

## PREFACE

It is a challenge of science - that having determined an "end product", or having observed a phenomenon - to try to discover the processes or ingredients which constitute such product or phenomenon.

The phenomenon of social integration has generated an interesting amount of social science research - especially during the past twenty-five (25) years.

This study is an attempt to continue these research efforts by: (i) culling from both the earlier and the contemporary literature the major theoretical developments in the field of integration in general, and in that of international integration in particular; and (ii) using such theoretical developments to determine a theoretical position from which proceeded the specific study of the bases for integration of the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The theoretical position of this study is articulated as follows:

"The existence and interaction of transnational formal organizations is a necessary condition for international integration."

When this theoretical position is taken with respect to the bases for integration of the Commonwealth Caribbean it is re-articulated as follows:

"The existence and interaction of transnational or trans-unit formal organizations in the Commonwealth Caribbean is a necessary condition for integration of the Commonwealth Caribbean."

From this point of departure empirical research proceeded by way of a survey which sought to determine: (A) The relevant organizations which exist at present; and (B) The extent to which such organizations constitute bases for integration in accordance with the terms of the theoretical position.

The survey was started in 1971 when this writer made a tour of most of the Commonwealth Caribbean territories in an effort not only to get responses to the main questionnaire (*Appendix I*) but also to meet in person the various functionaries of the organizations surveyed. This exercise was suspended - due to pressure of other work - and was continued in 1977/78 when the existing organizations were re-surveyed and the discussion updated in the light of more recent theoretical developments.

The main finding of this study is that non-governmental formal organizations are necessary to integration in the Commonwealth Caribbean, that an adequate number of these exist with a mode of existence and interaction which contribute significantly to the process of integration; and that without them meaningful integration is not possible in the region. In this regard, it is important to note that neither the question nor the conclusion of this dissertation treated of the relative merits or demerits of integration in general or of integration in the Caribbean in

particular. The question was restricted to an investigation into the bases of integration; and by extension, the bases for integration of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Answers to the broader questions of such integration must depend upon the conclusions of companion studies to this one presented here.

There is a recent evidence that Caribbean non-governmental organizations are beginning to be conscious of their role-possibilities as a sector. (See *Appendix C*). It is also evidence that the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce is itself either not aware of the number of relevant organizations which exist (See *Appendix B*), or that it does not highly consider those organizations excluded from its list. However, the proposed meeting clearly indicates that Caribbean non-governmental organizations are not only extant, but are also beginning to perceive increasing importance in their own interaction.

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