

United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund)  
Production Project

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The Honourable House was informed by the Minister of Development and Welfare by Ministry Paper No. 91 which was tabled on the 10th November, 1965, that the United Nations Special Fund had agreed to provide assistance to the Jamaica Government for the establishment of a Map Production unit within the Survey Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

2. This 4 year project was designed to enable the Survey Department to carry out all phases of map production work in Jamaica to cope with the rapidly expanding demands for maps. It involves the preparation of 1:12500 photographic map series for the entire island.

3. Land is the raw material of nearly all wealth. But neither the development nor the administration of any plot of land can be planned economically or carried out efficiently without a complete and accurate knowledge of it's size, it's boundaries and the various natural and artificial features within it's borders. Proper maps supply this information. Aerial surveys permit the production of maps in the minimum time and at a much lower cost than is possible by ground survey methods.

4. The Survey Department has been engaged in Aerial Mapping on an ad hoc basis for the past twelve years. However, because, hitherto, neither the equipment nor the skill was locally available, contracts for map compilation have had to be given to commercial mapping companies in the United Kingdom. The setting up of this new section in the Department will enable all phases of the mapping process to be done locally.

5. A systematic mapping of the island at a scale suitable for feasibility studies in connection with land use, irrigation and drainage, geological, road construction and town planning schemes will mean that information will be readily available and such projects can be implemented with minimum delay. The establishment of a map production section in the Survey Department will enable the Government and the private sector to have ready access to maps which are

essential for the foregoing purposes for the island's development.

6. A Plan of Operation for the project was signed on the 9th of November, 1965, and the project became operational on the 23rd November, 1965.

7. The United Nations Project Manager, Mr. Cornelis Hoekstra has been on duty since the project became operative and the United Nations Photographer was detailed for duty on the project up to the end of December, 1966. A Consultant in photomechanical techniques was also assigned to the project for two months to assist with training of local personnel and to advise on the layout and equipping of an additional photo laboratory. One member of the staff of the Survey Department was sent to the United Kingdom for 4 months on a United Nations Fellowship to undergo training in advanced photo-mechanical techniques at the Directorate of Overseas Surveys.

A considerable amount of planning and preparatory work connected with alteration of the Survey Department building to accommodate the project, the ordering of equipment to be supplied by the United Nations Development Programme, the training of local personnel and the preparation of detailed specifications for the 1:12500 scale topographical maps have been carried out.

8. Two of the four phases of the building alterations have been completed by the Ministry of Communications and Works and the third phase is now in progress. All major photogrammetric equipment such as stereo-plotting instruments, camera, photo-type composing unit and other equipment, altogether valued at £42,900 approximately, have arrived, been installed, and are being used for training. 14 local personnel are receiving specialised training in photogrammetry, and cartographic drafting combined with photographic and photomechanical techniques to qualify them to assume full responsibility for the efficient operation of the map production unit.

9. Bilateral assistance in related fields is also being co-ordinated. So far, tangible assistance is being received from the United States of America and the United Kingdom through the Inter-American Geodetic Survey and the Directorate of Overseas Surveys

respectively. Offers for assistance have also been received from France and Canada. In the latter case there is reason to be optimistic that aid in the fields of aerial photography, consultants' services in computer programming for photogrammetric data processing, and map printing will be forthcoming.

10. Members of the Honourable House are asked to note the progress made under this project since it became operational on the 23rd November, 1965.

J. P. Gyles  
Minister of Agriculture & Lands  
2nd June, 1966.

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