

should visits to the region by parliamentarians be overlooked. Their contacts in these countries can be influential in furthering Canadian interests including those in trade and cultural fields.

c) The Committee hopes that the Secretary of State for External Affairs will continue to appoint officers specializing in trade to this area. It is important that the general foreign policy concerns of External Affairs not subordinate the important trade component of Canada's interests.

d) Boycott demands introduce an element of uncertainty into business transactions, an element that businessmen would prefer to avoid, particularly since the practice varies from country to country. Moreover, boycott and anti-boycott pressures are unwelcome and undesirable to Canadians. For Canadian companies, these boycott demands are a cause of uneasiness and constitute something of a constraint in doing business in that part of the world.

e) The Committee urges the government to consider adopting the proposal set out in its recent Export Financing paper to expand and modify significantly the use of the mixed credit program and that it should be administered by the EDC. At the same time, the Committee urges the Canadian government, in implementing more aggressively this mixed credit facility, to look to Jordan as a country in which to "seek out new business under a more relaxed project selection procedure."

f) The Committee is convinced that the provision of educational services both in Canada or abroad to students of the area, not only constitutes valuable export sales in themselves, but can be regarded as a useful, albeit long-term, component of Canada's trade policy.

11. Development Assistance

The Committee considers that the present emphasis on Egypt as a core country for Canadian development assistance should be maintained.

The Committee considers that growth and stability in the West Bank and Gaza will be important for future peace in the area. The Committee recommends that the Canadian government and CIDA revise their policy toward the West Bank and Gaza and classify these territories in a way which will make them eligible for direct development program assistance and that CIDA put increased emphasis on support of non-governmental agencies working in this area. Particular attention should be given to Gaza because of the extremely crowded conditions, its large youthful population and its need for intensive development projects.

12. Immigration

Since Canada is prepared to take refugees from the Middle East and the quota is not being filled, the Committee recommends that the Canadian Government give its immigration officials a special, pragmatic and flexible authority to deal