification of Accession were approved by the Legal Adviser, in cases where new Treaty obligations were being assumed

The documentary function of the Legal Adviser involved the issuance of Certificates of Non-impediment to Marriage for Guyanese nationals desirous of contracting foreign Marriages according to national laws. Additionally, the Legal Adviser authenticated documents to be presented to Diplomatic Missions in Georgetown or to be tendered in foreign countries.

The Legal Adviser offered advice to overseas Missions on matters related to their administration and the proper exercise of their various legal functions. General legal advice was also given to nationals and foreigners who requested same through overseas Missions. The Legal Adviser continued to monitor the activities of Diplomatic Missions resident in Guyana in the exercise and enjoyment of their Privileges and Immunities.

In the area of Criminal Law, requests for guidance from overseas Missions in

relation to Guyanese committing crimes abroad were addressed. The Legal Adviser also collaborated with resident Missions on criminal investigations involving GUYANASA AMALDA of the national jurisdiction.

The Legal Adviser was also called upon to represent Guyana internationally during 1996. He participated in the Second Meeting of the Guyana and Suriname National Border Commission in January, as Secretary of the Guyana Side. In April, he participated in an IAEA/OPANAL Seminar on IAEA Safeguards and Verifying Compliance with Non-Proliferation Commitments, in Jamaica. In May, he attended the UNDCP Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation in the Caribbean, in Barbados. The Legal Adviser was also one of Guyana's representatives at an IDB/SELA Latin American and Caribbean Workshop on Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the WTO, which was held in Mexico in August.

REMIGRANT UNIT

PERSONS GRANTED REMIGRANT STATUS

During the period January to December, 1996, a total of 252 remigrants have applied for Remigrant Status. Out of the amount 232 were approved.

Applications approved in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December were (22), (18), (15), (10), (23), (18), (27), (19), (19), (20), (20), and (21), respectively.

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

It is noted that the principal areas of skills/interests of the persons granted "Remigrant Status" are Accountants, Businessmen, Economists, Engineers, Medical Doctors, Pilots, Teachers, Lawyers, Farmers, Ministers of Religion and Craftsmen.

A total number of 20 applications pending were from Canada (10), and the U.S.A. (10). On examination of these pending applications, it was revealed that the main reason for them to be put on hold was failure to produce evidence to support their requests. However, these applications will be processed when the applicants submit the documents indicated hereunder:-

- (a) Evidence of resident status overseas.**
- (b) Submission of previous passport/travel data from Immigration Department.**
- (c) Submission of certified copies of Annual Income Tax Declarations for each of the four (4) years that a remigrant was resident overseas.**

Applications were had mainly from Guyanese returning from the USA, Canada, the U.K., Suriname, French Guiana, and Trinidad and Tobago, among others.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION UNIT

The Public Affairs and Information Unit is primarily concerned with the achievement of a higher profile for the Ministry through the use of the media and Ministry publications, as well as ensuring that information on Guyana's foreign policy is made available to the public and other interested parties.

In 1996, the unit utilized various communications media in the achievement of its aim of informing public opinion on the formulation and execution of foreign policy. The unit also offered advice and made recommendations on matters which have a bearing on

relations between the Ministry and the public, and provides technical advice and support for public relations initiatives undertaken by the Ministry.

Press Releases

The Unit prepared press releases and statements on an on-going basis throughout the year. It was also involved in organizing press conferences given by the Honourable Minister, and collaborated with other departments within the Ministry in the preparation of draft documents, including press releases.

Foreign Policy Focus

This weekly radio programme was aired throughout the year and focussed on current foreign policy issues and matters relating to the development of the regional, hemispheric and international systems.

Takuba News

In September, the Unit launched the newsletter "Takuba News". Three issues were published in the year for the months September, October, and November/December.

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.

Other Publications

The Unit also produced the following publications:

- i. **“Guyana Foreign Policy: Securing Peace and Development for the 21st Century”;**
Georgetown, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1996
- ii. **“Clement James Rohee: Selected Parliamentary Speeches 1994 -1996”;**
Georgetown, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1996

Public Awareness

The unit was involved in producing television programmes, and other publications, as well as organizing public forums.

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 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 diplomatic corps for public awareness purposes and assisted in organizing receptions for the diplomatic corps.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

This department is responsible for the support services within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It played an important role in the operation of the Ministry through its several sections:

1. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION SECTION

In 1996, the section dealt with daily requests for transportation by Ministry personnel, utilizing both taxi services and Ministry vehicles.

2. MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY SECTION

The Section performed repair, servicing and maintenance of Ministry equipment including air conditioning units, refrigerators, photocopiers, fans and water pumps. Five new computers were also installed.

3 PERSONNEL

In 1996, there were 25 new appointments in the Ministry, while there were eight resignations. Two persons retired, while there were three transfers.

4. FINANCE

The Finance Section on behalf of the Director General operated the Ministry's finances in accordance with the Financial Regulations. Remittances of funds to Guyana's Overseas Missions were made regularly during the year for staff emoluments and general operation of the Missions.

For 1996, a Budget of G\$785.492M was approved for the Ministry Supplementary Provision. An additional sum of G\$5.191M was obtained during the year bringing the total available for spending to G\$790.683M. Actual Expenditure for 1996 was G\$783.532M, leaving an unspent balance of G\$7.151M. A detailed statement of Budget and actual Expenditure is provided in Appendix I.

The Finance Section also collected Revenue at Head Office and from Overseas Missions, for 1996 totalling M\$29.276 and paid same over to the Accountant General's Department.

PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR DEPARTMENT

Guyana celebrated its 30th Anniversary of Independence on May 26, 1996.

Among the Special Guests invited for the occasion were His Excellency Mr. Gustavo Krause, Minister of the Environment, Water Resources and the Legal Amazon of Brazil, Dr. Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas, Foreign Minister of Venezuela, and about 16 Non-Resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners.

The other visits to Guyana were by Sir Alister McIntyre, OCC, Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Louis Farrakan, Leader of the Nation of Islam, and Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, Chairman of the South Centre.

Accreditation

There were a total of fourteen (14) accreditations of Ambassadors/High Commissioners from foreign countries during 1996. They included the Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Austria, Canada, Israel, Lesotho and Republic of Korea.

Agrément Granted for Accreditation of Foreign Ambassadors to Guyana

The Government of Guyana granted Agrément for the appointment of six (6) Ambassadors/High Commissioners. They include Ambassadors from Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Zambia.

Agrément Granted for Accreditations of Guyanese Ambassadors to Foreign Countries

Agrément has been granted for Guyana's Ambassadors to be accredited to Argentina, Bolivia, the European Community, the Kingdom of Belgium, Peru and the Republic of Venezuela.

Honorary Consuls

Guyana has appointed Honorary Consuls to Belize and South Africa.

Military Attaché

The Government of Guyana had requested Agrément of the Governments of Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela, for the appointment of Military Attachés on a non-resident basis.

Visits to Guyana by Non-resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners

There were visits by Non-Resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners from Australia, Chile, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden.

GUYANA EMBASSY - HAVANA

GUYANA/CUBA RELATIONS

The year 1996 saw the continued strengthening and consolidation of the traditionally good relations which have existed over the years, between Guyana and Cuba, as both the Guyana Embassy in Havana, as well as the relevant Ministries and other bodies/organization in Cuba, actively sought to maintain and improve the status between the two countries.

During the year, the Mission worked assiduously to fulfill its obligations regarding Guyana's foreign policy concerns with Cuba in an atmosphere of continued cooperation on the part of the Cuban Government. Efforts to realize the work of the Mission relating to Guyana/Cuba relations met generally with positive responses, especially with regard to the Mission's part in implementing the work programme of activities agreed on for the year under the Guyana/Cuba Collaboration Programme.

In other areas of our relations the spirit of cooperation was evident on both sides, as we collaborated at international/regional meetings held in Havana in relation to support for candidatures, and in other aspects of our relations. The status of our relations remained alive and healthy with prospects for further collaboration and improvement in the future.

The Mission continued to participate in the usual activities held during the year in observance of Guyanese, Cuban, Latin American and other countries' National Days and other anniversaries, as well as other significant events including activities for official visits.

Guyana's National Day (February 23) and Independence Day (May 26) were commemorated as usual by the two Cuban Organizations - the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (CIAP), and the Cuba/Caribbean Association.

Greetings were received by the Mission from the Cuban President Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz and Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez and other high level MINREX officials.

ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN HAVANA

During the course of 1996, the Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. at the Mission was charged by Headquarters to attend as Guyana's representative the following International Meetings/Seminar held in Havana;

1. Meeting of the Special Committee of Science, Technology, Education, Health, and Culture of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) - September 2 - 4, 1996.
2. Third Meeting of the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research Conference of the Parties (COP) - Havana, September 18 - 20, 1996.
3. Seminar on Diplomacy and Information held in Havana from November 13 - 15, 1996.
4. The Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the ACS - Havana, December 9 - 13, 1996. (This meeting was also attended by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, who headed the Guyana delegation).

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Cooperation at the bilateral level is maintained primarily under the Guyana/Cuba Joint Commission Programme. Although this year (1996-1997), the cooperation programme has not yet been elaborated due to the delay in the holding of the 19th Session of the Guyana/Cuba Joint Commission Meeting, the programme for the previous year continued in effect.

This programme was as follows:

1. Maintaining the services of the Cuban Medical Brigade including specialists and technicians.
2. Continuing the participation of Cuban Professors in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Guyana.
3. Maintaining the participation of Cuban medical personnel as consultants under PAHO and the UNDP Volunteer Programme.
4. Training in Guyana of Cuban Professors in the Methodology and Teaching of the English Language.

It also caters for the following possibilities:

- a) To send Guyanese technicians in areas of Dentistry, Radiotherapy, and Physiotherapy for training in Cuba. The Cuban government will specify terms and costs in this regard.
- b) To examine the possibility of establishing a joint venture deal for the production and marketing of Pharmaceuticals. Cuba is very interested in

marketing its products in this regard and has sent several representatives to Guyana to look into this area during the course of the year.

- c) To do a joint evaluation of the possibility of cooperation in the field of Mining and Geology.
- d) To continue discussions to identify possibilities for the joint production and marketing of Kaolin.

The two countries are both interested in the reactivation of trade, attendance at trade fairs in each other's country, and the regular exchange of trade delegations. Apart from table salt which it has been selling to Guyana, Cuba is now also willing to sell a number of other products produced either by the Cuban Government or joint venture firms in construction, pharmaceuticals, medical and veterinary products, machinery and spare parts.

During the year, Cuban and joint venture firms, looking for markets for pharmaceutical products and the purchase of wood products in Guyana, visited Guyana on several occasions. Guyana for its part has offered for possible sale, forestry products, furniture, rice and spices.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS, PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Activity in this area intensified somewhat during 1996, especially in the issuing of visas, although this still remains an area of not very high activity at the Mission. Due to the continued frequency with which Cubans working for State corporations visit Guyana, either for purely commercial reasons or under the aegis of the Guyana/Cuba cooperation programme, requests for courtesy visas continued to be the area of most activity in this regard. During the year 1996, the Embassy issued one hundred and thirty nine (139) visas. These included Courtesy, Diplomatic, Tourist, and Business visas.

STUDENTS AFFAIRS

Since October 1995, there have been three students in Cuba under the CARICOM/Cuba Joint Commission Programme. One is studying Human Medicine in the Central Province of Villa Clara and the other two are outside of Havana in San José de las Lajas studying Veterinary Medicine.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

The Embassy has continued to maintain links with other Embassies accredited to Cuba which are concurrently accredited to Guyana, and also to serve as a conduit for correspondence between these countries through the Embassies here, and our Foreign Ministry

GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION - OTTAWA

A significant aspect of the activities of the High Commission in 1996 was the visit to Ottawa by H.E. President Jagan, accompanied by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs Clement Rohee and a delegation. Preparations for the meetings, courtesy calls and visits to other cities began in earnest in early 1996 and culminated in a successful visit in June 1996. Immediate action was taken in the months after, to follow up on a number of issues raised by H.E. the President in his various meetings with high officials of the Canadian Government.

Another significant event was the 8th Canada/CARICOM Joint Technical and Economic Committee Meeting (JTEC), which was held in November 1996. Guyana signed, at that time, a Rum Protocol with Canada.

Perhaps one important point to highlight is the continuing goodwill for Guyana which was continuously nurtured in 1996 by the Head of Mission with support from both the diplomatic and non-diplomatic staff. Through contacts with Canadian Government officials, University Professors, the National Press Club, NGOs, committed Guyanese and other friends, the High Commission was able to find many opportunities to advertise Guyana. First Secretary J. Wills on 10 December 1996 (then Charge d' Affaires) in a televised Christmas message to the Guyanese community in Ottawa, took the opportunity to encourage greater involvement by Guyanese nationals and other friends in giving of their valuable expertise, donation of books and to continue to help Guyana in whatever way they could.

At the end of the year our attention was turned to the deportation case of Jacqueline Ross-Jenkins. That case brought to the fore the need to have a framework for dealing with deportation cases.

The High Commission operated in an environment which required attendance at many seminars organized by the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCUL), the Trade Facilitation Office (TFOC), as well as guest lectures organized by the Diplomatic Association of Ottawa, of which First Secretary J. Wills is a member, several National Day celebrations, and also Guyanese and other community events.

The Head of Mission, or Charge d'Affaires when appropriate also attended monthly CARICOM High Commissioners Meeting and Commonwealth Luncheons. These fora provided significant opportunities for networking and making contact with persons with a view to advertising Guyana.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MISSION ACTIVITIES IN 1996

FIRST QUARTER

In the first quarter of the year January-March 1996, the High Commission sought to continue to deepen its contacts with the Guyanese community by hosting in February an 'open-house' at the Mission for the Republic Anniversary. A similar activity was held in May 1996 for Independence. On that occasion, Donald Sinclair made a short presentation on "Visit Guyana Year 1996".

The High Commission also vigorously pursued opportunities for trade and investment in Guyana. In January, the High Commissioner pursued the sale of 1,000 cases of Guyana rum in British Columbia. This was a follow up to his visit there in August 1995 and also his visit to Guyana in December 1995.

Through contacts made with an Australian Tour operator at a Royal Commonwealth Society "Hong Kong Day" event in January, strong links were established for follow up in

Guyana's eco-tourism sector. The High Commission also worked hard during this period and throughout the year to highlight "Visit Guyana Year 1996".

SECOND QUARTER

The second quarter of the year, April - June, was given over to logistical arrangements and the preparation of briefs for the visit to Ottawa, and other cities by H.E. the President. Meetings were held with the Mayor of Ottawa, the Prime Minister of Canada the Honourable Jean Chretien, the Minister for International Trade, the Minister for International Cooperation, and the President of IDRC. Over 300 Guyanese turned out to meet the President at a reception organized by the Guyana High Commission and the Guyana/Ottawa Association.

Minister Rohee also met with the Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, Christine Stewart.

During this period also, the High Commission was represented at the book launching of Bernard Heydorn's 'Walk Good Guyana Boy'. Mr Heydorn is a Guyanese-Canadian. The High Commission also briefed students participating in the Model Commonwealth Heads of Government Forum. In May, High Commissioner Benn visited the Province of New Brunswick, where he attended a workshop sponsored by the University of New Brunswick on the topic of 'France and Property Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean'.

THIRD QUARTER

In the summer months, July to September, the Mission was equally busy with matters such as the Guyana Airways flights to Toronto. This matter was favourably resolved through coordination with the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Transport Canada. In August, High Commissioner Benn attended the Conference on the

New Global Human Order held in Guyana as well as the Heads of Mission Retreat.

Extensive follow-up work was done on matters raised during the visit of President Jagan. Follow-up meetings were held with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, CIDA, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Industry Canada. Significant progress was also made in moving discussions along in respect of a Guyana/Canada Social Security Agreement, a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA), and a Guyana/Canada Ministry of Transport MOU. Much attention was paid also to raising awareness of the concept of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF).

The High Commission was also involved in this period in collecting funds for the flood relief efforts in Guyana. H.E. President Jagan's "thank-you" letters were forwarded to the kind donors.

The High Commission also arranged for the visit to Guyana of Guyanese born Canadian M.P. Mr. Ovid Jackson and Mrs Jackson.

