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# THE ROLE OF THE PEACE CORPS<sup>1</sup>

Edward Cumberbatch

(Associate Director of Agriculture, Peace Corps, Barbados)

## The Role in Caribbean Agricultural Development

The Peace Corps are providers of the human element that can spell the difference between success and failure of various attempts at development of various profits. The Peace Corps is willing to entertain requests for any skill or experience level but have found that they are more successful in responding to requests which call for no more than the basic degree plus one or two years of work experience. They do not see themselves as being initiators or implementors of Peace Corps agricultural projects but rather as providers of manpower for sound host country government agricultural projects.

## Areas of Interest and Activity

With agriculture and related fields of fisheries, forestry, home economics, cooperation and 4-H work. They have responded to the demand of Governments and private agencies for manpower in the development of agriculture. Peace Corps aims to serve in the fields of education, health, social services, small business development and handicrafts.

## Summary of the Past Activities and Results Achieved

The Peace Corps has responded to requests for assistance in a range of endeavours including, library development, civil engineering, industrial engineering, water laboratory technology and park development (marine and on land).

## List of Activities in which Involved at Present and Future Action Planned

The Peace Corps has 36 volunteers dealing with food production, fisheries and forestry deployed from Grenada and Barbados in the South to St. Kitts in the North.

In the agricultural sector the Peace Corps expects by the end of 1979 to be fully engaged in improving food production by directly assisting 500 farmers and solving 35 technical agricultural problems/needs.

## Source of Funding

The Government of the United States of America.

## Number of Professional Staff

Eight, of whom one is in agriculture. The figure includes a County Director and Deputy Director.

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<sup>1</sup>Mr. Cumberbatch, Associate Director of Agriculture, Peace Corps, Barbados, in a supplementary statement, emphasized that the Peace Corps provides not money and materials but manpower. He also referred to the orientation given to their recruits to familiarise them with the culture and customs of the Area. With specific reference to the operations of the Peace Corps in the State of St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, he indicated that they had had volunteers up to fairly recently in Nevis and that there were volunteers serving in NACO in food and food crop production as well as in soil conservation.