SOCIAL RESEARCH ON SURINAM AND THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

In March 1964 the Advisory Council for Cultural Cooperation between the Countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommended to the three Governments that they devote particular attention to the study of the process of acculturation in Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles. The Netherlands Minister of Education and Sciences thereupon requested the Social Science Council of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences to elaborate this suggestion.

The latter Council recorded its views in a memorandum (10 June, 1965), in which it is argued that the problems of acculturation will become all the more urgent now the rate of the processes of change increases, among other things as a result of the social and economic development policy of the Government. The Council was of the opinion that intensification of research in this field is particularly desirable. The studies that have been performed in the last fifteen years give an essential and solid foundation for further research. The Council advised that acculturation research be continued on the basis of a research program drawn up by a small committee of experts.

At the request of the Minister the Board of WOTRO instituted this committee, after consultation with the Social Science Council. On 10 January, 1966, it met for the first time in the following composition: Professor Dr. R. A. J. Van Lier (chairman), Professor Dr. H. Hoetink, Professor Dr. A. J. F. Köbben, Drs. H. C. Van Renselaar and Professor Dr. J. D. Speckmann, while Dr. E. Meerum Terwogt of WOTRO acted as secretary.

The committee's report, which was mimeographed in March 1967, begins with a survey of completed and current investigations. As this survey may be useful to all who, for scientific or other reasons, are interested in the Surinam and Antillean societies, it has been decided to print it in the *Nieuwe West-Indische Gids*.

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the committee for making available the following part of the report.
PUBLICATIONS AND CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS

Apart from some studies that will be mentioned below, before the Second World War only a few social science publications appeared on Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles. Since 1945 however, social research has been of increasing importance in these regions. Doubtless of great significance to this development was the institution in 1954 of the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Research in Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles (WOSUNA), replaced in 1964 by the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO). In addition mention should be made of the Foundation for Cultural Cooperation with Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles (STICUSA) which has been active in its present form since 1955.

Below a survey is given of the results achieved and the present state of affairs. It may be remarked here that publications from other scientific disciplines have been included insofar as they are relevant to social science research.

SURINAM

For Surinam R. A. J. van Lier has worked out a research program directed in the first instance to the furtherance of descriptive sociological research into the various ethnic groups, being an essential foundation for specific acculturation studies. Partly thanks to financial support from WOSUNA, later WOTRO, and STICUSA this research program has already been largely realized.

1. GENERAL AND SOCIO-HISTORICAL STUDIES