At year end, the High Commission held a mini-exhibition at the Algonquin College of Art and Technology. That exhibition featured brochures, samples of species of Guyanese wood and the video "Guyana: A Very Special Place."

FOURTH QUARTER

The 8th JTEC Meeting was held in November, 1996. Guyana was represented by H.E. Mr Brindley Benn and First Secretaries J. Wills and G. Lee. Follow-up work on issues raised then is ongoing.

It is perhaps appropriate to mention here that the Mission has found the 'Takuba News' most informative and has sent copies to the Editor of the Canadian Foreign Service magazine 'bout de papier', the National Press Club, the Editor of the 'Diplomat and International' Magazine, Human Resources Canada, CIDA, and other agencies and

persons with whom we are in ongoing communication in regard to, inter alia, Agreements we hope to conclude. It is always helpful when we can not only speak to persons, but also send them material on various aspects of the development of Guyana.

In addition to the above tasks, the Mission also arranged for the accreditation of High Commissioners to Guyana - Lesotho, Pakistan and Swaziland.

The High Commission also played a supporting role for such high officials as the Chief Justice of Guyana and other individuals from Police, Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, who attended various conferences in Ottawa.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Our allocation for 1996 was reduced 23% over 1995. This constrained our effective representation since we could not undertake as many visits to the Provinces. This we hope can be readjusted in 1997, as proposed in our budget. Issues such as the repair of the roof and the disposal of unserviceable items will be addressed in the new year.

CONSULAR

Revenue earned from the various consular activities in 1996 totalled Cdn \$6,268.50.

GUYANA EMBASSY - SURINAME

Bilateral relations with Suriname were cordial. There is the potential for improvement and a more effective Co-operation Council. Nonetheless, the use of the Corentyne River remains a source of concern to Guyana.

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

Guyana and Suriname maintained an appreciable level of bilateral relations over the reporting period. The high-level delegation headed by Prime Minister Sam Hinds, which attended the Inauguration Ceremony in September bolstered the relations.

The issue of the Border remained in focus during the year.

The Fifth Meeting of the Co-operation Council was not convened due to myriad problems but it is anticipated that it will be held early in the new year. Despite the inability of the Council to meet, Functional/Technical Co-operation links were maintained and manifested in the signing of an Air-traffic Agreement, the attendance by five representatives from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission at a two-week training programme in Petroleum Technology sponsored by Staatsolie, meetings between rice farmers from both countries, and a visit by Messers Ramdin and Blokland from Suralco who displayed an interest in Linmine's divestment.

The long-awaited inauguration of the Guyana-Suriname Ferry Project was further postponed as additional technical difficulties arose.

In consonance with Guyana's renewed thrust in the area of Economic Diplomacy, the mission played a pivotal role in encouraging a 30-member delegation from the Suriname Chamber of Commerce to visit Guyana in September 1996. It was regrettable,

that a planned participation by the Manufacturer's Association in Guyana's Furniture Exhibition '96 did not materialize, but individual members visited the Exposition.

Cultural and Sporting exchanges continued apace during the year under review. Many of these activities were initiated at a people to people level without intervention. Exchanges took place in the areas of swimming, football and volley-ball. Director of Sports in Guyana, Mr Neil Kumar, paid two official visits to Suriname en route to French Guiana and held in-depth discussions with the Minister of Education and Director of Sports in respect of participation in the Inter-Guiana Games.

A 3-member delegation from Youth Challenge International visited Suriname in July 1996, and held discussions with officials from the Department of Youth and Youth Groups on the possibility of Surinamese working on projects in Guyana.

The Embassy continued to disseminate information to prospective tourists and investors who often sought information on places to visit and business opportunities in Guyana.

CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

The Consular Department continued to render a prompt and efficient service to Guyanese resident in Suriname, French Guiana and on occasion, to those domiciled in the Dutch Antilles. The service provided included the issuing of new passports, renewals, requests for Birth Certificates and Certificates of Character, probation of Affidavits, Power of Attorney, the performance of marriage ceremonies, and the issuances of visas. In summary, a total of 941 new passports were issued, while 919 were renewed during the year, a noticeable decrease from the previous year.

The Embassy maintained a cordial relationship with the local Police and Judicial authorities and was able to assist in several cases involving Guyanese as they related to immigration, mal-treatment, death, detention, confiscation of fishing boats and goods,

among others.

Ambassador Arjun and Second Secretary (Consular) Yvonne Dublin paid an official visit to Nickerie over the period under review. -The Ambassador held discussions with local officials and Guyanese nationals. He also visited the Hazard Penitentiary and the site for the Ferry Project.

STAFF

In March, First Secretary, Ms Barbara Haley was reposted after a dedicated and successful tour. She was replaced by Mr Arlington Bancroft from Headquarters.

PUBLICITY

A Press Conference was arranged by the Embassy on June 12, 1996 and attended by most of the Media Houses and was given adequate publicity. Ambassador Arjun briefly outlined developments in Guyana and Suriname and fielded questions from the Journalists. The year also saw the publication of several articles in the local press on the Embassy's activities.



A news letter titled "Guyana News", edited by the First Secretary, commenced in April and has now become a monthly production and seven volumes were published during 1996.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Establishment of the National Guyana Society

On the initiative of Ambassador Arjun and a Support Group, the National Guyana Society was formed in May 1996 and organized to cater for (1) Education and Culture; (2)

Finance; (3) Sports; (4) Welfare; and (5) Public Relations. An official launching ceremony was arranged on June 28, 1996, where the Executive Committee was introduced to the Press.

Other Activities hosted by the Embassy included:

- ◆ Domino Competition May 26, 1996
- ◆ Independence Reception on May 27, 1996
- ◆ Function for Prime Minister Hinds - September, 1996
- ◆ Annual Fair - The Embassy held its Annual Fair on November 9, 1996. The Event was well-attended by Guyanese and Surinamese including the recently-appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Faried Pierkhan.
- ◆ Diplomatic Bazaar - The Embassy was involved in the Diplomatic Ladies Bazaar which attracted large patronage. The Embassy's booth displayed products generously donated by Guyanese businessmen, and realized the sum of SF122,000 which was handed over to the sponsors.

- ◆ Annual Christmas Events: Children's Xmas Party, Staff Lunch and Old Year's Get-together

GUYANA EMBASSY - WASHINGTON D.C.

During the year under review, the Guyana Embassy in Washington. D.C. continued the advancement of the national interest of Guyana through active collaboration at the levels of the United States Administration, the Organization of American States (OAS), the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors, other Multilateral Fora, and at International Conferences/Meetings.

Trade And Investment Matters

The Embassy was instrumental in facilitating a meeting between the Chairman of the Guyana Rice Board and TECH International Inc., an Import/Export Company in Florida.

Enquiries on Investment in Guyana

The Embassy answered many enquiries related to trade and investment opportunities in Guyana. However, work was hampered by the slow follow-up and responses from trade and investment related agencies in Guyana.

OAS and Inter-American Affairs

In 1996 the OAS, continued the execution of a number of mandates which were received from the OAS General Assembly meetings of 1995 and 1996. In addition, there was the streamlining of the activities of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and the various other Organs, Agencies and Entities of the OAS.

In this regard and with reference to the area of Sustainable Development, Ambassador Ishmael was elected as the Vice Chairman of the OAS Committee for Sustainable Development.

Mr Navin Chandarpal, Adviser to the President on Science and Technology, participated in the series of meetings of Government Experts negotiating the documents which were tabled at the Hemispheric Summit Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. President Cheddi Jagan presented the position of CARICOM at their Summit Conference.

Horizontal Cooperation Programmes

Ambassador Odeen Ishmael discussed with Mr Esworth John of the OAS the Horizontal Cooperation Programmes which are being offered by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. In an effort to make technical assistance more possible through Horizontal Cooperation, the OAS is in the process of working with these respective Governments in an effort to modify their arrangements.

Meetings of the Permanent Council

The Government of Guyana has requested and is receiving assistance from the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD), for the Electoral Process. Ambassador Odeen Ishmael formally requested the OAS to monitor the elections in Guyana.

OAS Fellowship Programmes

A number of Guyanese continue to benefit from training through OAS sponsored Fellowship Programmes.

The Miami Conference

President Cheddi Jagan accompanied by Ambassador Ishmael attended the Twentieth Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Latin America.

Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

The Twenty-eight Assembly of Delegates of CIM was convened in the year under review. The Honourable Indra Chandarpal, Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security was elected an Executive Committee Member for the 1996-1998 Biennium.

Summit of the Americas Follow-up

As part of the Summit Implementation follow-up process, the Government of Argentina hosted an Inter-American Conference on Hunger in Buenos Aires. Guyana was represented at that meeting by Ms Gillian Rowe, First Secretary at this Embassy.

The Inter-American Conference on Hunger focused on a general understanding of the nature of hunger. The meeting agreed that hunger and malnutrition are consequences of poverty and that an effective programme which include finding solutions for the causes of abject poverty was necessary.

The delegation of Argentina expressed the view that the White Helmets Initiative offers a valuable mechanism and it also applied in the fight against hunger.

CARICOM RELATIONS

During the first six months of 1996, Guyana assumed the position of Coordinator of CARICOM. Ambassador Odeen Ishmael, inter alia, chaired meetings of the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors.

The CARICOM Banana Issue

Ambassadors of banana producing countries of CARICOM briefed Representatives of the Washington Post on the implications of the United States position at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the banana issue. Non-producing banana countries of CARICOM, including Guyana, attended that meeting in a show of CARICOM support.

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

Attendance by Ambassador Odeen Ishmael at Official Conferences/Meetings - 1996

In addition to the meetings mentioned earlier in this report, Ambassador Ishmael undertook or participated in the following:

- Official visits to the Guyana Consulate in New York
- visit to Miami for Meeting with Guyanese organizations
- Meeting of the Summit Implementation Group - Jamaica
- Accompanying Minister Rohee to the OAS 26th General Assembly, Panama
- Attendance at the United Nations General Assembly
- Participation at activities at the United Nations
- Attendance at a Public Forum organized by the Association of Concerned Guyanese of New York to discuss the Proposal for a New Global Human Order
- Official visit to New York
- Meeting of the FTAA Working Group of Smaller Economies, Venezuela.

Embassy Meeting with Minister Chandarpal

Minister Chandarpal convened a meeting at the Embassy with members of staff and women representing Guyanese Organizations. The gathering was advised by Minister Chandarpal about recent developments in Guyana and also about an area of her responsibility - Women's Affairs.

Washington Launching - Profit Without Plunder

The Embassy hosted the launching ceremony of the World Resources Institute publication, Profit Without Plunder. Those in attendance included members of the Guyanese Community, the Diplomatic Corps, Officials of the World Resources Institute (WRI), and Embassy Staff.

Independence Anniversary Celebrations

The following activities took place in the Washington-Metropolitan Area in observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of Independence for Guyana:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 19 | Food Fair on the Grounds of the Residence of Ambassador Ishmael |
| May 21-22 | Reception and Exhibition of the Works of Guyanese Artist Mr Dudley Charles at the Embassy. |
| May 25 | Independence Anniversary dinner and ball. |
| May 26 | Ecumenical Service at the Church of the Holy Comforter, Washington D.C. |

Briefing - Model OAS General Assembly

Ambassador Odeen Ishmael briefed a number of High School students who represented Guyana at the Model OAS General Assembly which was hosted by the OAS Secretary-General

Briefing - Congressional Youth

Ambassador Odeen Ishmael briefed a number of students of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

Staff Re-Assignments

Ms June Persaud, Minister Counsellor, was cross-posted, in April 1996, as Charge d' Affaires, a.i. to the Guyana Embassy in Beijing.

Ms Gillian Rowe, First Secretary and Mrs Taveta Haniff, Second Secretary, were posted from the Foreign Ministry in June 1996 to the Guyana Embassy in Washington D.C.

Visit to Guyanese Organization in Virginia

Ambassador Ishmael visited the Guyana Sub-Committee of the Caribbean Association of Richmond, Virginia.

CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

A total of 444 Passports were issued, while 351 renewals were processed. Business, Official, Diplomatic, Tourist, and Courtesy visas amounted to 332 during the period under review.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF GUYANA - TORONTO

The highlight of activities for the year 1996 included the visits of His Excellency, President Cheddi Jagan in June and October, and the visit of the Hon. Clement Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs in May for the 30th Independence Anniversary Celebrations in Toronto and in June with the President's delegation.

A strong working relationship continued to exist between the Consulate and the Guyanese community in Toronto primarily through the numerous Guyanese organizations. The immense goodwill of Guyanese Canadians was demonstrated by their active participation in the 30th Independence Anniversary Celebrations and their generous response to the Consulate's appeal for the flood relief fund which raised over \$3500.00. The Guyanese Canadian Cultural Association of Calgary also donated \$3000.00.

The Consulate organized and participated in a wide range of activities related to the promotion of tourism, trade and investment and resource mobilization. Visit Guyana Year 1996 was actively promoted and various visits of groups to Guyana were organized during the year with the assistance of the Consulate.

ADMINISTRATION

While there were no personnel changes during 1996, a training seminar was organized on January 20 to upgrade the skills of all staff. The seminar was conducted by Shere Jamieson, a lecturer at Georgian College who has also done training seminars in Guyana for the Guyana Manufacturers' Association and the hospitality industry. The role of the Consulate representative was analyzed and various strategies for improving the services and efficiency of the Consulate were discussed. Emphasis was placed particularly on enhancing communication skills and customer support services.

FINANCE

During March, Henry Dowlal of the Auditor-General's Office conducted an audit of the accounts at the Consulate. He worked closely with Tyrone Ramroop, vice Consul. Mr. Dowlal submitted reports to the Consul General and later to the Auditor General on his return to Guyana.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The visit of His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan in June during which the economic interests of Guyana were promoted at various fora in Toronto gave added impetus to the initiatives of the Consulate in this area.

At the Board of Trade Metropolitan Toronto/World Trade Centre, the President was the feature speaker at a breakfast meeting organized by the Guyana Consulate in conjunction with Price Waterhouse. The President spoke at length on the investment opportunities in Guyana for Canadian companies particularly in infrastructure, electricity generation, mining, forestry, fisheries, agro- industry and manufacturing.

The President also had a special meeting with the members of the Canadian Mining Association when he discussed the conditions for mining in Guyana and the Government's policy with respect to the environment and foreign investment in the mining sector.

A luncheon meeting was hosted for the President and his delegation by Mr. David Peterson, former Premier of Ontario. The meeting was attended by a cross section of Mr Peterson's business contacts, primarily Presidents and CEOs of companies with an interest in Guyana. The President reviewed the economic and social development of Guyana, the investment policies and potential for Canadian business interests.

The President also addressed a Round Table Discussion on Guyana's case for debt

relief and the New Global Human Order at York University. Representatives from government, business, labour, academia and non-governmental organizations attended this event.

The President signed an Agreement of Understanding between the Government of Guyana and Placer Dome on June 24 to explore and develop gold deposits in Guyana. Placer Dome, one of North America's largest gold mining companies and the largest in Canada, was initially involved in the Omai project but pulled out in 1990. Placer Dome will be returning to Guyana in association with IBI (International Business Investments) Corporation, a Toronto Merchant Bank.

The Consul General Geoffrey DaSilva visited Calgary and Edmonton on February 22 to 28 to meet with the Guyanese communities and to promote the economic interests of Guyana. He had numerous business meetings where he discussed recent economic and social developments in Guyana and business opportunities for trade and investment as well as tourism. He met with the Mayor of Calgary who also chairs the City Business Council and expressed his interest in leading a business team to Guyana to explore opportunities particularly in mining, oil exploration, environment and technology.

Gale Lee, Consu, was part of the Guyana delegation to the Eighth Canada/Caricom Joint Technical and Economic Committee Meeting (JTEC) in Ottawa in November. The CARICOM side was led by Dr Edwin Carrington, CARICOM Secretary-General, who was assisted by his team of CARICOM specialists. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss assistance projects at the CARICOM regional level that would benefit the development of the region as a whole.

