

probably the Department of External Affairs, to be given firm co-ordinating responsibility for Canada-Caribbean relations.

It would also be important for all Departments involved to adopt a developmental perspective as a governing consideration in the conduct of those relations. The interdepartmental Committee on Canada-Commonwealth Caribbean relations should be directed on a continuing basis to apply this criterion to relevant policies of all departments concerned, detecting possible inconsistencies and pointing out possible supporting measures in the planning stage.

2. Levels and Directions of Assistance

Mention of per-capita aid levels had indicated the high priority placed on the Commonwealth Caribbean in CIDA allocations. Even in absolute terms, at more than twenty-four million dollars per annum, the area is a very substantial recipient of Canada's aid expenditures. The rate of growth is illustrated by the fact that in the 1958-60 period the total Canadian assistance to the area amounted to \$261,100,000.

The Committee has noted that Canadian assistance for the first four years after 1966 has already (at \$76.6 million) surpassed the five-year target of \$75 million announced at the 1966 Ottawa Conference. Canadian allocations have now grown to the point where this country provides 60% of the total per capita aid receipts in Guyana; 54% in Jamaica; 54% in Barbados, the Little Seven and British Honduras; and 30% in Trinidad and Tobago. Even among other areas of aid concentration, there is no region where the relative strength of the Canadian aid presence is even distantly comparable.

The Committee recognizes, of course, that external assistance forms only a small fraction of the total resources being harnessed by these countries for their development, with the vast majority being generated by internal efforts and sacrifices. The Committee believes, however, that Canada's present assistance role is of great importance and should be continued at its present general level.

The Committee believes that the spectacular expansion of Canadian assistance to the Caribbean over the past few years had led to a number of serious problems which should now be given concerted attention by the Canadian Government.

Because of the rapidity and extent of the programme's growth, the aid volume (at least under existing terms and conditions) appears to have reached the present limit of administrative and absorptive capacity. At the Canadian end, CIDA's facilities for evaluating, approving and administering Caribbean projects have probably been strained by the Plan's expansion. The resources of the Caribbean governments have been similarly stretched in selecting projects to fit the Canadian terms and conditions and finding the additional funds to finance the local costs of such projects.

A possible indication of over-extension in the Caribbean assistance programme is the rate at which the funds allocated have been disbursed. The Committee recognizes that a certain time-lag in disbursement is normal and that there have been general delays because of CIDA's rapid expansion and re-organization in the