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## FOREWORD

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The Commonwealth Secretariat commissioned the Centre for European Agricultural Studies to produce a background report of relevance to the re-negotiation of the Lomé Convention, concentrating upon the recent evolution of the CAP, trends in the production of certain agricultural commodities in the EEC, and the prospects for the liberalisation of policies affecting agricultural imports into the EEC from ACP States in a renewed Lomé Convention.

The prime purpose of this study is to provide information which will be helpful in the development of strategies for the Lomé II negotiations. To this end the report has been divided into three main parts: Part I presents the general background to the Lomé Convention and sets out the relevant aspects of both the Common Agricultural Policy and the External Policies currently being pursued by the European Community.

Part II of the report comprises a detailed and comprehensive survey of the agricultural commodities of most significance to ACP exporting countries. The commodities covered are oilseeds, fruit and vegetables, beef and cereals, and each chapter describes the CAP regime for the commodity in question and attempts to highlight the implications of developments within the EEC for the export prospects of ACP States.

A draft chapter was also prepared on sugar. Sugar differs from the other agricultural commodities in that, although the trade concessions granted for sugar were included in the Lomé Convention (Protocol 3) they originate in the Community's commitment to take account of the interests of countries previously party to the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, and are explicitly "for an indefinite period". The sugar provisions do not, therefore, automatically come up for re-negotiation at the end of the 5 year duration of the first Lomé Convention. For this reason, the Commonwealth Secretariat felt that it would not be appropriate to include a chapter on sugar in a publication specifically directed towards the issue of the re-negotiation of the Lomé Convention.

If a study which is designed as a background document to the re-negotiation of the Lomé Convention is to be useful, it must inevitably become involved in the detailed matters covered in Part II. But there is a danger with this kind of approach that the reader will lose sight of some of the broader issues which cut across commodity boundaries.

Thus the aim of Part III of this report is to focus attention on some of these issues. We deal first with questions which relate directly to the provisions of the Lomé Convention itself - barriers to trade; industrial cooperation; the European Development Fund; and the STABEX system. Second we discuss some wider issues of relevance to the success of the Lomé Convention - the enlargement of the Community; an increase in the number of ACP signatories to the Convention; food aid; and other international negotiations.

In Part III, as in the rest of the report, we have in the main, consciously restricted ourselves to being essentially informative, drawing together and elaborating on matters touched upon in the Commodity Chapters. However, on one or two occasions we have added some observations on what seem to us to be potential items for negotiation.

It will be seen that the chapters have been accredited to individual authors. This has been done, partly because the time factor prevented the production of a consensus on the many and varied aspects of the policies and commodities being studied, but mainly to give the members of the working group full opportunity to set down the product of their particular expertise and experience.

The working group comprised Chris Ritson of Reading University, who acted as general editor, and whose previous co-authorship of "Farmers and Foreigners" \* proved valuable; Simon Harris, Economist and Adviser on EEC matters with S & W. Berisford Ltd., a major international food group, and author of two previous CEAS Occasional Papers \*\*; Kevin Parris of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (now with the Tropical Products Institute, London), a co-author with Ritson of a recent CEAS Occasional Paper \*\*\*; and Eric Tollens, recent Professor of Agricultural Economics at the National University of Zaire and now at the Centrum voor Landbouw Economisch Onderzoek, University of Louvain.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL STUDIES  
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Director

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\* Ellis, F., Marsh, J. and Ritson, C. (1973)

\*\* Harris, S. (1975, 1977)

\*\*\* Parris, K., and Ritson, C. (1977)