At this meeting the Rum protocol was signed by Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. High Commissioner Brindley Benn signed on behalf of Guyana. It was announced that the CARIBBEAN agreement for duty free access of a wide range of Caribbean products to Canada had been extended for another ten years by the WTO. Secretary General Carrington stressed the need for a Regional Integration Fund (RIF) to

support the overall development of the region so that it could be adequately prepared to compete actively in the move towards free trade.

The question of the debt burden and the new criteria being formulated by the donor community for granting special debt relief to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCS) was discussed in detail.

In August/September, ten members of the Guyana Craft and Arts Association participated in the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. They occupied two booths where they exhibited and sold all types of original Guyanese crafts such as hammocks, soapstone and wood sculptures, clay pottery, leather work, garments, semi-precious jewellery, wooden, straw, nibbi, calabash and various Amerindian craft pieces. On September 8, the Guyana Consulate organized a Craft Exhibition & Sale at the Travelodge Hotel for the craft producers to exhibit and sell their works mainly to the Guyanese community in Toronto. The Consulate also organized meetings with a few craft stores around Toronto where some of the members managed to sell their products wholesale. Some members of the team also visited New York to sell their products.

GUYANA EMBASSY - BEIJING

In many respects the year under review could be viewed as a rebuilding phase in order that this Mission could be better equipped to carry out its mandate as this relates to China and the wider region. A part of this exercise included the posting of additional home-based staff to the Mission.

Every effort was made to keep abreast of the important issues and events taking place within China and to report on these in a timely manner when necessary. Likewise, information received from Headquarters relating to developments in Guyana was well appreciated.

The Mission throughout the year sought to develop and maintain beneficial relations with those key local agencies which have a pivotal role in ensuring the continued deepening of Guyana/China relations.

GUYANA/CHINA RELATIONS

Guyana/China relations during this year featured a number of initiatives by both countries to give further tangible expression to their excellent bilateral relations. In this regard, a number of important high level visits were conducted by officials from both sides.

For Guyana's part, the year saw visits conducted by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, the First Lady and the Prime Minister.

The results of all these undertakings have been encouraging and augur well for the future of Guyana/China ties.

In February/March, Vice-Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Mr. Sun Zhenyu, led a Chinese delegation to participate in the first

China/Caribbean Economic Symposium which was held in Georgetown.

The choice of Guyana as the venue clearly demonstrates the good will which exist between Guyana and China, and an understanding of the part the former could play in fostering closer ties between China and the region. In addition, Guyana's role in this event no doubt underlined the fact that it was the first English speaking country in the Caribbean to establish relations with China; it is the only English speaking Caribbean country to maintain an Embassy in Beijing and further it has consistently adhered to a one-China policy. Guyana has also placed on record its willingness to promote closer China/CARICOM and Caribbean relations.

SIXTH GUYANA/CHINA JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

The Sixth Session of the Guyana/China Joint Commission was held in Beijing from April 29 to May 3. Guyana's delegation to this meeting was led by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Clement Rohee.

The Meeting was co-chaired by the Hon. Clement J. Rohee M.P. , Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr Sun Zhenyu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation. Heads of both delegations engaged in an informative exchange of views on economic developments in Guyana and in China, and on trade developments between the two countries. It was agreed that the economic development of both countries had provided good opportunities for broadening bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Both sides reviewed the economic and technical cooperation projects under the assistance schemes and had in-depth discussions on the current status of the following projects and concerns:-

- (I) Polypropylene Woven-Bag Factory
- (ii) Moco-Moco Hydro-power
- (iii) Provision of Paddy Processing Equipment
- (iv) Provision of Medical Equipment

- (v) Construction of Flats at Sanata Textiles Ltd.
- (vi) Sanata Textiles Ltd.
- (vii) Medical Outreach Programme and
- (viii) Record of the Utilization of Loans and Grants.

Letters were exchanged by the co-chairman of the Joint Commission which extended the repayment period of the 1975 Chinese loan to Guyana. The repayment period now agreed on is from January 1, 1997 to December 31, 2007.

Guyana's Foreign Minister met with Chinese Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qian Qichen, and engaged in wide ranging discussions. These discussions included Guyana's strategic importance, the UN Security Council, Cuba, Taiwan, and Candidatures. It was during these discussions that Guyana pledged support for Chinese candidatures and secured China's support for Guyana's re-election to the ICJ. The Senior Minister and visiting Guyana delegation to the Sixth Joint Commission Meeting visited Shandong Province from April 30 to May 2 for discussions on projects and cooperation previously proposed in Georgetown by an Economic and Trade team which had visited from that Province.

NEW FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Discussions on the New Framework Agreement began during the visit to Shandong Province. Based on the proposal outlined, Guyana expressed concerns that certain requirements of the Chinese proposal would come into conflict with present IMF conditionalities imposed upon the Guyana economy. The draft later submitted by the Chinese did not take the expressed concerns of Guyana into consideration. The Embassy is still awaiting a response to Guyana's counter proposal which was submitted through the Chinese Embassy in Georgetown.

VISIT BY THE FIRST LADY

The First Lady Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., led a Party delegation on a visit to China at the end of June. While in Beijing, the First Lady met with Mr Qiao Shi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Both reaffirmed during their meeting the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

The Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Samuel Hinds MP, his wife and two members of the Guyana/China Friendship Society visited China from July 21 to 31 at the invitation of the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. During the PM's stay in Beijing, July 21-24, he met with Chinese Premier Li Peng and other Chinese Leaders.

Premier Li Peng pledged continued assistance to Guyana as an expression of China's friendship to Guyana. During a banquet hosted by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Prime Minister and his delegation, the Chinese disclosed that a donation to the tune of 400,000 yuans would be made to assist flood victims in Guyana.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Staffing

On March 23, 1996 Mr. C. Pollydore arrived in Beijing to take up the position of Second Secretary in the Embassy. Ms. J. Persaud, Minister-Counsellor, arrived on April 5, to assume duties of Charge´ d'Affaires, a.i., while Mr. M.L. Ganie who had performed duties of Charge´ d'Affaires from April 1993 until the arrival of his successor, departed Beijing for reposting to Headquarters on May 8, 1996.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

The Mission was able to move in the direction of being fully capable of performing all the consular duties it has been assigned. The previous practice of sending passports to Georgetown for re-issue and extension has ceased.

With respect to the issue of visas to Chinese nationals, this Mission continues to adhere strictly to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) communication dated November 20, 1992 which instructed that all applications made by or on behalf of nationals of the P.R. China using ordinary passports must be referred to that Ministry for clearance to issue visas

ISSUANCE OF VISAS

There was a noticeable decrease in the number of visas issued this year (270) in comparison to last year (476). One attributable factor was the decision taken by the Mission not to process applications which rely on the use of alias. This measure, it is felt, has further helped to tighten a loophole which existed for sometime. Diplomatic, Official, Courtesy, Tourist and Business visas were issued.

This Mission has already signalled to the China Travel Service (CTS) (through which a significant portion of visas processed by the Embassy are submitted) that visa cost would be adjusted early in the new year in order to compensate for the devaluation of the Chinese Yuan over the years.

PASSPORTS

Two (2) passports were renewed while one (1) new passport was issued since these consular activities were resumed.

CONSULAR REVENUE

All revenue obtained from consular activities have been properly accounted for and will be forwarded to the Accountant General in keeping with extant instructions. Triplicate Receipts Books which were requested for record keeping of cash collected from these services have not been received.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

In September Public Service Management student Ms. Choo An Yin arrived in Beijing to pursue studies in Chinese Language and Culture at the Beijing Language and Culture University.

This Mission has during the reporting period kept close contact with all of the CARICOM students studying in Beijing. These students are from Barbados (1), Jamaica (2), and Trinidad and Tobago (1). At the request of one of the Jamaican students, the Embassy was able to offer that student some minor assistance.

Meeting on the Reform and Management of Chinese Government Scholarships for Foreign Students

In December the Mission participated in the above mentioned meeting which was convened by the State Education Commission. The main speeches were delivered by Mr. Cao Guoxing, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the State Education Commission and Ms. Yan Meihua, Deputy Secretary-General of the China Scholarship Council. The following points were made during their presentations:-

- I) as part of the wider reforms taking place in China to improve management and transfer decision making to lower institutions, the China Scholarship

Council (CSC) had been created to take over the day to day management of foreign students' affairs in China. The Foreign Affairs Department of the State Education Commission will continue to be in charge of agreements and other relevant matters between China and other countries.

- ii) implementation of a system of annual review of students' scholarship status as a necessary measure in the systematic management of the scholarships. Students who fail their examinations or who violate Chinese laws will have their scholarship suspended for the next year. If improvements are made during the time of suspension, they may resume application of the scholarship for the following academic year.

OTHER MATTERS

Attendance at Meetings

The Charge´ d'Affaires a.i., Ms. J. Persaud, participated in the International Conference on the New Global Human Order (August 2-4, 1996) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Heads of Mission Conference (August 7-9, 1996), both of which were held in Guyana.

Visits to Other Provinces

In September, at the invitation of the Shandong Provincial Government, the Charge´ d'Affaires participated in the Jinan Golden Autumn Economy and Trade Fair. While in Shandong, the Charge d'Affaires met with the Vice Mayor of Jinan City, Mr. Li Huali and also with Mr. Yin Zhirong, Chairman of the Board of the Wu Huan Clique Assemble Company. These meetings offered an opportunity to further understand developments in that region and to see a project which is to be implemented in Guyana.

GUYANA EMBASSY - BRUSSELS

The mission in Brussels is accredited to the European Union and the following countries: Belgium, Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway

1996 was a relatively quiet year for the ACP. Perhaps the most positive event was the appointment of the new Secretary-General which brought to an end the prolonged impasse among the African group. The focus this year was on the future of ACP-EU relations and preparation of an ACP position in anticipation of the Commission's Green Paper.

For Guyana the year proved somewhat disappointing. First of all, Guyana was singled out among the English Speaking Commonwealth Caribbean countries to be included in the EU Common Visa List. Secondly, Guyana's rice export to the E.U. came under increasing threat with pressure from the Commission and most of the E.U. member states to restrict the OCT rice trade. Towards the end of the year the Commission was poised to implement safeguard measures on OCT rice.

FUTURE OF ACP-EU RELATIONS

Considerable work was done this year by the ACP in preparation for a post LOME IV agreement with the E.U. Some countries, including Guyana, have already initiated the process of national consultation as agreed by the ACP Council in Western Samoa. As expected, the Commission completed its Green paper on the future of ACP-EU relations which was made available to the ACP in December.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACP SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr Ngandu Peter Magande of Zambia was appointed as the new Secretary-General of the ACP at the 63rd Session of the Council of Ministers in Western Samoa.

ACP AND ACP-EU MEETINGS

The following meetings were held in 1996.

- 1 22nd Session of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, 18-22 March (Windhoek, Namibia)**
- 2. ACP Senior Officials Seminar, 10-12 April (Brussels)**
- 3. Fourth Special Ministerial Conference on Sugar, 28 April - 2nd May 1996, (Kingston, Jamaica)**
- 4. 63rd Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, 24-26 June (Apia, Western Samoa).**
- 5. 21st Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers 27-28 June (Apia, Western Samoa)**
- 6 23rd Session of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, 23-27 September (Luxembourg)**
- 7 20th Annual Meeting of the Social and Economic Partners 4-6 November (Brussels)**
- 8. Seminar on the WTO meeting in Singapore, 5-6 November (Brussels)**
- 9. 64th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, 13-15 November (Brussels)**

Except for the two joint Assembly meetings, Guyana was represented at all the other meetings of the ACP for 1996.

RICE

Early this year the European Commission submitted its proposal on amendments to the agreement between the European Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) which, like the LOME IV Convention, was scheduled to last for ten years and subject to a mid-term review at the end of the first five-year period. Part of amendments were intended to restrict the trade between OCTs and ACP countries, particularly in relation to rice, sugar and certain dairy products. The Commission and the EU member states (except the Netherlands) contended that the latter products, mainly rice, which were being imported from ACP states and re-exported by the OCTs to the European Union posed a threat to the internal market.

Most of the rice produced by Guyana is exported to the E.U. via the Netherlands Antilles. Hence the proposal by the Commission prompted a delegation of rice producers and millers from Guyana to visit Brussels in April. Meetings were held with the Commission, representatives of some of the E.U. member states, the Chairman of the ACP Trade Sub-Committee, the Ambassador of Suriname and the Heads of the Caribbean Missions.

Before leaving, the delegation presented a set of counter proposals for the Commission to take into account in their discussions with the Member States. A subsequent proposal from the Caribbean Rice Association was believed to have been submitted soon afterwards.

Towards the end of the year in December the Italians along with the Spanish and Greeks requested that the Commission apply safeguard measures on the grounds that the importation of OCT rice was causing the internal rice market to be disrupted. The request was approved by the Commission and all the other member states except the Netherlands. A temporary quota approximately 42,000 tonnes for a four month period beginning from January to April was expected to be applied as soon as the formal decision was taken in

January the following year.

On learning of the request for safeguard measures the Ambassador designate and the Charge´ d'Affaires a.i. met with the Head of the Caribbean Division in DG VIII to express the concerns of Guyana and to protest against the impending measures. The Ambassador designate also raised the issue with the Chef du Cabinet of Commissioner Pinheiro who is responsible for LOME IV and the ACP countries. It is to be noted that the Commission will be meeting on 8 January, 1997 to formally decide on implementing the safeguard measures.

SUGAR

At the Fourth Special Ministerial Conference on Sugar which was held in Jamaica the issue of OCT exports of sugar was also discussed. Ministers adopted a resolution urging the European Union to take urgent corrective action to discontinue the trade.

Following the Special Ministerial Conference, the subject was included on the agenda of the meeting of the ACP Ministerial Committee on Sugar in Western Samoa with the possibility of being further submitted at the Joint ACP-EU Council.

Because of the peculiar situation in which Guyana is placed as regards this issue and the need for Guyana to ensure that whatever position the ACP adopts it will not impact negatively on the rice issue, the representative of Guyana at the meeting cautioned the Ministers to proceed very carefully in dealing with the matter. Consequently, the matter was referred back to the Sub-Committee for further discussion.

At the November meeting of the ACP Council the ACP adopted a resolution on sugar which called for the immediate cessation of sugar exports from the OCTs but at the same time suggesting that this commodity should be treated separately from the other

OCT products.

COMMON VISA LIST

In April this year the E.U. Common Visa List came into effect. The Common Visa List consists of third countries whose nationals require visas for all the EU member states. Guyana, unfortunately, was chosen as the only Commonwealth English Speaking Caribbean country to be included on the list. The list required E.U. member states which previously did not require visas for Guyanese nationals to implement such requirements. As a result, Guyanese now require visas to travel to the U.K.

The Charge´ d’Affaires a.i. met with the Commission and officials of some of the E.U. permanent missions in Brussels but no clear explanation could be given to justify Guyana’s inclusion in the list. A letter of protest was subsequently written by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the President of the E.U. Council.

RATIFICATION OF THE REVISED LOME IV CONVENTION

At the end of the year twenty-four (24) ACP States and four (4) E.U. member states had ratified the revised Convention. Guyana deposited its instrument of ratification on 14 October, 1996. In order for the revised Convention to take effect it has to be ratified by at least two-thirds of the ACP States (2/3 of 70) and by all of the E.U. member states.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL EXPERT FROM GUYANA

Guyanese Foreign Service Officer and Legal Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Neville Bissember (Jr.), was selected by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors in November to fill the post of English Legal Expert at the Secretariat. He is the second Guyanese to be appointed at the ACP Secretariat.

TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

As usual, the mission continued to receive and respond to numerous enquiries on the possibilities of trade with Guyana. This year some of the more prominent requests concerned fruits, sea food, rice and gold. Several of the enquiries originated from Belgium, and Germany in particular. Others came from the Scandinavian countries, Luxembourg, Holland and the Czech Republic. The mission was also instrumental in publicizing the Caribbean Regional Furniture Expo `96 in Brussels and in other capitals to which it is accredited.

The initiative taken by the Caribbean Group in Brussels late last year to establish an Advisory Council to promote trade and commerce between the Caribbean region and Belgium has yet to materialize. The Working Group which was set up to work out the structure and modalities of the proposed body is still deliberating on its task.

As regards investment, a list of joint venture opportunities in Guyana was sent to appropriate organizations in Brussels and to other parts of Europe where the mission is accredited. Likewise, a Press Release on Investment in the Forestry Sector was distributed to appropriate organizations.

