* Our people are not hungry because of a shortage of land but because the extreme inequalities in control over productive resources prevent their development.

* For the DLM-Alliance Government, Agrarian Reform then is not simply land distribution – but this process involves mobilizing, organising, educating and training the poor to assume control over the use of major resources which affect the wealth and living standard of the nation.

This is not reform carried out by a bureaucracy for the poor, but is a process of social education, training people for the new task of democratic management of the nation's resources in order to meet their own basic needs of food, housing, clothing, social services and jobs – the Agrarian Reform of the DLM-Alliance is therefore, a programme of the poor, for the poor, by the poor, totally supported and defended by the Government.

This programme of Agrarian Reform is at the heart of DLM-Alliance's agricultural policy, aimed as it is at advancing the social and economic interest of the hardpressed farmer and rural dweller and agricultural worker.

Vital components of this Agrarian Reform will be :

* Completion of cadastral surveys and updating of all relevant agronomic and economic data, that will help the planning process.

* Legal acquisition of top quality idle lands for land settlement of new and existing farmers.

* The strengthening of the Land Management Authority as the executing agency of this Agrarian Reform Programme by providing for trained staff, finances, and facilities to ensure farmer training, credit inputs, markets, roads, water, storage and processing, in areas where the Authority becomes operational.

* With the assistance of the UWI St. Augustine, setting up of an Institute of Agriculture, Science and Technology for training farmers, technicians and workers in agriculture.

* Seek coordination of credit to agriculture being supplied through the AID-Bank, the Credit Union, farmer organisations and other sources, to ensure that all farmers have access to this vital input – credit.

* Steps to merge the External Trade Bureau and the Dominica Agricultural Marketing Board into an Import/Export Agency, to consolidate the bulk purchase of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer suitable for a wide range of crops, in addition to other farm inputs.

*Setting up through the new Import/Export Agency, in the Ministry of Trade, an efficient, modern system of marketing, including guaranteed minimum prices, quality standards and price incentives. This modern marketing system would ensure better distribution of food to our people, a diversified agriculture and secure markets to farmers.

* In this same area, attention to the needs of hucksters for better quality produce, in regular supply, properly packaged, at reasonable prices, would ensure the growth of this vital aspect of our Marketing System.

* Connected to the development of external markets, the DLM-Alliance Government would encourage the Import-Export Agency and other produce handlers and importers to enter into shipping contracts with local boat-owners that would ensure full use of these boats and regular shipping for farmers' produce.

*Ensuring the location of more essential services (banking, supplies, extension, training) in the rural areas, thereby, reducing time and money spent by farmers to get these services, leaving more time for production, education and community involvement.

THE BANANA INDUSTRY

In full recognition of the importance of this industry to Dominica, particularly now that other crops have been destroyed by Hurricane David, forcing bananas to play an even greater role in this period of reconstruction, the DLM-Alliance Government is committed to strengthening the banana industry by :

*Ensuring that banana growers receive ALL the material, financial and technical support necessary to complete post-David rehabilitation ;

* Holding immediate consultation with farmer organisations and technical persons in Dominica, aimed at developing a comprehensive strategy for strengthening the banana industry ;

* In this regard, consideration of the following :

– improving the present Market Contract with Geest Industries with special attention to establishing a favorable minimum price.

– improving the system and level of management and service within the Dominica Banana Growers' Association.

– strengthening farmer participation in the Dominica Banana Growers' Association.

– exploring other markets for «reject» bananas and surplus production, in keeping with the DLM-Alliance's foreign policy of non-alignment, that promotes trade with all countries except South Africa.

– commence discussions with the Governments of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada aimed at a WINBAN-level attack on these matters, in addition to consideration of joint ventures at an Industry-Government level in shipping, bulk purchase of input, fertilizer production, and marketing of bananas regionally and internationally.

– immediately commence steps to set up a multi-purpose agro-industrial factory in Dominica to process banana flour, wine, vinegar, rope, snack foods, and cereals.

– ensure the close collaboration of Dominica Banana Growers' Association with the Division of Agriculture in the areas of extension and research and with the Import/Export Agency in the area of marketing.

– enable farmers, workers and technicians in the industry to improve their efficiency by arranging for regular seminars, field days and radio programmes locally, and by facilitating their traval to neighbouring countries for observation and study of improved production technology.

THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

Urgent follow-up of the already negotiated CIDA support to this industry to ensure rapid rehabilitation and