

economic assistance was concentrated on the provision of infrastructure which would make the federation more viable, and took the form, among other things, of two cargo-passenger vessels for inter-island service.

The collapse of the West Indies Federation in 1962 ended, at least for the moment, the dream of a single united Commonwealth nation in the Caribbean, but it did not end Canadian interest in assisting the various West Indian territories in overcoming the problems of development which confront them. Indeed, with the attainment of independence by Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and later by Guyana and Barbados, Canadian interest in strengthening and giving new meaning to its special relation with the area has intensified. This was the background for the important conference held in Ottawa in July 1966 and attended by the Prime Minister and chief ministers of all the Commonwealth Caribbean countries, at which various avenues of collaboration in achieving development were explored. At that conference, Canada made it clear that the Commonwealth Caribbean would be considered an area of concentration in the Canadian aid programme. Even before the conference, the Commonwealth Caribbean was receiving more assistance from Canada, on a per capita basis, than any other part of the world.

Africa, a continent with which Canada had only the most tenuous relations in pre-war years, was the third area to come within the ambit of our aid programme. You will recall the great upsurge of independence which characterized the African scene in the years following 1957. Many of the newly-independent states had been British dependencies, and became members of the Commonwealth; others were formerly colonies of France and Belgium, and became heirs to the French language and culture. Thus it is in Africa that expression can be given in our aid programmes to Canada's own dual heritage.

Canadian assistance to Africa began in 1960, with an allocation for the Commonwealth African countries. In 1961 this was followed by the inauguration of a programme for the "Francophone" countries. Throughout Africa the most immediate need was for educational and technical assistance, and it was in these fields that we originally concentrated most of our attention. Recently, however, increasing emphasis has been placed on the need for capital projects, particularly for pre-investment and feasibility surveys, to enable the countries of Africa to make better use of their rich natural resources. From modest beginnings, our programmes for both Commonwealth and Francophone Africa have grown rapidly, as we have gained a greater understanding of Africa's needs and how they can be effectively met.

We were heavily involved in Asia, had undertaken a significant programme in the Commonwealth Caribbean, and faced a growing need in Africa, but could we afford to ignore the circumstances of Latin America? This was a difficult question. On the one hand, there was no doubt at all in our minds that the requirements of Latin America deserved the attention of the industrialized world. We had extensive diplomatic and commercial ties, and the sympathy that must come from our common membership in the American family. On the other hand, we lacked facility in