With respect to tourism, the mission continued to provide information and brochures on Guyana in response to a number of requests from foreigners, travel agencies and publishers.

Guyana again did not participate in the annual Brussels Travel Fair which would have been a good opportunity to attract some attention to the "Visit Guyana Year". The mission, however, took the initiative in June to participate in a cultural fair organized annually by the German Foreign Ministry in Bonn. Guyana was the only Caribbean country represented at the fair and the first to be introduced on stage by the organizers.

CONSULAR MATTERS

This year a total of fourteen (14) visas were issued by the mission, out of which seven (7) were tourist and three (3) business. There were two (2) requests for renunciation of citizenship, one (1) for non-impediment certificate, and one (1) for inclusion of child on passport. In addition, the mission legalized and certified forty-four (44) documents.

The question of issuing passports remained outstanding at the end of the year due to the inability of the mission to perform this task.

HEADS OF MISSION RETREAT AND SEMINAR ON THE NEW GLOBAL HUMAN ORDER

The Charge´ d'Affaires a.i. participated in the Heads of Mission retreat which was held in Guyana at Ogle Management Centre from 7 to 9 August 1996. Prior to this event, the Charge´ also attended the Seminar on the New Global Human Order which took place at Sophia from 2 to 4 August 1996.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

During the year the Ministry requested and received Agrément for Mr Havelock Brewster to be accredited to the European Union and the Kingdom of Belgium. Mr Brewster assumed duties at the mission on 9 December.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Looking back at 1996 one cannot escape the fact that the mission was

inadequately equipped, both staff-wise and financially also, to fully perform the tasks it has been assigned. Now that an Ambassador has at last been appointed and took up his post at the end of the year the following year should produce much more tangible results. Admittedly, the rice issue would have to be addressed very urgently next year if the effects of the safeguard measures are to be minimized in any way at all.

GUYANA EMBASSY - CARACAS

During 1996, the Guyana Embassy in Caracas continued to discharge its functions as in previous years in keeping with its responsibilities which include (a) maintaining and promoting Guyana/Venezuela relations, (b) relations with countries whose relations with Guyana are conducted through their Missions in Caracas, (c) relations with regional organizations based in Caracas, (d) attending to the welfare of the Guyanese Community and (e) promoting trade, tourism and investment between Guyana and Venezuela and other countries.

1. GUYANA/VENEZUELA RELATIONS

(a) Overview

Relations between Guyana and Venezuela remained stable during 1996 with positive advances made in the promotion of economic relations, especially between the Guyanese and Venezuelan business communities. Cultural relations were also promoted with the "Guyana Gastronomic and Cultural Festival" which was staged simultaneously with the Business Seminar at the Caracas Hilton Hotel in October 1996.

The desirable structured programme of intergovernmental bilateral cooperation between Guyana and Venezuela did not materialize in 1996. Positive advances were made in the Guyana/Venezuela Housing Construction Project with the handing over of the first set of houses by the Venezuelan contracting firm. Cooperation between the University of Guyana and the University of Oriente was further strengthened with the visit of a UG delegation in January 1996, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The commercial air link between Venezuela and Guyana continued for most of the year until September 1996 when it was suspended. It is expected to be resumed in 1997.

The detention of Venezuelan and Guyanese Fishing Boats by the authorities of the respective countries threatened to adversely affect bilateral relations in 1996.

b) Political Relations/Essequibo Border Controversy

The highlight of political relations during 1996 was the meeting held at the United Nations in New York between the Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Venezuela, with the UN Secretary-General and the UN Good Officer, Sir Allister McIntyre, to review progress made towards a resolution of the controversy existing between Guyana and Venezuela.

It was acknowledged at that meeting that bilateral relations between Guyana and Venezuela continued to be characterized by friendship and good neighbourliness. The Venezuelan and Guyana Foreign Ministers conveyed their appreciation to the UN Secretary-General and Good Officer for their efforts at rapprochement and reiterated their commitment to the full exploration of the possibilities offered by the Good Offices machinery within the framework of the Geneva Agreement.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister had earlier visited Guyana in May 1996 to attend the 30th Independence Anniversary Celebrations as the representative of the Venezuelan government.

The UN Good Officer, Alister McIntyre, visited Venezuela on August 26 and 27, 1996 and met with President Caldera and Foreign Minister Burelli Rivas .

Media attention on the Essequibo Controversy continued to be high in 1996, especially on dates relevant to the controversy. The highlight of media attention for 1996 was on the 30th Anniversary of the Geneva Agreement on February 17, 1996. Some thirty (30) articles appeared in the Press over the period of a week. A summary of the articles was done by the Mission and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(c) Relations With the Military of Venezuela

The highlight of 1996 was the visit to Guyana of a Venezuelan Naval Vessel with a High Level Military delegation on board, on April 22, 1996. The delegation held discussions with Guyanese Military and Government leaders on matters of common interest. The Guyana Ambassador in Venezuela, at the invitation of the Institute of Higher Defence Studies of the Venezuelan Army gave a lecture on Bilateral Relations between Guyana and Venezuela and answered questions on February 14, 1996.

A Guyana Defence Force Officer participated in the 8th Course of Instructors of Physical and Sports Education held in the School of Physical and Sports Education of the Venezuelan Army between February 15th and August 15th 1996.

The Guyana Defence Force was also invited to participate in the International Counter-guerrillas Course at the Headquarters of the Special Operations School of the Venezuelan Army between August 15th and November 15th, 1996. The Adjutant-General of the Venezuelan Army presented in November 1996, an Institutional Gift to the GDF Officers Training School for the best graduating student.

(d) Guyana/Venezuela Housing Project

A supervisory Mission from the Venezuelan Investment Fund visited Guyana in May 1996 to inspect the Housing Project. The VIF Mission met with representatives of the Central Housing and Planning Authority, the Bank of Guyana, the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Ministry of Finance and the Venezuelan Embassy.

On October 16, 1996, the official handing over ceremony of the first set of houses took place at Melanie Damishana. Officials of the Venezuelan Investment Fund attended the Ceremony as well as President Jagan, other government leaders and Venezuelan

diplomats and officials.

(e) Detention of Venezuelan and Guyanese Fishing Boats by the Authorities of the Respective Countries

Incidents of this nature continued in 1996. Guyanese vessels were detained by Venezuelan authorities for allegedly fishing illegally in Venezuelan waters. Venezuelan boats were detained by Guyanese authorities for fishing in Guyanese waters. Venezuelan authorities always denied that their boats were caught fishing in Guyanese waters.

The detention of two Venezuelan Fishing Boats - "the Nancy Mar and Julio Cesar" - by Guyana in early January 1996 for fishing in Guyana waters, prompted a request by the National Federation of Fishermen of Venezuela to the Venezuelan Congress for action to be taken regarding the detention of Venezuelan boats by Guyanese authorities.

A fact finding delegation from the Venezuelan Congress visited Guyana in April 1996 to discuss with relevant Guyanese authorities, the Fishing boats incidents and to develop and expand relations with the Guyana Parliament.

The Venezuelan Congressmen held discussions with Officials of the GDF, the Guyana Fisheries Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the procedures for the interception of vessels in Guyana waters. The visit of the Congressional Delegation was expected to contribute to the information of mechanisms for dealing with future boat incidents.

(f) Cooperation between the University of Guyana and Venezuelan Universities

As a follow up to the Meeting in May 1995 hosted by the University of Oriente of Venezuela and attended by Caribbean University Representatives and Heads of Missions in Venezuela, a group of university of Guyana lecturers, officials and students visited

Venezuela in January 1996 for discussions on promoting cooperation and exchanges between the UG and the University of Oriente.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Director of Resource Mobilization and Planning of UG and the Director of Inter-Institutional Affairs of the University of Oriente. The Memorandum of Understanding is expected to generally promote UG/UDO cooperation, to develop and implement programmes for the removal of language barriers and to develop skills for developing the sustainable utilization of forest resources.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES THAT CONDUCT RELATIONS WITH GUYANA THROUGH THEIR MISSIONS IN CARACAS

The number of such countries rose to fifteen (15) during 1996 and are as follows:-

- (I) Algeria
- (II) Austria
- (III) Belgium
- (IV) the Czech Republic
- (V) Finland
- (VI) Greece
- (VII) Iran
- (VIII) Israel
- (IX) Japan
- (X) Norway
- (XI) Panama
- (XII) Poland
- (XIII) Republic of Korea

(XIV) Spain

(XV) Switzerland

The Guyana Embassy in Caracas continued to service bilateral relations with the above-named countries; including the facilitation of functional cooperation. The most active relations have usually been with Japan and the Republic of Korea.

3. RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (EXCEPT JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA)

Relations with the following countries reflected meaningful activity during 1996:

(I) Belgium

Belgium Ambassador, Ronald de Langhe, met with the Director of the Economic Affairs Division of the Guyana Foreign Ministry during the 30th Independence Anniversary Celebrations in May 1996 to discuss issues relevant to bilateral relations viz:

- (a) Belgian Assistance to Guyanese NGOs
- (b) the Belgium Volunteer service
- (c) Extension of attachment of Belgian expert to the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

(II) Switzerland

The Swiss Government was requested by the Guyana Government through a Diplomatic Note from the Guyana Embassy for a donation to the flood relief programme in Guyana following the disastrous floods in July 1996. The Swiss Government responded

promptly and favourably in August 1996. The Swiss Ambassador later presented a considerable amount of medical supplies to the Guyana Ambassador which were subsequently dispatched to the Ministry of Health.

The Swiss Government requested the abolition of Guyana Visa Requirements of Swiss tourist and officials on a reciprocal basis in March 1996. The matter is being processed by the relevant governmental agencies in Guyana and it is expected that the issue will be resolved in 1997.

The Guyana Embassy facilitated further communication and exchange of opinions between the Guyana and Swiss Governments on the Draft Bilateral Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of investments. It is expected that this matter will be finalized in 1997 subsequent to final discussions to be held between Guyanese and Swiss Officials.

(iii) The Czech Republic

During February 1996, the Government of the Czech Republic through its Ambassador in Venezuela, offered Aid to developmental projects in Guyana.

It is expected that Guyana will be able to benefit from the Czech Republic's aid by late 1997 or early 1998.

(IV) Norway

Cooperation between the Torvald Klaveness Group of Oslo and Guybuld was taken a step further with the visit to Guyana of the President and Vice-President of the Group as well as the Norwegian Ambassador for a meeting with His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan on October 15, 1996.

The Norwegian Government also provided Flood Relief to Guyana in 1996.

(V) Portugal

Cooperation with Portugal in the Fisheries Sector was initiated in 1996 with the exchange of letters (on Portuguese investment and a joint venture in Fisheries) between the Portuguese Ambassador and the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture. The Portuguese Government subsequently requested information on the Guyanese Fisheries Sector.

Guyana's participation in EXPO'98 in Lisbon was the subject of discussion when the Portuguese Ambassador and an EXPO '98 official visited Guyana and had talks with President Jagan in 1996.

During 1996, Portugal provided assistance in the refining and updating of the document on the Regional Development Fund which later became the Regional Integration Fund. At the request of the Portuguese Government, briefs on Guyana's Rice Exports to Europe were sent to the Portuguese Ambassador in June 1996 by Mr. Charles Kennard, C.E.O. and Chairman of the Guyana rice Development Board.

(VI) Poland

As a follow up to the visit to Guyana in 1995 of the Polish Commercial Counsellor, the latter provided, in February 1996, a List of Polish Manufacturing Companies for the attention of relevant agencies in Guyana.

The Ministry of Finance continued to consider the Draft Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement submitted by Poland. It is expected that the issue will be finalized in 1997

(VII) Israel

1996 witnessed an increase in activity between Guyana and Israel following the Accreditation of the Israeli Ambassador to Guyana in March 1996.

During the visit of the Israeli Ambassador in March 1996 to present his credentials, the services of an Israeli Agricultural Expert were offered to the Ministry of Agriculture of Guyana.

On the political front, the President of Guyana sent a message of congratulation to new Israeli President Netanyahu in July 1996, which was later acknowledged by the new Israeli Prime Minister. The Israeli Government also requested, in October 1996, the Government of Guyana's support in the United Nations General Assembly debate on the question of Palestine and Armaments in the Middle East.

Israel responded favourably to the Guyana Government's request for Flood Relief in July 1996 which was processed through the Guyana Embassy in Caracas. The Israeli Ambassador presented a cheque of US\$1,500.00 to the Guyana Ambassador in Caracas to purchase seeds; fertilizer, tools etc. for distribution to farmers in flood affected areas.

Several training courses were also offered to Guyana in 1996 by the Government of Israel.

(VIII) Austria

The new Ambassador, H.E. Mr Johannes Skriwan presented his credentials in Guyana in March 1997.

(IX) Morocco

A delegation from Morocco comprising Ambassador Mohamed Ayachi and Honourable Nacif Abdellatif, Minister Plenipotentiary, and Chief of the Division for American Affairs, visited Guyana in September 1996 and met with the Guyana Foreign Minister to deliver a message from the Moroccan Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Cooperation.

In a clear reflection of Morocco's wish to cement relations with Guyana, a request for Agrément for the accreditation to Guyana of the Moroccan Ambassador in Caracas (prior to the establishment of diplomatic relations) in late September 1996 was received by the Guyana Embassy.

(X) Panama

Ambassador Jorge Ramon Valdes, based in Caracas, was accredited as non-resident Ambassador to Guyana in September 1996.

4 GUYANA/JAPAN RELATIONS

Guyana/Japan relations continued to progress during 1996. Apart from periodic visits to Guyana by the Japanese Ambassador to Guyana resident in Caracas, the following Japanese Special Envoys visited Guyana and met with the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister:

- (I) Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Sumio Edamura in January, 1996;
- (II) Japanese Ambassador to the UN (July 30-31, 1996)

In addition, Japanese Culture Week was held in Guyana from October 3rd-9th,

1996.

(a) Japanese Grant Aid

The Government of Japan continued in 1996 to grant significant aid to Guyana. The highlight of Grant Aid in 1996 was the granting of US\$3million in New Japanese United Non-Project Grant Aid for Structural Adjustment Support in March 1996. The Japanese Ambassador and the Guyana Prime Minister signed the Agreement for the New Non-project Grant Aid on March 22, 1997.

The Guyana Electricity Corporation also continued to benefit from the Japanese Grant Aid in 1996.

Under the Japanese Government's Small Scale Grant Aid Programme for Non-Governmental Organizations, US\$70,000 was approved for the acquisition of a fully equipped ambulance for the St. John's Ambulance Brigade in Guyana. The Agreement for the donation of the ambulance was signed in March 1996 between the Guyanese and Japanese Ambassadors in Venezuela.

The Japanese Government also donated US\$90,000 worth of materials on July 30, 1996 for the Flood Relief effort in Guyana.

(b) Japanese Training Scholarships

The Government of Japan offered a number of Scholarships for Group Training Courses to the Guyana Government in 1996. Nine Group Training Courses were utilised by Guyana for this year.

5

RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(a) Grant Aid

During the year 1996, Guyana received another offer of Grant Assistance from the Government of the Republic of Korea totalling US\$100,000.00. The money was used to supply office equipment and a vehicle.

(b) Technical Assistance

Guyana received an offer of an expert for the Ministry of Agriculture. This offer however, was not taken up.

(c) Training

Guyana also received an offer for training in the area of pipe fitting and welding, however no application was submitted.

6

RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU

(a) Colombia

The Embassy of Colombia and Guyana have been in closer contact in 1996. An agenda to improve trade relations between the two countries is currently being discussed.

(b) Peru

1996 saw an increasing dynamism in relations between Peru and Guyana. A proposal for abolition of visas for diplomatic passport holders was made by Guyana,

however, no response has been received from Peru. The Executive Officer attended a 'Seminar on the Economy of Peru' sponsored by the Department of Trade of the Peruvian Embassy.

(c) Ecuador

In 1996, the Government of Ecuador proposed a joint Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Industrial Cooperation. This draft is still under discussion in Guyana.

7. RELATIONS WITH OTHER CARICOM MISSIONS

The Guyana Embassy in Caracas through the Head of Mission participated in meetings of the CAUCUS of CARICOM Heads of Mission in Venezuela during 1996. Such Meetings were held on the basis of a rotating Chairmanship.

