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UN ARCHIVES
SERIES 5-0904
BOX 66
FILE 4

ACC.

TR/mk bf. IK/GH/AP ccs. SG 21 April 197 My dear colleague, I wish to thank you for your letter of 25 March regarding the request of the Government of The Bahamas to establish a UNDP office in that country. I have very carefully noted the points you raised in this letter concerning the desirability of such an office, and I have brought this matter to the attention of our colleagues in UNDP where it has also been carefully reviewed. Unfortunately, because of financial constraints, the UNDP is, at present, not in a position to establish such an office, and it will be necessary to continue UNDP coverage of The Bahamas from the UNDP Office in Jamaica. I have nevertheless been assured that the points you raised in your letter would be borne very much in mind by those concerned at UNDP and this request would continue to receive consideration for implementation at a future date. With warm regards, Yours sincerely, Kurt Waldheim Mr. Issoufou S. Djermakoye Under-Secretary-General Commissioner for Technical Co-operation Room 2527

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# UNITED NATIONS



## NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS -- ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017
CABLE ADDRESS -- ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS NEWYORK

GHIAP

REFERENCE

25 March 1975

My dear Secretary General,

I have had, on 24 March 1975, a visit from the Hon. Baltron B. Bethel, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Nassau, Bahamas, accompanied by Mr. Stephen R. Blundell, Director of the Bahamas Hotel Training Council who visited the Center for Housing, Building and Planning and the Office of Technical Co-operation to discuss several technical assistance matters, primarily in the tourism sector which constitutes the main revenue source of the Bahamian economy.

As you well know, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas became independent on 10 July 1973; it encompasses a large archipelago of over 700 islands covering an area of some 150,000 square miles. The Bahamas is presently without a resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme and is serviced by a representative located in Kingston, Jamaïca. The Bahamas Government has put forward a request urging the appointment of a resident representative to be located in the Bahamas and the opportunity was taken by the Bahamas representative to emphasize the points which follow in support of the request.

The distance separating the Bahamas from Jamaica together with the geographic fragmentation of the numerous islands of the Bahamas and the continuous difficulties of communications, as well as other problems, are impeding the effective development of United Nations assistance to the Bahamas.

While other countries within the region have benefited from UNDP country programmes (having completed their first programme and are embarking on their second programme), the Bahamas has yet to implement

The Secretary General United Nations

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

#### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO

Mr. Georg Hennig,

Deputy Executive Assistant

to the Secretary-General

FROM:

Gabriel Valdés S.,

Assistant Administrator and

Regional Director for Latin America

SUBJECT:

Request of the Government

Bahamas

Mr. Lindström has asked me to comment on the letter addressed to the Secretary-General by Mr. Djermakoye, Under-Secretary-General, Commissioner for Technical Co-operation, of 25 March 1975, on the request by the Government of Bahamas to establish a UNDP Office in that country.

After discussing the matter thoroughly with my staff, I have regretfully concluded that our present financial constraints do not allow us to comply with this request, and that we shall, therefore, need to continue with the present coverage offered to the Bahamian Country Programme by our UNDP Office in Jamaica.

Nevertheless, you may be assured that we shall bear in mind this request at a future date.

M. June Roy w

Date: 9 April 19 75

FILE NO.:

SENDER'S TELEPHONE EXTENSION: 4461

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even its first programme. Assistance is urgently needed in this area together with the need for the proper administration and co-ordination of far reaching projects, which have either already been undertaken in the Bahamas or are likely to be initiated in the foreseable future.

It would seem that the programmes in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands warrant the full time and attention of the present representative there and the case exists for the assignment of a separate representative to be physically located in the Bahamas.

In the course of discussion, it was pointed out that whereas the Bahamas participates in a number of areas of concern to CARICOM, the Bahamas is not a member state of this organisation. Consequently, the interests of the Bahamas would not always be served by CARICOM or, indeed a resident representative who partly serves a CARICOM member state and the Bahamas at the same time. It is therefore necessary that United Nations programmes for the Bahamas should evolve from a conscious request of the Bahamas government, even though the request might not be made through the medium of the CARICOM Secretariat.

In the light of the foregoing and in order to facilitate the initiation and implementation of technical assistance projects as well as all forms of United Nations assistance to the Bahamas, I highly recommend and support the early appointment of a United Nations Development Programme representative to be resident in Nassau, Bahamas.

yours surcerly

Issoufou S. Djermakoye Under-Secretary-General

Commissioner for Technical Co-operation