

SEMINAR ON THE INTER AMERICAN

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

COUNTRY PAPER: D O M I N I C A

INTRODUCTION:

"The Family" it is said, "is a social pattern in which individuals who are specifically related by blood or marriage, or sometimes by adoption are linked together in a special type of relationship. In this way they form a group which usually share a domestic unit or house or household. Within this group a series of functions are performed which are very important for the society as a whole as well as for the individuals involved. The importance of the family institution in the Social Context could be classified into four main functions:

- (1) It provides economic support by the adult members of the group which it provides for the dependent members - children, sometimes women and sometimes the aged.
- (2) The family home/household forms the basic residential setting for most members of the society. It is here that the vital services of food, clothing, and shelter are provided.
- (3) A very important aspect of the family is that children are born and reared in that setting. Not only are the young given affectionate care and domestic services of all types, but a great deal of socialisation and transmission of culture also takes place. In