Some of the suggestions made by the Guyana Ambassador in 1995 for a revised format for the conduct of the Meetings were accepted and implemented.

In order to promote more effective coordination, the CARICOM Heads of Mission in Caracas assigned themselves specific areas in which they could be the point persons for the CAUCUS by collecting and distributing information to colleagues and advising them when necessary.

Guyana was assigned:- Frontiers, Venezuela-CARICOM Relations and Guyana.

Meetings of CARICOM Heads were held with the Secretary General of SELA during 1996, to discuss the English Speaking Caribbean's participation in SELA - to encourage CARICOM non-members of SELA to join the latter. The CARICOM Heads of Mission prepared a Draft Resolution for submission to the SELA Meeting in Argentina.

(8)

TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

The policy of implementing our economic diplomacy was successfully carried out this year.

A One-Day Trade Seminar entitled "How to Do Business with Guyana" was held at the Caracas Hilton Hotel on October 15th, 1996. Several prominent Guyanese and Venezuelan businessmen attended the meeting which has paved the way for further economic integration with Venezuela.

The Embassy also participated when possible in trade fairs and seminars held in Caracas. The permanent exhibition at the Embassy was enhanced this year with items brought for the Seminar. However, improved display stands are needed.

KERMESSE

The Embassy participated in the Annual International Fair and Exhibition (KERMESSE) organized by the Association of Diplomatic Wives held on November 10th, 1996. The Embassy was able to display a wide range of well packaged products from Guyana, thanks to excellent cooperation received from the Guyana Export Promotion Council within the Ministry of Trade.

Heritage Day Fair

On October 12th, the Embassy participated in two street fairs organized by the Municipalities of Chacao and Baruta respectively. The Embassy utilized this opportunity to showcase to the visiting public some of Guyana's culture and cuisine.

Tourism

In the area of Tourism, the Embassy used the Trade Seminar to handout brochures on tourist attractions in Guyana to the public. The Guyana Gastronomic Festival was also used to inform people of the opportunities for adventure tourism in Guyana.

Aerotuy and Aeropostal, two Venezuelan airlines, were given names of tour operators in Guyana, so that contact could be made with regard to charter flights for tourists and coordination of tour routes.

9. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

SELA

During the period under review the Embassy attended several meetings and presentations organized by SELA. Following were the meetings held in Caracas which the Executive Officer attended.

(i) Presentation on Reflections on Biotechnology in Europe and Latin America, 6th August, 1996.

(ii) Regional Meeting on the Restructuring and Modernization of SELA, 19th - 20th September, 1996.

10. GUYANA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN VENEZUELA

The 30th Anniversary of Guyana's Independence was celebrated in Venezuela with a number of activities which saw the participation of Guyanese living in Venezuela

(particularly children), the Venezuelan public, and the Venezuelan Media.

Activities were held in many areas of Venezuela where Guyanese reside, including Caracas, Bolivar State, Margarita, Valencia, El Tigre, and Carabobo. The Guyana Ambassador, Mission Staff and the Guyanese Associations in Venezuela organized the activities with assistance in some instances, from Venezuelan agencies.

11. THE GUYANESE COMMUNITY IN VENEZUELA

The Guyana Embassy continued to be responsive to the Guyanese Community in 1996. The Head of Mission made visits to meet with the Guyanese Communities in Bolivar, Carabobo, Anzoategui States. The Communities were brought up to date on events and developments in Guyana during the visits of the Head of Mission. The Executive Officer (Consular Affairs) also visited the outlying Guyanese Communities to renew passports and conduct other Consular business. The Guyanese Association in Caracas made a cash donation in July 1996 to the Flood Relief efforts in Guyana.

Guyanese continued to remigrate from Venezuela in 1996 creating new communities of remigrants on the Essequibo Coast in particular.

The main problems facing the Guyanese community in Venezuela continued to be (in the case of undocumented) their inability to obtain passports from the Guyana Embassy, the difficulty in obtaining Birth Certificates for children born of undocumented Guyanese; and the difficulty in getting homes sold and the safe conduct of personal effects to Guyana for remigrants.

12.

INFORMATION

In 1996 the Embassy continued to respond to requests for information on Guyana from Venezuela governmental and non-governmental organizations, Universities, the Venezuelan Congress Political Parties, the Media, the Venezuelan Commercial Sector, the Venezuelan public, the Guyana Community and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Guyana.

Apart from responding to specific information requests, the Mission distributed to some of the abovementioned entities, specific information received from Guyana for dissemination e.g. President Jagan's speeches, the New Global Human Order, and Takuba News.

The "Guyana Current" a Quarterly Newsletter prepared by the Guyana Mission, was distributed to the Guyanese Community and other select entities during 1996.

Venezuelan University Students continued in 1996 to approach the Mission for historical information on the Guyana/Venezuela Border Controversy. The demand for information on Guyana in Venezuela, particularly economic information, continued to increase in 1996 and it is desirable that the Mission be equipped to meet this demand.

13.

PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR SERVICES

The Embassy provided Protocol Services to visiting Guyanese Government officials on arrival in and departure from Venezuela on instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Consular Services to the Guyanese Community, the Venezuelan public and other foreigners were given due care and attention during 1996.

The Head of Mission visited Guyanese prisoners in the Orient Penitentiary of Maturin, Monagas State in April 1996:

Marriages were conducted by the Guyana Ambassador at the Guyana Embassy in 1996

Visas: The Embassy issued 478 visas during the year 1996.

180 New passports were issued and 203 were renewed during 1996.

GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION - LONDON

The High Commission started the new year with staff changes - there was the departure of two Counsellors and the arrival of a Second Secretary (January) and an Accountant (April). There was also a relatively high turnover of locally-recruited staff (an Accounts Clerk/Typist and Driver/Office Assistant resigned) which affected the High Commission's work in terms of absence of staff and re-training of new recruits.

The work of the High Commission was further affected since there was no replacement for one of the Counsellors who was also Acting Deputy High Commissioner. The High Commissioner, who is Deputy of the Caribbean Diplomatic Corps, had additional responsibilities relating to the organization of Caribbean meetings and events.

It is against this background that the High Commission performed its tasks for the 1996 administrative year.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Commonwealth

Relations with this organization during 1996 can be described as very active. The High Commission played an important role in monitoring Guyana's interest within the Commonwealth Secretariat and was represented at all of the meetings held in London which are listed hereunder:

- * Meeting of the Commonwealth Steering Committee of Senior Officials (SCOSO) - April/October
- * Meeting of the Finance Committee of Commonwealth Foundation - May/November
- * Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf - May
- * Meeting of the Commonwealth Finance Committee, the Board of Representatives of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Science Council - June
- * Meeting of Board of Governors of Commonwealth Foundation - July
- * Meeting of Commonwealth Inter-governmental Group on Refugees and Displaced Persons - October
- * Meeting of Commonwealth Senior Officials - October
- * Meeting of Commonwealth Consultative Group on Small States - October

As newly elected members of SCOSO, the Finance Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation and the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Institute, the High Commission's involvement in Commonwealth activities were even further increased

There were also regular meetings between the Commonwealth Secretary-General and High Commissioners on issues of mutual interest.

In addition, the High Commission was involved in arrangements for visits by Senior Commonwealth Officials to Guyana. Those who visited Guyana were:

- * Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - February
- * Mr Chris Bowman, Commonwealth Secretariat - June
- * Dr David Souter, Director, Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization July
- * Mr Jones-Owen, Commonwealth Consultant - July

- * **Dr Jill Shankleman, Commonwealth Consultant - August**

The Commonwealth Secretariat also submitted its report to the Government of Guyana on the Review of the Copyright and Related Rights Bill of WIPO.

The Commonwealth held a number of international conferences during 1996 in order to enable senior officials to exchange views on certain subject matters. The conferences were:

- * **Meeting of Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry, Geneva - March**
- * **Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, Malaysia - April**
- * **Third Meeting of Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment - April**
- * **Pre-World Health Assembly Meeting of Commonwealth Health Ministers, Geneva - May**
- * **Senior Finance Officials Meeting, London - June**
- * **Commonwealth Finance Ministers and Senior Finance Officials Meeting - September**
- * **Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago - November**

Background papers for these conferences were forwarded to Georgetown by the High Commission to assist in Guyana's preparations of its policy positions on the issues raised.

The High Commission also played a facilitatory role in terms of Guyanese participating in the Advanced Programme on Export Market Development held in March in Singapore; the Regional Workshop for CFTC Points of Contact in the Caribbean held in Trinidad and Tobago in January, and the Commonwealth Induction Programme for Diplomats held in England in October.

The question of Guyana's Representative to the Commonwealth Partnership for

Technology Management has still not been resolved, thus preventing effective representation on this body.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The High Commission continued to monitor developments within the organization.

The following projects were approved for Guyana by UNESCO for the 1996/7 year:

Conservation of paintings and sculptures and photographic documentation of Guyana's National Collection of Art -	US\$20,000
Reading education in Guyana: reading in focus -	US\$22,000
Conference on Amerindian perspectives in culture and environment	- US\$22,000
Excavation of pre-historic raised fields on the Guyana coast between the Canje and Abary rivers - cultural ecology project	- US\$15,000
Amerindian education development project	- US\$16,000

Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI)

As an Executive Council member of the Centre, the High Commissioner attended the June Session of the Council. It should be noted, however, that due to the lack of responses from Guyana to project proposals, Guyana has not benefited as it should from membership of this Organization.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

The President of Guyana, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the High Commissioner for Guyana to Britain and the Ambassador Designate of Guyana to Belgium, attended the World Food Summit held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome from November 13 to 17, 1996.

At the Twenty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome from October 28-30, Guyana was represented by its High Commissioner to Britain.

Other International Meetings

During his visit to Rome in November, the President of Guyana met with the following senior officials:

Mr Fawzi Al Sultan, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): Discussions centred on the benefits of the Fund to Guyana and on the domestic situation in Guyana.

Mr Herman Woltring, Director of the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute: Greater involvement of UNCRI in Guyana was examined.

Ms Catherine Bertini, Director, World Food Programme

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The High Commission continued to monitor the work of the World Trade Organization.

The WTO Ministerial Conference took place in Singapore from December 9-13, 1996. The Head of Guyana's five-man delegation was the Hon. Mr Michael Shree Chan, Minister of Trade.

International Sugar Organization (ISO)

The High Commission participated in two international seminars organized by the International Sugar Organization. International Forum 2000 took place in London in February, whereas the seminar on "The Sugar Economies of the Indian Ocean Rim" was held in London in October. Mr Vic Oditt, Chairman, GUYSUCO, and Mr Neville Hilary, Chief Executive, GUYSUCO, also attended the meetings.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Relations with Britain

The Mission continued discussions with Booker PLC on the outstanding £7,000,000 pounds debt following nationalization of the sugar industry, and with Lloyds Bank on the Mission's indebtedness.

In February, the Guyana High Commissioner met with Mr Charles Drace-Francis, Head of the West Indian and Atlantic Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on the issue of visa requirements for the entry into the United Kingdom of Guyanese nationals. He also met with Labour Members of Parliament, Mr Tony Lloyd, Shadow Minister with responsibility for the Caribbean, Mr Jack Straw, Shadow Minister of Home Affairs, and Mr Bernie Grant on the same issue.

In addition, discussions were held with Ms Ann Widdecombe, Minister of State, Home Office, on the treatment by British Immigration Authorities of Guyanese arriving in

the UK and the new visa regime for Guyanese.

The High Commissioner met with Mrs Margaret Beckett, Shadow Minister for Trade (Labour), on trade concerns of Guyana and the Caribbean and post-Lome IV arrangements.

Discussions were held with the Deputy Secretary (Finance), Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on the recent fraud at the British High Commission, Georgetown, which involved a Guyanese national.

The High Commission was represented at a briefing by Mr Peter Penfold, British Special Adviser on Drugs in the Caribbean, on his country's drugs policy towards the Caribbean.

Relations with the Netherlands

The Guyana High Commissioner, who is also accredited as Ambassador to The Netherlands, paid an official 5-day visit to the Netherlands from June 28 to July 2, 1996. He met with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs and of Development Co-operation of that country, as well as Guyanese nationals and Dutch companies interested in investing in Guyana.

During his stay in Italy for the World Food Summit in November, the President of Guyana held talks with Mr Kok, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, on relations between the two countries. The President was accompanied to that meeting by Guyana's Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Relations with Sweden

In July, the High Commissioner for Guyana signed an agreement with his Swedish counterpart for the cancellation of Guyana's outstanding debt to Sweden. The total debt write-off was US\$488,742.00. Both Heads of Mission signed on behalf of their governments.

Relations With Italy

Attendance at the World Food Summit in Italy in November enabled high-level discussions between Italy and Guyana.

H.E. Dr Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana, met H.E. Mr Luigi Scalfaro, Prime Minister of Italy, to discuss the progress of relations between the two countries and to propose new areas of co-operation.

The Hon. Mr Clement Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, signed a Framework Agreement on Friendship and Co-operation with the Italian Deputy Minister, Ms T. Toya.

Tourism - Visit Guyana Year 1996

The Guyana High Commission continued efforts begun in 1995 to promote the tourist industry of Guyana. Promotional films on Guyana were shown daily at the High Commission. Brochures on Guyana were regularly distributed and tourism information leaflets were given to potential tourists.

The High Commission met with representatives of the Caribbean Reunion Club and Travelnet International, Charter Flight agencies, on establishing a service for Guyana.

Arrangements were made for these officials to have discussions with the relevant authorities in Guyana.

Guyana's Flood Disaster

Following the State of National Emergency called in Guyana on July 12th, the High Commission began efforts to raise public awareness of the crisis and to secure funds for the flood victims. A National Flood Disaster Committee was established and a Flood Disaster Fund opened at National Westminster Bank.

Republic Day Celebrations

The High Commission held its second annual Republic Day Mini-Food Fair at the High Commission on January 25, 1996. With assistance from the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, as well as Guyanese well-wishers in Britain, the event was a resounding success. Proceeds from the Fair went to the Refurbishment Fund.

Members of the staff and special invitees also attended a special Evensong at Westminster Abbey on February 26 to commemorate Guyana's Republican state.

Independence Day Celebrations

As part of efforts to commemorate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Independence of Guyana, the High Commission arranged a number of activities to mark the event. An Inter-Faith Service was held at St. James Church, Piccadilly on May 19 and on May 23, 1996, the High Commissioner and Mrs Singh hosted a reception at the High Commission.

On June 9, a Grand Variety Concert was held at the Commonwealth Institute, in conjunction with Guyhealth (UK).

The High Commission also hosted an Art, Craft, Book and Video Exhibition, from May 15 to June 19, in celebration of Guyanese works.

International Social Service Fair

The High Commission participated in the International Social Services (ISS) International Spring Fair held on May 14 and 15, 1996, at Kensington Town Hall. An annual event, the Guyana stall boasted local Guyanese products including its rums. A donation was subsequently made to the ISS, which is a charitable organization aimed at helping people whose personal and social problems are aggravated by the effects of migration.

New Global Human Order

The High Commissioner was in Guyana from July 12 to August 15 to attend two conferences in Guyana, namely the International Conference on the New Global Human Order and the Heads of Mission Conference.

Guyana was represented on the inter-governmental Group which was constituted to study the Commonwealth's response to the emergence of the New Global Human Order. The report published by the said Group was noted and discussed at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government in Auckland, New Zealand, in November 1995.

The Secretary-General, implementing part of the report, established a Commonwealth Roster of Good Officers. Mrs Janet Jagan OE and Mr Rudolph Collins CCH are Guyana's Representatives.

Promoting Guyana's concept of the New Global Human Order has been an integral part of the Mission's work in 1996. Members of Parliament, political parties, international

organizations based in the UK, selected Embassies, High Commissions, the media and other organizations/groups were constantly sent literature on the New Global Human Order. The Georgetown Declaration of August (1996) was widely circulated.

Dutch Historical Relics

This Mission facilitated the visit of Mr Doeke D. Ross of the Dutch Foundation "Menno van Coehoorn" to Guyana from February 15-29 to assess the possibility of refurbishing old Dutch Sites.

