

past few years. It is also aware that there has been steady improvement in the rate of disbursement and that the back-log is now constantly decreasing. However, the Committee considers it significant that the statistics for the fiscal year 1968-69 show that the Commonwealth Caribbean Assistance Plan had the lowest ratio of disbursements to expenditures among all CIDA's bilateral area programmes. Out of an allocation of \$22,110,000.00 the actual expenditure was only \$9,103,160.00. While the gap appears to be lower for the current year, it will still be quite substantial. The Committee believes that a number of policy changes by CIDA (which are proposed later in this section) would enable the Caribbean countries effectively to absorb larger amounts of assistance in the future.

The Committee has concluded that there are further grounds for caution because of the role of the development assistance programme in overall Canada-Caribbean relations. The growth of the aid plan has contributed to a rapidly expanding Canadian presence in the region. This, in turn, appears to have raised apprehensions, outside official circles, about the nature of Canada's interests and motives. In some quarters Canada has been accused of paternalism and neo-colonialism. Canadian policy should take into account the danger that local distrust and animosity could seriously jeopardize the value of development efforts undertaken by Canada.

Another real danger is that the activities and pronouncements of anti-Canadian groups in the Caribbean countries could give rise to a mood of resentment in Canadian public opinion leading to pressure for a reduction in assistance and involvement.

The Committee has concluded, however, that there are valid grounds for maintaining the present aid concentration in the region. Furthermore, many of the new assistance activities proposed in this Report would involve a re-direction of funds which should lead to more flexible and effective use of the total expenditure.

### *3. Intra-regional concentration*

In recent years there has been a strong trend of concentration of Canadian assistance in the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean. The Little Seven islands have lower per-capita incomes than the larger countries and generally have very little industrial development. At the same time, their governments and peoples are very interested in cooperation with Canada and Canadian assistance to date has had tangible and very worthwhile results.

Per-capita aid statistics illustrate CIDA's particular emphasis on Barbados, the Little Seven and British Honduras, which together received \$8.80 (U.S.) per capita in Canadian assistance in 1969-70 compared to \$6.30 for Guyana, \$4.89 in Trinidad and Tobago, and \$2.64 in Jamaica. (The next most intensive concentration in the world-wide CIDA programme, was in Ghana, which received \$0.84 per capita).

Canada can provide assistance which is especially appropriate to the needs of these areas and there appear to be excellent prospects for continued effective cooperation. The Committee is, therefore, in full support of maintaining the