COMMUNICATION, WORKS AND ENERGY POLICY

With the exception of the telephone service, poor financial management, rising costs and unreliable service have been the constant problems facing the public in very important areas of roads, electricity, water and ports. The DLM-Alliance Government is convinced that great improvement in these services can be made by taking the following steps :

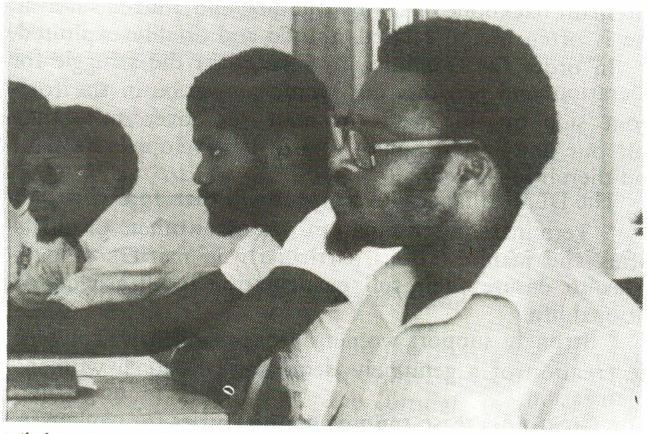
ROADS

* Set up a Public Works Road Construction and Maintenance Unit that will have all the necessary trained engineering and management staff, equipment and finance needed to widen, drain and seal all main roads with priority attention being given to main roads in areas that have long had these cut, but not completed, and areas that would benefit greatly from the connection of existing major road (Petite Souvrière, Delices, Petite Savane, Penville, Capuchin) ; areas of high production (Marigot to Portsmouth) ; areas of high population density (Pointe Michel to Scotts Head).

* Arrange for assistance from friendly countries and from international agencies such as the EDF in support of ongoing local efforts.

* Ensure regular training of local personnel in all aspects of the technology and management of road construction and maintenance.

* Ensure the completion of all outstanding inquires into the operation of the Public Works Department with a view to setting up a system of public works Administration and management which is free from waste and is efficient and economic.



Wiltshire, Pierre Charles and Esprit, dynamic, determined, fearless fighters on the side of the oppressed and poor.

ELECTRICITY

* Immediate steps to re-establish the pre-David lines by completing negotiations with CDC, EDF, OAS, IADB, for technical, financial and equipment support.

* A recruitment programme aimed at making full use of all available persons trained locally or overseas in electrical engineering and related fields, and location of more training opportunities for technicians and staff engaged in this field, all with a view to launching an immediate programme of rural electrification and modernising our electricity service.

* The commencement of construction of hydro generating dams in areas already identified by a CDC study of the 1970's with a view to providing power for rural electrification, reservoirs for rural water supplies, (and in connection with agriculture and tourism, water for irrigation, fishing, and recreation).

* The objective here is to provide the cheapest, most reliable source of power for island-wide electrification for homes and industry, with special attention to the first continued exploration of the potential for geothermal energy as a major source of commercial power for the future.

WATER

Places such as Scotts Head, Soufrière, Pointe Michel, parts of Roseau, Weirs at Marigot, Grand Fond village and many others have such great difficulty in obtaining water for daily use that the idea of 365 rivers is like a fairy tale to many of our people.

The objective is for clean, reliable, cheap, pipe borne water to be available to every household in this country and to every major area requiring water for a agricultural or industrial use.

Personal and public convenience, and safety (as in the case of fire) are all considerations to be placed alongside cost and technology in formulating an effective water policy.

* In this connection the Central Water Authority must receive attention to its training and staffing needs, its finances and facilities and like all other key agencies, must be more fully involved in developing the policy framework which will guide its operation.

* Of great concern here, is the need to ensure future generations of the water resource we have thus far enjoyed and close coordination with the Forestry and Conservation service, regarding timber extraction and reafforestation is a must.

* A close examination of the technology of micro dams as it may assist in assuring more remote communities of regular supplies of water, will be immediately undertaken in conjunction with assistance under LOME II, other reputable agencies and Governments.

PORTS

Dominica is an island so everything which comes in or leaves our country must pass through a port. So far improved port facilities have been a priority in Roseau for sea, and Melville Hall for air – this has left important areas of the country unserved by proper port facilities and unable to take full advantage of trade opportunities.

The DLM-Alliance Government is committed to the following steps aimed at correcting this situation:

* The phased construction of port facilities in Portsmouth, aimed at accomodating the vigorous huckster