Streamlining of the Registry

Work continued on the streamlining of the Registry of the High Commission. Files that were in the High Commission for more than 15 years were removed from the Registry for transmission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the latter's archives.

Economic Matters

Over the year, ten (10) serious proposals for investment were forwarded to Guyana. These included proposals for the supply of greenheart for the Waterfront Development Project on the River Thames, to run charter flights to Guyana, hydro-carbon exploration, hotels, banking services, construction and civil engineering project, the acquisition of the Mahaicony/Abary Rice Development Scheme (MARDS) Complex, riverain transport, light manufacturing supermarkets etc., and the development of Guyana's livestock industry.

Over eighty (80) other trade enquiries were answered. These were mostly about the purchase of traditional commodities such as gold, bauxite, rice, sugar. Enquiries were also received for details of exporters of craft and fruit and vegetables. On-the-spot advice was also given throughout the year to visitors to the Mission and telephone callers.

Visits to Guyana

The High Commission facilitated a number of trade missions desirous of visiting Guyana. Sectors of primary interest were hydrocarbon exploration, timber, furniture, transportation, manufacturing, tourism, rice, sugar and gold. A delegation from the London Chamber of Commerce also visited Guyana from January 29 - 31, 1996.

Privatization of Government Entities in Guyana

The Mission circulated copies of the advertisements for the proposed privatization of Government entities to business (including Guyanese) in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France.

CONSULAR SECTION REPORT

The Guyanese and wider community in the United Kingdom and elsewhere who approach the Consular Section, continue to benefit from improvements in the functioning of the Consular Section.

1996 has witnessed the consolidation of the progress made in previous years. Information leaflets continue to be updated and new ones introduced. Passport renewals and new passport applications are now being processed well within the specified period for processing.

As a result of a determined effort to pursue outstanding matters with various agencies in Guyana, there has been significant improvement in responses from Guyana to various queries from the Section. The registration of skilled Guyanese was also actively pursued in the Section with some degree of success and every effort will be made in 1997

to expand the list of skilled nationals.

The Section continues to utilize the Mission's newsletter and disseminate information and advice to the Guyanese community at large on various consular matters.

Notwithstanding the success mentioned above, it is felt that an improvement in the flow of official information from Guyana would significantly reduce the number of queries that are forwarded to Guyana for responses or clarification.

Attention also needs to be paid to present staff complement and training needs so as to ensure that the section is keeping abreast with Government policy and is well prepared to respond adequately to future demands.

Application Forms and Revenue Stamps

In 1996 the supply of passport applications forms has given cause for concern. While in the previous year, there was significant improvement in this area, the irregular supply of forms and lack of forms has been evident. In spite of repeated requests, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was unable to supply the section with the quantities requested. It is hoped that this situation will improve in 1997.

The Section again re-emphasizes the need to examine the possibility of making passport application forms non-revenue forms as the present arrangements continue to frustrate Guyanese residing out of London and in various countries throughout Europe.

Visa and Immigration

April 1996 witnessed the introduction of a visa requirement for holders of Guyanese passports to enter the United Kingdom. Over 108 Guyanese were denied entry in 1996 as compared to 78 in 1995. The majority of denials of entry occurred in the months preceding the introduction of the visa regime.

Of particular significance also is the dissatisfaction expressed by the Consulates of some European countries when requests were made by the High Commission for visas to be issued to non-resident Guyanese Officials. This has resulted in those Consulates endorsing in those passports that future visas must be obtained from the designated Consulate for Guyana. A guide for Government and Private Sector Officials was prepared by the Section and forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for circulation.

Renunciation and Registration of Citizenship

The Ministry of Home Affairs has maintained its satisfactory record in processing such applications expeditiously. This has allowed the Section to deal with applications routinely.

Registration as Citizens of Guyana

During 1996 three (3) individuals submitted applications for registration as citizens of Guyana. Their countries of origin are as follows:

Male

Germany

Female

Russia

United Kingdom/Iraq

Renunciation of Citizenship 1996

During 1996, six (6) Guyanese applied to renounce their Guyanese citizenship. The countries of acquired citizenship are as follows:

Male

Hong Kong (1)

Female

Germany (3)

Norway (1)

Austria (1)

Welfare

During 1996, the section has adequately dealt with the numerous queries from the Guyanese community on a range of issues affecting them in the United Kingdom in Guyana. Most queries dealt with tracing the whereabouts of relatives, payment of rates and taxes, financial sponsorship and legal issues. There appears to be less criticism of the banking and postal services in Guyana whereas, there is still grave concern over the state of the legal services. The Section could, however, benefit from an improvement in the flow of information from various agencies and departments in Guyana detailing changes in policy as they affect overseas Guyanese. The Guyana Support and Welfare Group launched by the Mission did not live up to expectations in 1996 for various reasons. A determined effort will be made in 1997 to ensure the Group is able to work towards achieving its objectives.

The Consular Officer continues to maintain a high profile at functions organized by Guyanese and Caribbean welfare associations/clubs.

Remigration

The Section responded to over twenty (20) written requests for information on the Remigration policy and concessions offered.

Resource Mobilization

Donations

As in 1995, there was much activity in the area of resource mobilization in 1996. Many organizations and individuals held fundraising activities and generously supported various causes in Guyana, including schools, hospitals and specific categories of disadvantaged people/communities.

The High Commission was greatly assisted in facilitating donations to Guyana by Mike Harrison Shipping and Mr Mohan Persaud who provided shipping free of cost. Of particular concern, however, is the lack of responses from those co-ordinating the delivery of donations to recipients in Guyana and the lack of acknowledgements from the recipients themselves. Quite often the Government Ministries are remiss in so doing, in spite of reminders. This area needs considerable improvement. The tremendous sacrifices made by individuals and organizations ought to be acknowledged expeditiously.

Employment

The High Commission in 1996 dealt with some thirty-three (33) written requests for information on job opportunities in Guyana. Only three (3) from this amount resulted in actual job offers. There were nine (9) females and twenty-four (24) males.

Public Administration Project

During 1996, Mr Algoo Persaud departed for Guyana in May to take up his position at the Ministry of Education as a Senior Test Development Officer. Mr Hector Patterson, who was also appointed to a similar position, departed for Guyana on December 27th.

Registration Of Skilled Guyanese

The Section continued the registration of skilled Guyanese. Notices were regularly placed in the Mission's newsletter encouraging nationals to register. During the latter part of the year, a registration form was introduced and is disseminated to Guyanese who approach the Mission.

One (1) Guyanese, from the list, Mr Peter Fraser, was recruited under the Tokten programme to write a White Paper on Race Relations in Guyana.

Accounts Section

The accounting work of this Mission was severely hindered at the beginning of 1996 due to inadequate staffing, there being only one inexperienced local clerk. It was impossible to comply with financial regulations in maintaining the necessary accounting records etc. The Accounts Clerk resigned at the end of April having gone on extended sick leave and not resuming duties to 'hand-over' to the home-based accountant who arrived on 22 nd April 1996.

However, the work regularizing the accounting procedures commenced with effect from the beginning of May.

Statistics extracted from the Votes reveal that allocations for 1996 were not realistic

in terms of sub-head distribution; and in some cases, the allocations were significantly insufficient. It is suggested that reference should be made to 1996 actual expenditure figures when considering 1997 allocations. Approval for virement and increased allocation was sought from Headquarters.

An area of concern is advance payments on behalf of other departments. Refunds have not been prompt. This puts a strain on the already limited financial resources of this Mission. It is hoped that in 1997 there can be further improvements in the Accounting work of this Mission.

GUYANA EMBASSY - BRAZIL

In 1996, Guyana/Brazil relations were advanced by bilateral collaboration that gave impetus in the implementation of decisions taken during the Third Guyana/Brazil Joint Commission Meeting in 1994, and the subsequent Group of Consular Cooperation Meeting. The Mission continued to maintain dialogue with the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant Brazilian agencies.

In response to an invitation from H.E. President Cheddi Jagan for H.E. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to attend Guyana's 30th Independence Anniversary Celebration as a Special Guest, the latter was constrained to depute the Hon. Gustavo Krause, Minister of Environment, Hydro Resources and the Legal Amazon to represent him as Special Envoy due to his own official commitments overseas which had coincided with the Guyana festivities.

There were attempts during the year to explore the economic feasibility with respect to the purchasing of Aviation fuel from the Brazilians.

Close contact and intense collaboration were maintained with the Department of Industry and Trade in the State Secretariat of Planning, Industry and Trade of the Governorship of the State of Roraima to renew and amplify external business channels between Guyana and the State of Roraima.

Guyana's reaffirmation of its commitment to the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation process was reflected by the maintenance of its presence at the several Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings on the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of TAC.

GUYANA/BRAZIL RELATIONS

Amplification of External Business Channels between Guyana and the State of Roraima

This Mission maintained intense collaboration with the Director of the Department of Industry and Trade in the State Secretariat of Planning, Industry and Trade of the Governorship of the State of Roraima in order to renew and amplify external business channels between Guyana and the State of Roraima.

Pursuit with the Culture Inglesa de Manaus, Amazonas

This Mission has also collaborated with Mr. Paul Hardy, the Director of Culture Inglesa de Manaus, Amazonas, in an attempt to amplify business opportunities generally between Guyana and Brazil and particularly with an initial concentration in the north of the country. It was observed that commercial opportunities lay in certain growth areas, viz, alcoholic beverages, condiments, pharmaceuticals and student exchange programmes.

Guyana's Prioritization in Areas of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture finally submitted details with respect to the prioritization of the areas in Agriculture for transmission to the Brazilian Government. However, towards the end of the year, this Mission communicated that the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) indicated that the project proposals were being analyzed and requested a further prioritization of the needs highlighted in our submission in light of their own budgetary constraints

Guyana's Prioritization in Areas of Health

The Ministry of Health has failed to better characterize its needs utilizing the Brazilian Cooperation Fund (BCF) Application Format.

Technical Cooperation in the Area of Mining

The Brazilians through their Mission in Georgetown drew the Ministry's attention to a technical report which was prepared and submitted by a Brazilian Geologist from CPRM in 1989 for the perusal of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission. A reaction from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission was still awaited at year-end. In addition, the Mission forwarded to the Ministry three (3) project profiles on Diamonds, Geochemistry and Geological Cartography.

Cooperation in the Energy Sector - Technical Cooperation Programme

ELETRORBRAS again indicated its willingness to cooperate with Guyana and recommended that a Guyanese technician should visit Brazil to discuss the relevant details.

Proposal for Purchasing Aviation Fuel from Boa Vista

Attempts were made during the year to ascertain the economic feasibility with respect to the proposal for G.A.C. purchasing Aviation fuel from Boa Vista. However, an examination of the data provided revealed that the undertaking was uneconomical.

Educational, Sports and Culture

The Agency for Brazilian Cooperation (ABC) solicited an indication of the time-frame

with regard to Guyana's acceptance of Brazilian Technicians, as well as, for an identification of priority needs in relation to Guyana's project profile submission. At the end of the year, a response was not received.

Guyana Natural Resources Agency - Requests for Technical Assistance

At year end, ABC officials were still consulting with ELETROBRAS.

Inspection of Border Markers

The Brazilians communicated the postponement of the Guyana/Brazil Demarcation Campaign to the first quarter of 1997, since the calendar of activities of the First Brazilian Demarcation of Limits Commission was unable to accommodate its realization this year.

Guyana/Brazil Mixed Border Commission

The inspection of the rehabilitation and upgrading work at Gunns Airstrip by a joint team consisting of representatives from the Guyana Civil Aviation Department and the Brazilian Airforce was conducted during the period October 3-4, 1996.

Honorary Consuls/Trade Representatives

The Mission maintained dialogue/contact with a few Guyanese and Brazilian nationals who demonstrated an interest in offering assistance either as Honorary Consul or Trade Representative.

Thirtieth Anniversary of Guyana's Independence, May 26, 1996 - Invitation to H.E. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso as Special Guest

The Hon. Gustavo Krause, Minister of Environment, Hydropower Resources and Legal Amazon represented H.E. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. He was also accompanied by his spouse and members of the Brazilian Airforce.

Training of Diplomats, Rio Branco Institute

Consequent upon the visit of H.E. Ambassador Sergio Bath from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry during 15-17 May, this year, he submitted a number of proposals for Guyana's perusal and follow-up action.

Visit to FIESP/CIESP

In May this year, H.E. Ambassador Ivan Evelyn, Sr. received a follow-up visit from Mr Maurice Costin, Director of the Department of Foreign Trade of FIESP/CIESP in order to discuss our pursuits re an amplification of Trade between Guyana/Brazil.

Thirtieth Anniversary of Guyana's Independence, May 26, 1996 - Invitations to Non-resident Ambassadors

Ambassadors who were concurrently accredited to Guyana were also invited to the abovementioned celebrations.

Attendance at the FTAA Vice-Ministerial Trade Meeting in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil - September 16-17, 1996

Mrs Audrey Jardine-Waddell, First Secretary, in the Mission represented Guyana at the FTAA Vice-Ministerial Trade Meeting in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, during September 16-17, 1996.

Attendance at Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings on the Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation (TAC) in Brasilia

His Excellency Ambassador Ivan B. Evelyn and Mrs Audrey Jardine-Waddell, First Secretary, represented Guyana at the Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings on the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation (TAC) which were convened in Brasilia during the year.

Administration and Consular Postings

During the period under review, the Mission welcomed two new staff members viz. Mrs. Audrey Jardine-Waddell, First Secretary and Mrs. Pearl Tucker, Confidential Secretary.

Government of Guyana Scholarship Awardees

At year end, there were fifteen (15) students pursuing studies in various disciplines who were sponsored by the Government of Guyana. During the year five students completed their studies and returned to Guyana. The Mission also retained its function as intermediary between PSM and the students in addressing the latter groups welfare and financial matters.

CONSULAR ACTIVITY

During the year, the Mission provided consular services to both Guyanese resident in Brazil, as well as, in some bordering countries. A total of 164 + visas were sought and issued to Brazilians and other nationalities by the Mission. There were 28 passport renewals and the issuance of 25 new passports to Guyanese nationals.

Dissemination of Information

The Mission continued to serve as an information resource on Guyana, providing materials to various bodies in Brazil, including educational institutions, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Enterprises, Tourism Agencies etc. During 1996, in light of the paucity of human resources, the demands for information far exceeded the Mission's ability to respond to the individual requests.

Attendance at New Global Human Order and Heads of Mission Conferences

His Excellency Ambassador Ivan B. Evelyn, Sr. Head of Mission, attended both the New Global Human Order and Heads of Mission Conferences which were convened in Georgetown, in August 1996. It was observed that one of the notable innovations of the latter conference was the interfacing of Guyana's Diplomatic Representatives with the Guyanese public.

MERCOSUL

During the year, Argentina and Brazil rotated the Chairmanship of MERCOSUL with the former presiding in the first half and the latter in the second half.

MERCOSUL adopted the agricultural accord established by the World Trade Organization (WTO) which enforced the use of subsidies that did not jeopardize the exchange market and promoted incentive programmes, as well as, internal support programmes. As a consequence, negotiators from the four member group (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) decided that there was at present no need for an agriculture policy, while 'MERCOSUL' is yet to become a true common market. There was strong advocacy for 'MERCOSUL' countries to remain under the WTO regulations.

The countries adopted measures similar to those practiced in the European Union.

Discussions concerning the formation of the Americas Free Trade Zone have strengthened 'MERCOSUL' as a cohesive bloc which had disagreed with the U.S. on how to establish total liberalization of import tariffs and attain the accords that will be negotiated. 'MERCOSUL's position was clear. The four countries wanted to see the Americas Free Trade Zone introduced at a rate which will not harm each country's industrial base.

The Brazilians confirmed that they would not allow themselves to be confronted with a situation which will destroy Brazil's industry through a direct clash with Canadian and American industry, four or five times more productive than theirs.

On 'MERCOSUL' insistence, the U.S. accepted that the abolition of import tariff will not occur before 2005 and that the hemispheric zone will be formed by the convergence of the continents various trade blocs - MERCOSUL, CARICOM, ANDEAN PACT, NAFTA and the Central American Common Market.

