decision-making levels of institutions dealing with credit to farmers.

THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

The ability of Dominica to sustain rural development, agricultural and economic growth, depends not only on the performance of farmers, workers and on Government policy, but on improved terms of international trade for the goods we produce and the inputs needed to produce the goods. In short, sustained development for Dominica depends just as much on our understanding, our position in international affairs, the changing nature of international relations, technology, trade and assistance.

The DLM-Alliance would firmly establish Dominica's support for international conventions aimed at bring about a new international economic order and improved terms of trade for less Developed countries. In this regard, an Alliance Government shall give full support to LOME II, CARICOM, CDB and other regional and international bodies, committed to similar objectives. Our position at hemispheral and world forums such as the OAS and the United Nations shall be consistent with this thrust for a better deal for the poor nations of the world and for a rendering of priorities on the world development agenda which places the interest of the poor and oppressed, as the number one priority.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Two hundred years of colonialism, twenty years of Labour Party mismanagement and decades of inertia by the private sector has left the economy of Dominica in a badly depressed state. Unemployment runs in excess of 50 % and underemployment is high. Wages and salaries are far too low for the broad masses of people to enjoy a decent standard of living.

In the main economic sector, agricultural output cannot even meet the basic needs of our people in terms of the amount of staple foods produced. There has hardly been any initiative either by Government and the private sector towards industrialization and up until now, foreign investors have not found Dominica's economy to be attractive enough to undertake any form of long term and serious investment.

The strongest argument therefore for making big changes in the structure of Dominica's economy is the fact that this one-crop, lopsided economy has been unable to create the goods, the services and the jobs necessary to bring improved living standards to our people. Dominica colonial and capitalist economy has therefore proved unable to solve the burning problem of poverty.

Such an economic system of free enterprise, capitalism which has failed after 200 years of operation, deserves to be drastically reformed and eventually transformed into an economy capable of meeting the basic needs of all our people and in particular, capable of removing every last sign of poverty and backwardness from our country.

This move to transform our economy will be guided by the following principles:

* The main objective of national economic activity is overcoming the problem of poverty for the broad masses of our people and ensure that the needs of food, housing, health, education, jobs and social services for all, are properly met.
* This improved living standard can only be assured if there is :
  – increased production and,
  – just distribution of the wealth generated
* Harnessing all available resources and technology capable of bringing about this increased production.
* Enabling greater democratic worker-control over the management of production and the distribution of income through organised, institutionalised worker-participation in the economy.

In order that this transformation process be carried out in the interest of the working people of the country, Government must ensure that the direction, organisation and operation of the economy is centrally planned and coordinated to permit all sectors (public, private, cooperative and mass organisations) to contribute.

To this end, the DLM-Alliance government intends to pursue the goal of economic development and reconstruction from these basic areas, broadly linked with each other as follows :

1. – THE NEED FOR PLANNING :

* Introduce effective overall planning of the economy based on the concept of balanced development and growth.
* Aim to reduce the differences between town and country by a comprehensive policy on the location of industry.
* Give special emphasis to an integrated approach to development in order to hasten our reconstruction programme since Hurricane David.

2. – PRIVATE SECTOR :

* Use the apparatus of state power and influence to put together a package of stimuli, incentives, safeguards and concessions necessary to raise the participation of local entrepreneurs in the economy.
* Encourage more productive investment by the private sector.
* Rationalize the importation of essential commodities, to cut down on the cost of living through government importation of those items, especially rice, sugar, flour and some building materials.

3. – THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR :

* Encourage the formation of cooperatives both in agriculture and industry by promoting self-reliance and managerial skills.
* Set up a special section in the Ministry of Education to intensify cooperative education.

4. – FOREIGN INVESTMENT :

*Encourage investment by non-nationals, especially in conjunction with local entrepreneurs and/or government.
* Promote foreign investment in direct productive areas of the economy.