THE ROLE OF THE CARIBBEAN AIR CARGO COMPANY LIMITED (CARICARGO) IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

George P. Mc Lean  
(Manager, Caribbean Air Cargo Company Limited, Trinidad)

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economy of the Caribbean region, and many islands depend upon the efficient transportation of their produce, either within the CARICOM area, or outside of it, for their prosperity.

Caribbean Air Cargo, acting as cargo handling agent for British West Indian Airways (BWIA) is able to offer airfreight transportation within the Caribbean and to United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Curacao, Guyana and Paramaribo. Agricultural produce, being very perishable, requires expeditious handling to enable it to reach its market place within the least possible time. Air transportation is thus of the greatest importance in this respect.

Destination Points

This Region is served with L-1011s, B-707s and DC-9 aircrafts operating to Canada, USA and London by BWIA, and B-707s on the Caribbean Air Cargo routes to Barbados, Miami, New York, Houston and Jamaica.

On the San Juan Eastern Caribbean route, a C-46 aircraft operates between San Juan-Port of Spain-Barbados, connecting to Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica and Martinique, as per copy schedule.

There is an operational advantage in the fact that because CARICARGO's aircrafts are based in Miami, the flights are full southbound and are relatively empty on the return trip northbound. This therefore leaves quite a capacity for northbound traffic, which, apart from small items of export, can accommodate large shipments of fruits and vegetables to Jamaica and US markets.

Aircraft Loading Specifications

To provide more detail with regard to accommodation, the following information is listed:

**B-707 Aircraft** - (13) pallets or containers maximum 85,000 lb. Each pallet measures 88" x 125" aluminum. Each container measures 88" x 125" x 80" aluminum (360 feet or 10.19 meters).

**C-46 Aircraft** - Bulk cargo - 14,000 lb.

The advantage of container loading is that the items can be packed securely and are protected by the aluminum structure, which provides full protection for vegetable products such as tomatoes, peppers, etc.

The C-46 aircraft has open loading to the cabin, and has proven very successful in moving general cargo between the CARICOM Eastern Caribbean Islands. However, due to restricted runways in certain islands, the traffic load is
reduced. This aircraft has been involved with the movement of horses between Barbados and Trinidad.

The larger B-707 aircraft has operated with cattle from Miami to Trinidad, sometimes conveying as many as 150 heads of calves.

Packing Requirements

It is very important that perishable agricultural produce be packed in such a way that it will not deteriorate or damage other goods, and will withstand transportation to its destination with normal handling.

Export companies have been successfully using cardboard containers, with divisions for each fruit, and with ventilation on all sides of the boxes. Typical examples are tomato and apple containers.

Acceptance of Shipments

Advance reservations should be made with the airline, providing details of the shipper, consignee, contents, weight and destination in order that price arrangements can be made with respect to acceptance at the airport. It is normal that perishable items are brought to the airport two to three hours prior to departure, in order to avoid deterioration due to temperature exposure.

Shippers must ensure that they are in possession of all customs export documents, as well as the relevant plant certificates, which are required at destination.

Cargo Rates

Normally there is the General Cargo Rate which is published by most airlines and Specific Commodity Rates which are special rates which are applicable to certain items from one country to a particular destination.

Under the Specific Commodity Rate, fruits and vegetables are listed ex Miami, New York and Kingston at the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trinidad to</th>
<th>Minimum Weight</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1100 lb.</td>
<td>18¢ US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>2200 lb.</td>
<td>22¢ US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>660 lb.</td>
<td>41¢ US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>2200 lb.</td>
<td>35¢ US</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific Commodity Rates to other points in the Eastern Caribbean can be acquired from our office at Trincity, which is served by our C-46 aircraft.