The US wanted to negotiate bilaterally with each country because its bargaining power would increase. On the other hand, 'MERCOSUL' wanted to increase its stake in the negotiations with Washington through the expansion of a network of free trade agreements that it will negotiate until 2005.

Chile and Bolivia had both completed modalities for an association with the group in June and December respectively.

The consolidation of 'MERCOSUL' within the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the strengthening of relations between the bloc and other countries were the principal goals for negotiators in the first half of the year. 'MERCOSUL' continued negotiations with other countries of the continent, principally

the ANDEAN Group, with the objective of establishing a free trade zone for the Americas, which is expected to unite 34 countries as from the year 2005.

This year, a Mixed Committee Meeting and a trade sub-committee meeting with the European Union were held. There had also been negotiations concerning the treatment of norms for services such as insurances, banking, telecommunications, electric energy and air transport.

The accord offered by the 'MERCOSUL' to the ANDEAN Community in order to create a free trade zone was not found to be acceptable due to differences among the groups. The ANDEAN Group responded with a counter-proposal to the MERCOSUL which contained only a nominal part of the accord. The counter-proposal incorporated a programme of commercial liberalization, but still lacked a list of tariff reduced products.

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

ITALY

Summit Meeting on Food Security under the Auspices of FAO - November 13-17,1996, in Rome, Italy

This Mission was designated the focal point and assisted in the coordination and finalization of modalities for both the participation of H.E. President Cheddi Jagan and an official Guyana delegation which included the Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P. Snr. Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the abovementioned meeting and to undertake a number of bilateral with senior Italian Government Officials.

The opportunity was also seized to advance the undermentioned Agreements.

Guyana/Italy Relations Italian Soft Loan for the purchase of Sea Defence and Drainage and Irrigation Equipment

During the Guyana delegation presence in Rome, modalities were finalized with the Italians to put into effect the 'Soft Loan' of US\$4 Mn for drainage and irrigation equipment.

Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of the Investments between Guyana/Italy

Guyana seized the opportunity during the visit to Rome, in November, of His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan and delegation to submit its reaction to the Italian Draft Agreement.

Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between Guyana and Italy

This Mission served as a facilitator in the conclusion of modalities which led to the signing of an Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between Guyana/Italy during the visit to Rome in November of His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan and a Guyana delegation.

Summit Meeting on Food Security under the auspices of FAO - November 13 - 17, 1996, in Rome, Italy

The Italian government contributed towards the expenses of the stay in Rome of the Guyana delegation during its attendance at the abovementioned Summit.

EGYPT

Guyana/Egypt Relations Draft Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement

Guyana had anticipated that the opportunity would have been seized during the presence of His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan in Cairo to finalize the Draft Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement between Guyana and Egypt. However, due to the inability of the Egyptians to host H.E. the President, this was not possible. The Mission maintained an active pursuit.

The Arab Republic of Egypt offered a scholarship for a Guyanese Muslim to study at one of the Institutes of Al Azhar Al Sharif in order to promote the cultural cooperation between the peoples of both countries.

Egyptian Expertise for Guyana

In May, the Egyptians informed the mission that due to the rationalization of expenses undertaken by the Government of Egypt in its Budget, it would be difficult to cover any costs for the required experts.

The Egyptians undertook to review the issue in the future and said that they were ready to send the experts if the Government of Guyana so requested.

Transmission of Books to the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana (CIOG)

The Mission served as intermediary for the despatch of Islamic literature from the Egyptians to the CIOG.

Campaign for Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen's Re-election to the International Court of Justice

The Mission was actively involved in the campaign for Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen's re-election to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

MALAYSIA

Guyana/Malaysia Relations Request for Expertise from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)

During the year the Mission communicated to Headquarters a request from the Malaysian Embassy for the actual requirements of Guyana from the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations Malaysia (IDFR) to be submitted in order to facilitate an appropriate plan of action to be considered e.g. briefings to be conducted at IDFR or participation by Guyanese officials in the various courses conducted by the Institute.

Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement

(a) Correspondence was transmitted to Headquarters which outlined details regarding the proposals by the Faculty of Education of the University of Guyana on the possible areas of cooperation to be pursued within the framework of the Guyana/Malaysia Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement.

The Malaysians also advised that the proposals were being considered by the Economic Planning Unit of Malaysia and undertook to convey Guyana's response as soon as it was received.

(b) This Mission also submitted to the appropriate authorities in Malaysia a project proposal by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission for Cooperation with the Malaysian Alluvial Mining Industry.

(c) The Guyana Ministry of Agriculture identified Agriculture Biodiversity and Forestry as areas for cooperation between Guyana and Malaysia.

The Ministry of Agriculture also indicated its interest in collaborating with Malaysia in the re-establishment of Mangrove swamps in Guyana to assist near and offshore fishery and sea defence structure.

The promotion of interaction between the National Agricultural and Research Institute (NARI) in Guyana and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute was also recommended.

Cooperation in Oil Palm Production

Unfortunately, Guyana did not utilize the opportunity presented during the last quarter of the year of a Malaysian delegation in the region which had expressed an interest of examining the possibilities of cooperation in Palm Oil Production.

The lack of an appropriate response from the Ministry of Agriculture mitigated against the visit.

Training Courses offered by the Department of Veterinary Sciences of Malaysia

The candidates Dr. S. Surujbally and N. Mc Lean accepted the offer to pursue the courses offered by the Department of Veterinary Sciences - Malaysia, and the necessary modalities were finalized by the Mission.

Transmission of Brochures of Courses offered by the Malaysian National Institute of Public Administration and the National Library of Malaysia

Applications were submitted by Ms Gloria Husbands and Ms Carol Newark to pursue courses in Human Resource Management in the Public Sector and Basic Course for Library Assistants respectively, at the abovementioned Malaysian Institutions. The latter was unsuccessful on the grounds that she was considered to be overqualified for the Basic Course.

In December, the Mission transmitted training course brochures offered by the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), Malaysia, and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Malaysia, under the aegis of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MICP) for the year 1997. The submission of appropriate applications were requested from Guyanese candidates.

Courses offered under the aegis of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)

Applications were received from Ms Yvette Irving and Ms Carol Trotman to pursue a Diploma Programme in Medical Microbiology. Guyana's application was placed on top of the waiting list. It was anticipated that if there is a rejection of offer by any successful candidates, the Guyanese candidature will be considered.

Guyana's consideration of its Accession to the South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC)

This Mission explored with the Malaysians the possibility of Guyana's accession to the South Investment Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC).

However, the Malaysians had informed Guyana that SITTDEC was privatized and renamed SIBEXLINK which operated as a commercial venture. It was also learnt that there is a requirement for countries desirous of becoming members of SIBEXLINK to pay their dues in order to utilize the facilities of SIBEXLINK and further that no exemption of membership fees is given to any country.

Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from April 15-20, 1996

An invitation was received by this Mission from the Malaysians for the Hon. Bernard C. Dos Santos, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, to attend the abovementioned meeting.

Transmission of Malaysian Anti-dumping Environmental and Stock Exchange Legislation

The Malaysian Embassy responded to a request from the Guyana Manufacturers Association and provided documentation on Malaysian anti-dumping environmental and stock exchange legislation.

Visit by Malaysian Business Delegation to Guyana

His Excellency Ambassador Zainal Abidin Bin Mahamad Zain accompanied a three-member Malaysian investment delegation on a visit to Guyana during March 3-8, 1996. With the assistance of Headquarters, the Mission finalized appropriate appointments for him to meet with relevant Government Ministers within the context of the development of possible joint venture projects with Malaysian companies.

Malaysian/Canadian Participation in the Energy Sector

The Mission transmitted documentation titled 'INVICIA ENERGY PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATION SUBMISSION' comprising some brief information with respect to the company Shawinigan Integ Inc. Vancouver BC which expressed an interest in participating in the energy sector in Guyana in collaboration with a Malaysian company.

Transmission of Islamic Literature

The Mission forwarded publications distributed by the Islamic Outreach (ABIM) Malaysia, to be used by the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana. The publications were provided by the Embassy of Malaysia.

Appointment of Malaysian Honorary Consul in Guyana

As a consequence of Mr. Yesu Persaud, Executive Chairman Demerara Distillers Ltd. (DDL), expressing his inability to accept the appointment of Malaysia's Honorary Consul in Guyana, the Malaysian Ambassador in Brasilia sought the Ministry's assistance in the identification of an alternate.

Appointment of Guyana Honorary Consul in Malaysia - Mr Martin Joseph

The Mission served as an intermediary to obtain the appropriate clearances for Mr. Martin Joseph from the Malaysian Authorities.

SOUTH AFRICA

At year-end, Guyana did not respond to the request of the South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry for information in the area of sustained Forest

utilization and Training in Silviculture.

Visits to Guyana of Managing-Director of SOPEMI - De Beers South African Subsidiary

Pursuant to an earlier visit to Guyana in May this year which facilitated discussions between Mr. Jeffrey Natkins, Managing-Director of SOPEMI - De Beers South African Subsidiary and Guyanese officials, the former undertook a follow-up visit during November 11 - 12, 1996, accompanied by a three member delegation.

The Managing-Director seized the opportunity to discuss legislation and other fiscal policies on offer by the Government of Guyana in relation to Diamond Mining and exportation. Contacts were re-established and the extent to which this would impact on any development that SOPEMI/De Beers may undertake in the country will depend on the final results of ongoing bilaterals.

URUGUAY

Invitation to Participate in XXIII Ordinary Meeting of the Latin American Council of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) at the Ministerial Level in Montevideo, Uruguay, during October 24-25, 1996

The Mission transmitted an invitation from the Uruguayan for Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P. Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs to participate in the abovementioned meeting. A preparatory precursor meeting was convened during October 22-23, 1996.

GHANA

Relations Request For Experts in Taxation

The competent authorities in Ghana requested information on those tax collection specializations in which the Government of Guyana was interested in order to facilitate a proper selection of the required experts.

DENMARK

Presentation of Letters of Credence - H.E. Mr. Johannes Dahl-Hansen, Ambassador to Guyana of the Kingdom of Denmark

His Excellency Mr. Johannes Dahl-Hansen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Guyana presented his 'Letters of Credence' to His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan on May 20, 1996.

National Disaster - Donations from the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Kingdom of Denmark

This Mission's solicitation of donations from countries whose Mission's Ambassadors are concurrently accredited to Guyana, had resulted in contributions of US\$80,000.00 and US\$15,000.00 from the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Kingdom of Denmark, respectively.

BOLIVIA

Guyana/Bolivia bilateral relations was reactivated when H.E. Ambassador Ivan Evelyn, Sr. presented his 'Letters of Credence' on August 22, 1996 to H.E. President

Gonzalzo Sanchez de Lozada. It was the first occasion that a Guyana Ambassador had formally presented his 'Credentials' to that country's Head of State to be accredited on a non-resident basis since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The visit occurred within the spirit of Guyana's advocacy of the development of close relations between both countries in the spirit of Latin American and the Caribbean and South/South Cooperation.

Bilateral discussions were held with a number of Bolivian Government Ministers and officials, including those responsible for Foreign Affairs, Economic Promotion, Trade and Agriculture. Unfortunately, meetings with the Private sector group were postponed at the very last moment.

The opportunity was seized during the year, to present useful documentation on Guyana's investment potential, economic data and social agenda. H.E. President Cheddi Jagan's espousal of the New Global Human Order and Guyana's ongoing efforts to promote the concept were highlighted. Guyana's preoccupation with the promotion of a Regional Development Fund/Regional Integration Fund, as a transitional mechanism to provide safeguards for the Less Developed Countries (LDC's) of the Americas as the Hemisphere advanced towards the FTAA in the year 2005 was emphasized. The Bolivians contended that the concept would gain support within the Andean Group of countries since they themselves had established a financial fund.

Bolivian support was also solicited for Guyana's candidacy of Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen's re-election bid to the International Court of Justice.

The Bolivians intimated a desire to utilize the presence of H.E. President Jagan for the Presidential Summit on Sustainable Development to promote Guyana/Bolivia bilateral relations.

Guyana/Bolivia have maintained close collaboration and cooperation within the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation framework and the UN system. Bolivia has signalled that it was desirous of intensifying its contacts with Guyana and there was agreement on both sides that no effort should be spared to foster this relationship.

During the year, the opportunity was taken to underscore the benefits which could be derived from doing business with Guyana. It was underlined that economic cooperation could be pursued within the context of Joint Venture arrangements. It was envisaged that this pursuit could have a multiplying effect given the several preferential arrangements Guyana at present enjoyed in the European Union, USA, Canada and CARICOM. The need was also emphasized to bring Guyanese and Bolivian Private Sectors closer. There was also recognition that potential which existed for the export of products from joint venture opportunities could be exported to third countries.

The Bolivians also indicated that it was important for both countries to examine what they imported from other countries to see whether it will be more economically feasible to explore a bilateral pursuit. There was commitment to work concertedly to bring the Private Sectors of both countries together to facilitate an amplification of trade and economic ties.

President Lozada has underlined that there was potential for Guyana/Bolivia cooperation to go beyond political collaboration to include an economic and trade relationship. He shared the view that there should be closer collaboration between the two countries in sustainable development and environmental matters. It was felt that H.E. President Jagan's presence in Santa Cruz in December, for the Sustainable Development Summit would have provided an ample opportunity for bilateral discussions.

The Bolivians had identified H.E. Ambassador Jaime Aranibar Balcazar (at present Bolivia's Ambassador to Brazil) to be that country's Ambassador to Guyana. The Bolivians have expressed the view that a mutually beneficial bilateral relationship in political, economic and trade terms could not only fructify but have a multiplying effect.

ARGENTINA

Guyana/Argentina bilateral relations was given a jump-start, when H.E. Ambassador Ivan Evelyn, Sr. presented his 'Letters of Credence' on September 18, 1996 to H.E. President Carlos Saul Menem after a ten year lacuna.

The visit was realized within the context of Guyana/Argentina relations being favourable, notwithstanding, the renowned factors of a geographical, cultural and historical nature, as well as, the language medium. Symbolically, as in the case of Bolivia, the visit was also undertaken within the spirit of Guyana's strong advocacy of the cementing of closer ties between the two countries within the context of Latin American and Caribbean and South/South Cooperation.

Bilateral discussions were pursued with a number of Argentine Government Ministers and officials. The opportunity was also taken to present useful documentation on Guyana's investment potential, economic data and social agenda. H.E. President Jagan's espousal of the New Global Human Order and Guyana's ongoing efforts to promote the concept were highlighted Guyana's preoccupation with promotion of a Regional Development Fund/Regional Integration Fund, as a transitional mechanism to provide safeguards for the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) of the Americas as the hemisphere advanced towards the FTAA in the year 2005, was emphasized.

The promotion and consolidation of Guyana/Argentina bilateral relationship, as well as, the importance Guyana attached to developing closer relations with countries within Latin America generally and the South American continent in particular was highlighted.

Within the context of Argentina's interest in a closer collaboration with the European Union, it was acknowledged that there were advantages and benefits to be derived by Argentina from an association with Guyana, given the potential opportunities which existed

in extant preferential arrangements with the European Union, U.S.A., Canada and CARICOM. It was reiterated that the promotion of joint venture activities could serve as a fillip in number of areas, particularly, Science and Technology, Tourism, Fishing, Mining and Forestry. A number of potential areas for joint ventures were identified which could be established with exports being focussed on third countries within the region and externally. The need to bring the private sectors of both countries closer was stressed and contacts were made with the President of the Argentine Industrial Union and the Secretary of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce.

It was underscored that two Agreements were concluded between the Governments of Guyana and Argentina in an attempt to better structure Guyana/Argentina bilateral cooperation ties. It was outlined that the Agreements related to Scientific and Technical Cooperation and the Agreement on Economic and Commercial cooperation. It was drawn to the attention of the Government of Argentina that, notwithstanding the fact the former Agreement made an accommodation for the establishment of a Guyana/Argentina Joint Commission, there had never been an inauguration. It was outlined that in the case of the latter Agreement, ratification had never occurred. It was emphasized that the early convening of the Joint Commission appeared to be one of the first logical steps to jump-start Guyana/Argentina bilateral relations.

