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THE EXPERIENCE OF THE 1970'S AND THEREAFTER HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE REALITY OF OUR DIVERSE REGION MAKES IT ALL THE MORE COMPELLING TO BRING TO REGIONAL AFFAIRS THE COHESION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

THERE IS SOMETHING PRECIOUS WHICH HAS ALWAYS DISTINGUISHED THE CARIBBEAN PEOPLES FROM THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY: IF ANY REGION ON EARTH HAS PROVEN THAT PERSONS OF VARIOUS ETNIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGES CAN COME TOGETHER TO FORM A WHOLE WHICH IS POTENTIALLY GREATER AND STRONGER THAN ITS CONSTITUENT PARTS, THAT REGION HAS TO BE THE CARIBBEAN. TO DENY OR IGNORE THE CONTRIBUTION OF ALL OR ANY OF THE CORMOPOLITAN CARIBBEAN'S PEOPLE WHETHER OF PREPONDERANTLY AFRICAN, EAST INDIAN, EUROPEAN, CHINESE OR OTHER ANCESTRY, OR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, IS TO SURRENDER FAR TOO EASILY SOMETHING HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT AT THE CARIBBEAN HAS TO BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF MANKIND AT LARGE.

AS INDEPENDENT NATIONS WE HAVE FAILED TO ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT SELF-DETERMINATION OF OUR ECONOMIC FORTUNES, EVEN IN THE FEW CASES WHERE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCES HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORY. GENUINE ECONOMIC INITIATIVES BY THE CARIBBEAN REQUIRE THAT THE REGION HARNESS THE HUMAN RESOURCES, SKILLS AND TALENTS OF THE ENTIRE ENGLISH-SPEAKING AREA AS WELL AS OUR NATURAL ENDOWMENTS. ALREADY IT IS CLEAR THAT