

A B S T R A C T

The study is essentially concerned with a comparative analysis of the foreign policies of the four major states of the Commonwealth Caribbean - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The analytic vantage-point utilized will be their performance and behaviour in the United Nations. The United Nations, it is argued in the study, is an adequate reflector of the basic foreign policy orientations of member-states and from this perspective, it serves the useful analytic function of providing acceptable and reliable insights insofar as the international relations outlook of participant states is concerned. The time-frame of the study is the decade 1966-75.

The thesis will have a three-fold concern. Firstly - and primarily - the aim is to arrive at valid conclusions about the explanatory bases, the critical determinants of international policy perspectives of the countries under examination. The second focal interest revolves around the performance of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries in respect of policy concertation - or its converse - on issues in the United Nations. This concern is justified in the context of the distinct identity, both objectively and subjectively, of the area known as the Commonwealth Caribbean and of the coherent integration motif that has been a dominant factor in the psyche of the peoples of the region. Finally, against the background of the hemispheric reality of traditional subservience of the older states

of the American region to the policy demands of the United States and the recent emergence of the English-speaking Caribbean as sovereign state-actors on the global arena, the analyst can develop fruitful, if only tentative insights into the freedom of choice possessed by these states in formulating and defining policy on international issues.