The opportunity was taken to discuss the Argentina Fund for Horizontal Cooperation. It was recognized that while the Fund was not a large one, Guyana could obtain assistance from it. The Argentinians also intimated the availability of expertise for the Guyana Water Authority. Cooperation between research institutions like IWTI and INTA of Argentina and IAST and NARI of Guyana, as well as, University collaboration was also emphasized.

The Argentinians have said that they were concentrating on promoting Horizontal Cooperation with Central America and the Caribbean.

H.E. President Menem has expressed interest in the cultivation of closer Guyana/Argentina bilateral relations. He took cognizance of the fact that ample opportunities existed for a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries. He has reaffirmed that Argentina is determined to amplify its relations within Latin America and the Caribbean to hasten the integration process.

The Argentina President has intimated that in order to give impetus to Guyana/Argentina bilateral relations, he will undertake a visit to Guyana in due course. He had directed that Guyana be given priority attention.

There was a call for closer collaboration in the field of Health between Guyana and Argentina. It was felt that the Guyana Ministry of Health needed to better characterize and prioritize its needs so that they could be analyzed and acted upon. There was recognition that the Scientific and Technical Agreement could function in tandem with the Horizontal Cooperation Fund.

By tradition, the Argentina Foreign Service Institute has reserved three (3) places for students in the Caribbean and Central America area. Guyana has expressed its interest in having one of its Foreign Service Officers participating in the Institute's programme, particularly in the short term courses of four months duration. The Argentinians welcomed the idea and undertook to ensure that in the future a place is reserved for Guyana.

The potential which existed for economic and technical cooperation between Guyana and Argentina was yet to be exploited to the fullest.

Argentina's support was also solicited for Guyana's candidacy of Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen's re-election bid to the International Court of Justice.

In September, the Argentinians organized a Seminar in Buenos Aires which was

sponsored by several regional entities The theme was MERCOSUR and the English-speaking Caribbean.

It was noted that CARICOM won the support of Argentina to mount a proposal of adhesion to 'MERCOSUL'. It was envisaged that the discussions for the adhesion of the Caribbean bloc will begin in the first quarter of 1997. It was learnt that the Argentinians have also proposed to the Jamaicans a pursuit for Joint CARICOM/Argentina Cooperation. The Argentinians have further intimated that they have expressed their interest in observer status within the ACP and CARICOM to the Trinidadians.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The main concerns and activities of the Fifty-first Session were in the areas of reform and restructuring of the Organization to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War era, the elaboration of the Agenda for Peace and an Agenda for Development, and financial reform. Looming large during the year was the fear that present circumstances were hardly conducive to positive change and that instead, the division between developed and developing countries would become even greater. Equally forbidding was the realization that, because of inadequate payments by some Member States the world body was on the verge of bankruptcy. In such an atmosphere, the major goals were difficult if not impossible to achieve. The promise of a new breakthrough in international cooperation which was held out by the diminution of East-West rivalry appeared to have receded.

In these circumstances, the Mission saw as its overall task the protection of Guyana's interests within the United Nations system and more widely, the shaping of the international political and economic environment to make it more responsive to the needs of small states such as ours.

Main Session of the General Assembly

Guyana's delegation to the fifty-first United Nations General Assembly was led by Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Mr. Clement Rohee. The Senior Minister addressed the Plenary on October 3, 1996 and participated in a number of other diplomatic activities indicated elsewhere in this Report.

The 159 items on the General Assembly's Agenda included inter alia the election of the United Nations Secretary General, nuclear disarmament, the 1997 a special session of the General Assembly on implementation Agenda 21, a wide range of other political and development issues including human rights, women, youth, drugs, international trade and development, and the external debt crisis.

At the conclusion of the Plenary work began in the six main committees. To the extent that its human resources permitted, the Mission covered all important areas of concern.

Major International Conferences

(1) The World Food Summit - Rome, Italy, November 1996. The Mission assisted in the preparation for this conference at which Guyana was represented by H.E. the President and the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs. Opportunity was taken of the meeting to arrange discussions on matters of mutual concern between the President and several Heads of Government who were in attendance.

As a member of the delegation, the Permanent Representative was invited to participate in a symposium on "Endogenous Development and Food Security" which was sponsored by the Italian Government in conjunction with the University of Rome.

(II) UNCTAD IX Mid-Rand, South Africa, April 27 - May 11, 1996. Although not represented at the Conference, the Mission briefed Guyana's Representative and monitored developments for follow-up at the United Nations.

(III) HABITAT: Istanbul, Turkey 3-14 June. The Mission actively participated in Preparatory Meetings which were held in New York, but was itself not represented at the Conference. Guyana's delegation to Habitat was led by the Hon. Mr. Henry Jeffrey,

Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

(IV) Special Session on Public Administration

As mandated by the General Assembly the Special Session was held from 15-19 April. On that occasion, the Permanent Representative made a submission on Guyana's behalf.

New Global Human Order

During the year under review, the Mission continued to promote the concept of the New Global Human Order and to seek views on its refinement. An ongoing effort to sensitize delegations at the United Nations as well as officials of the Secretariat and Non-governmental Organizations was maintained. Copies of a memorandum on the subject by His Excellency the President were circulated within the United Nations Community and further afield. Also distributed was the report issued from the international symposium on the New Global Human Order which was held in Georgetown in August 1996. At the annual Consultations of CARICOM Foreign Ministers, Minister Rohee also addressed the meeting on the subject. A decision was taken by the Group to assist in the promulgation of the proposal. The Permanent Representative also addressed a public symposium on the subject in October.

Contribution to the ECOSOC and the CSD

In 1996, Guyana commenced serving on the two major bodies within the United Nations, namely the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to which it was elected.

Economic and Social Council

Having been elected to the Council in 1995, Guyana took an active part in its work during 1996. In addition to organizational sessions held between January and May 1996, the Council held its substantive session for five weeks from June 24 to July 26, at which it considered a wide ranging agenda of issues in the economic, social and related fields, including the important issue of drug trafficking and abuse. The Minister of Home Affairs, the Hon. Feroze Mohamed, led Guyana's delegation to the Substantive Session and delivered a statement on the question of "The Illicit Production, Demand, Sale and Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and Related Activities" which was the theme of the High-level segment this year.

Other issues that received particular attention were the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and the coordination of the United Nations system policies and activities for the eradication of poverty. On all these and other matters, the Mission played an active part by articulating Guyana's positions and participating in the negotiation of related resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council. Among its most notable achievements for 1996, was perhaps the negotiation and consensus adoption by the Council of the draft text of a historic United Nations Declaration against corruption and bribery in international commercial activities. The General Assembly has since adopted the Declaration.

Commission on Sustainable Development

As a member of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Mission took part in its fourth annual session which was held from April 18 to May 3. This session was preceded by meetings of the Commission's Ad Hoc Intersessional Working Groups on the main sectoral issues and on the cross-sectoral issues of finance and production and consumption.

Guyana's Participation in United Nations Working Groups

During the period under review, Guyana was actively involved in the High Level Working Groups which were created by the General Assembly to discuss the reform and restructuring of the United Nations system. Aspects considered were (1) Question of Equitable Representation on and an Increase in the Membership of the Security Council; (2) Strengthening of the United Nations system, and more specifically the General Assembly and the Secretariat; (3) An Agenda for Development; and (4) The Financial Situation of the United Nations.

All of the Working Groups mentioned have been active for a few years except for the Working Group on Strengthening the United Nations System which met for the first time in December 1995.

Strengthening the United Nations System

At the creation of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the UN System, the last of the series, Ambassador Insanally was asked to share his experience as President of the 48th Session of the General Assembly with the membership. He made various suggestions for enhancing the role of the General Assembly and more particularly, its Presidency. These have been built upon and together with proposals for reforming the Secretariat will be further explored with a view to reaching consensus.

Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation and an Increase in the Membership of the Security Council

Guyana served as the Co-ordinator of CARICOM and made several statements on its behalf. This item, which relates to our country's peace and security, was inscribed in 1996 by Guyana and ten other countries on the United Nations Agenda. The Mission

continues to play a leading role in the search for a more democratic and effective Council.

Agenda for Development

With regard to the elaboration of the Agenda, negotiations continued during the year between developed and developing countries in order to forge a consensus on the vital area of cooperation in the economic social and related fields that should constitute its focus in the coming years. The results thus far have been seen as disappointing particularly by the Group of 77. At the latter's request, the Permanent Representative contributed to discussions on a strategy for taking the discussions forward. Negotiations on the Agenda are expected to resume in February 1997. It is anticipated that the current stalemate will be broken to allow for the early completion of a worthwhile Agenda for Development.

Financial Situation of the United Nations

At the end of its last session the Working Group reported that failure of Member States to pay their full contributions was the main cause of the financial problems that the United Nations was presently facing. A system of incentives and disincentives aimed at ensuring prompt and full payment of contributions addressed during the year will be further elaborated when the Working Group resumes its discussions in 1997. Guyana reaffirmed its financial commitments to the United Nations by paying off its outstanding contribution up to 1995.

The close of the year has witnessed an attempt to link the work of the several groups in order to achieve a package of reforms before the end of the 51st Session.

Participation in Other Committees, Regional And Sub-regional Bodies:

The continuous activities of the Caribbean Community, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, the Latin American and Caribbean Group, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Committee on Information, the Charter Review Committee, the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International, Criminal Court, and the Organization of Islamic Conference required regular attendance and active participation by all representational staff.

CARICOM and GRULAC

Throughout the year the Mission followed closely the meetings of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and of the Latin American Group (GRULAC). Within CARICOM, the delegation cooperated with sister states to deal with issues of regional interest and to prepare for the consultations of Foreign Ministers before the start of the Assembly. Guyana also served as Chairman of CARICOM from January to March. In August, Guyana was called upon to chair GRULAC and was involved in preparations for the 51st United Nations General Assembly. Many matters of concern to the United Nations, including candidatures for different Committees, regional organizations and international bodies were also addressed.

Non-Aligned Movement

Apart from participation in the various working groups and drafting groups of NAM, the Mission participated in the Commemorative Meeting of the Movement's Thirty-fifth Anniversary on 24 September and the Ministerial Meeting on the 25 September at the United Nations. It also prepared documentation and briefs for Guyana's delegation to the Meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Methodology which was held in Cartagena,

Colombia on 15-16 May.

G-77

Collaboration with the Group of 77 was equally constant. Significant contributions were made to the Group's work by the Mission on elaborating an Agenda for Development and in its consideration of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Representation was also provided for the meeting of the Inter-governmental follow-up and Coordination Committee of the Group of 77 held in the Philippines from February 9-12, 1996, and for the eighth Annual Meeting of Senior Officials of the G77 and the Twentieth Annual Ministerial Meeting held respectively on 26 and 27 September.

Organization of Islamic Conference

Following Guyana's accession to the Organization earlier this year, Foreign Minister Rohee delivered a statement to the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers held on October 2. Guyana's observer status in the Organization has allowed for enhanced relations with countries of the Middle East and more generally of the Islamic world.

ICJ Candidacy

This year saw an intensification of the Mission's efforts to secure the re-election of Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen to the International Court of Justice. Activities in this regard included the circulation of several Note Verbales and other material on the candidature to all countries, as well as calls by the Permanent Representative on fellow Heads of Missions to seek support for the candidature. Judge Shahabuddeen himself visited New York on three occasions to further the campaign. Although this lobby resulted in positive indications of success for the candidature, Judge Shahabuddeen regrettably lost

in his bid to the Brazilian candidate. Brazil had spared nothing to recover the position which they had lost surprisingly to Guyana in 1987. Also, the Jamaican candidate divided the vote, effectively causing the seat to slip from Guyana and the Caribbean. As an indication of the importance which was attached to the ICJ candidature, it should be noted that it was the only one presented in 1996.

With a number of other elections conducted within ECOSOC, Guyana as a current member of that organ, received numerous requests from Missions in New York for Guyana's support of their candidatures to various United Nations bodies. This was in addition to elections which were held for posts within the wider system.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Guyana's image was further promoted by the Permanent Representative who also participated in several external events during the year. In May, he visited the Centre for World Thanksgiving in Dallas, Texas, to dedicate a Monolith "Thanksgiving Heritage of Humanity" and to lecture on the principles and purposes of the United Nations. In September he presented a paper at the Conference on the New Dynamics of International Security in the post Cold War era sponsored by the Government of Japan. In November, he participated in an Informal Workshop organized by the Latin American and Caribbean countries and Nordic Countries on United Nations reform issues in the economic and social fields.

In November, Ambassador Insanally formed part of a select group of United Nations Representatives hosted by the Quaker Society to consider the possibilities of reform of the United Nations.

Briefings to Students

In response to requests received, Officers from the Mission conducted a number of briefings for student delegations expected to represent "Guyana" in various model United Nations programmes. These briefings provided excellent opportunities for outlining issues of importance to Guyana in general, as well as Guyana's position with regard to a number of issues on the agenda of the United Nations.

Throughout the year, information on Guyana was also made available, upon request to students at schools, colleges, and individuals in other institutions upon requests.

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

In further promoting Guyana's foreign relations, the Mission arranged for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Oman (17 January), Qatar (23 August) and Solomon Islands, (26 November). Extensive consultations were held with the missions of those countries in the Middle East visited by H.E. the President in November 1996.

Resource Mobilization

During the year, the Mission continued with appreciable success, to pursue opportunities for resource mobilization, in particular through the United Nations system.

Through its interface with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Mission assisted national authorities in securing technical assistance and general support for Guyana's development efforts.

The Mission was also successful in recruiting five US-based Guyanese to assist occasionally, on a voluntary basis, in specific areas of its programme of work. The volunteers contributed in some measure to the Mission's preparations for the sessions of

the Commission on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC. Additionally, with the help of one of the volunteers and Guyanese working at the United Nations, the Mission was able to obtain a large quantity of books which was subsequently donated to the University of Guyana for use in its library, and other teaching institutions in the country. The Mission is at present seeking to intensify its collaboration with United Nations agencies and certain states represented in New York with a view to enhancing the Government's economic diplomacy.

APPENDIX I

HEAD 20 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 1996

SUB HEAD	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED ESTIMATES	REVISED ESTIMATES	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
		\$000	\$000	\$000
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION EXPENSES	785 492 =====	790 683 =====	783 532 =====
	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COSTS	348 341 =====	352 151 =====	356 162 =====
	WAGES AND SALARIES	142 942 =====	162 700 =====	166 548 =====
101	ADMINISTRATIVE	21 053	35 510	35 506
102	SENIOR TECHNICAL	3 360	4 050	3 673
103	OTHER TECHNICAL & CRAFT SKILLED	29 380	25 990	27 467
104	CLERICAL AND OFFICE SUPPORT	66 161	70 350	73 430
105	SEMI SKILLED OPERATIVES AND UNSKILLED	22 988	26 800	28 472
	OVER HEAD EXPENSES	205 399	189 451	189 614

SUB HEAD	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED ESTIMATES	REVISED ESTIMATES	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
201	OTHER DIRECT LABOUR COST	11 271	12 725	13 677
202	INCENTIVES	-	-	-
203	BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES	191 628	174 526	173 817
204	NATIONAL INSURANCE	2 500	2 200	2 120
205	PENSIONS GRATUITIES	-	-	-
	OTHER CHARGES	437 151	438 532	427 370
		=====	=====	=====
301	EXPENSES SPECIFIC TO THE AGENCIES	-	-	-
302	MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	13 000	15 800	17 531
303	FUEL & LUBRICANTS	8 500	8 500	7 410
304	RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS	197 000	186 407	180 166
305	MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE	-	-	-
306	ELECTRICITY CHARGES	10 000	10 000	7 269
307	TRANSPORT, TRAVEL & POSTAGE	45 000	42 587	41 617
308	TELEPHONE CHARGES	20 000	28 643	31 942
309	OTHER SERVICES PURCHASE	22 000	22 000	21 070
310	EDUCATION SUBVENTION - GRANTS ETC.	-	-	-
311	RATES & TAXES & SUBVENTIONS	-	-	-
312	TO L/A			
	SUBSIDIES AND	98 651	104 608	103 690
313	CONTRIBUTIONS	2 000	1 790	430
314	ETC.	21 000	18 197	16 245
	REFUNDS OF REVENUE			

SUB HEAD	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED ESTIMATES	REVISED ESTIMATES	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
	OTHER			