CARICARGO has the space on their northbound services, and much will depend on the agricultural marketing effort to develop agro exports. In this respect CARICARGO will provide assistance in the development of the export market to United States of America and within the CARICOM area.
### Table 1: General Commodity Rates; Caribbean Air Cargo Co. Ltd.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minimum Charge $</th>
<th>Under 100 lb. $</th>
<th>101 - 1099 lb. $</th>
<th>1100 lb. &amp; over $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.42</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.26</td>
<td>.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.43</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>.95</td>
<td>.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.99</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martinique</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.37</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.91</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kitts</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Intra-Caribbean Service; Caribbean Air Cargo Company Limited

Schedule: C-46 - Effective June 14, 1982

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Thursday:</th>
<th>Saturday:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV SJU</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>LV BGI 08.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV POS</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>ARV BGI 08.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV POS</td>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>LV FDF 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV BGI</td>
<td>16.30</td>
<td>LV BGI 11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV BGI</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>ARV BGI 11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV SJU</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>ARV SJU 14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV SJU</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>LV BGI 08.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV BGI</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>ARV POS 09.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV BGI</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>LV POS 11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV SKB</td>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>ARV BGI 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV SKB</td>
<td>17.30</td>
<td>LV BGI 12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV SJU</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV SJU</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV BGI</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV BGI</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV SLU</td>
<td>14.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV SLU</td>
<td>16.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV BGI</td>
<td>17.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caribbean Air Cargo Company Ltd.

The all-cargo airline owned jointly by the Governments of Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados

* FAST, EFFICIENT, DEPENDABLE, AIR CARGO SERVICE
  Between NORTH AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

MIAMI OFFICE
6285 N.W. 18th St.
Bldg. 2144
P.O. Box 524185
Miami, Fla. 33152
Tel: (305)871-2680 to 2684
or: (305)871-2186 to 2188
Cable: CAR CARGO
Telex: 6811583.

NEW YORK OFFICE
Building No. 7
Kedar Road
JFK Int'l Airport
Jamaica, N.Y. 11434
Tel: (212) 656-4732 to 4734
Cable: CARICARGO
Telex: 421987

HOUSTON OFFICE
Host Int'l Hotel
18700 Kennedy Blvd.
Houston Int'l Airport
Houston, Texas 77205
Tel: (713) 443-7736 to 7738
Cable: CARICARGO
Telex: 790287

PUERTO RICO OFFICE
P.O. Box CC
Loiza Station
Santurce
P.R. 00914
Tel: (809) 791-4365/5850
Cable: CARICARGO
Telex: 3450440

NEW YORK AGENCY
Servair
Building 47
JFK Int'l Airport
Jamaica, N.Y. 11430
Tel: (212) 656-4735/4736

HOUSTON AGENCY
Flying Tiger Line Inc.
Houston Int'l Airport
Houston, Texas 77205
Tel: (713) 443-7100

TRINIDAD OFFICE
Century Drive Mocoya
Trinity Industrial Estate
Trinidad
Tel: 662-5336
Cable: CARICARGO
Telex: 664-4734/4323

BARBADOS
HEAD OFFICE
Grantley Adams
Int'l Airport
Christ Church
Barbados
Tel: 84160
Cable: CARICARGO
Telex: 2417 AIRCARGO W.B.

AGENTS

ST. LUCIA AGENCY.
Huntes Int'l Packing
& Storage Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box 64
Castries, St. Lucia
Tel: 3506/7
Cable: HUNTER
Telex: HUNTER 333 LC

GRENADA AGENCY.
Royal Agencies (G'dal) Ltd.
P.O. Box 170
St. George's, Grenada
Tel: 3063
Cable: ROYAL AGENCIES

ST. VINCENT AGENCY.
Arlie C. Hillocks Agencies
Limited
P.O. Box 63
St. Vincent
Tel: 61242/3, 71181
Cable: HILLOCKS 7561 VQ

DOMINICA AGENCY.
H.H.V. Whitchurch & Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box 71
Roseau, Dominica
Tel: 2181/4
Cable: WHITCHURCH,
Dominica
Telex: 8614 WHITDOM DO

ST. KITTS AGENCY.
T.D.C. Airline Services Ltd
P.O. Box 142
Basseterre, St. Kitts
Tel: 2286
Cable: TADCO ST. KITTS
Telex: 824 TADCO SKB

MARTINIQUE AGENCY.
Mr. Carl De Pompignon
La Mentin Airport
Fort de France
Martinique
Tel: 723050/792111
Cable: AJAX KINGSTON, JAMAICA