

of public investment flows to the region to enable development to proceed at the pace which is required to reach a take-off point. Against this background, the Prime Minister stated that Canada plays a vital role in the entire system of donor countries and in fact could take a lead role in mobilising the efforts of the donor group.

Speaking on behalf of the CARICOM Council of Ministers, the Right Honourable Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Jamaica, pointed out that the Caribbean Community comprises countries at different stages of economic development, but the distinguishing feature of their economies is the similarity in structural development problems. These problems have inhibited efforts to mobilise adequate finance to increase productive capacity and reduce the high levels of unemployment within the Community. The action which the Community seeks to instigate in the context of the Committee must lead to the development of enterprises and industries which will provide employment for some of the thousands of young and not so young people whose lives are being destroyed by their inability to support themselves and their families. The process can be profoundly assisted, Mr. Shearer said, through the strengthening of co-operation between the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada.

The Honourable Dr. Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, who led the Canadian delegation in dealing with the policy review of his country's relations with the Caribbean Community, announced that the Canadian Cabinet had approved an action plan for a regional policy approach which directed that the Commonwealth Caribbean should be accorded priority in the overall external policy of Canada. The Canadian Minister announced that there will be a steady expansion in the real value of Canadian aid to the region over the next five years. He expressed the hope that the totality of Canadian assistance flows would double in three to four years and confirmed that the bilateral programme will be increased from current levels of over \$30 million to at least \$55 million by the mid-point of the decade. Canada was also prepared to make emergency balance of payments assistance available to countries whose needs have been internationally recognized and for which an International Monetary Fund (IMF) remedial programme is agreed. The highest possible priority will be given to increased regional co-operation. Particular attention will be paid to the development needs of the LDCs (Less Developed Countries). In this context, Canada is prepared to organize with the World Bank, a special consultative meeting on the needs of the Leeward and Windward Islands. In addition, there will be increased levels of technical assistance, help in funding alternative energy studies and special assistance to meet the security needs of the region including civil emergency planning to deal with disasters such as hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, oil spills and epidemics.