

— We are prepared to do a good deal more to enhance the vital contribution of the private sector to the objectives of our joint trade and economic co-operation. We value the participation of both the 25 Caribbean and the 45 Canadian businessmen in the Canadian Association for Latin America and Caribbean (CALA)/Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) investment promotion meetings and look forward to hearing their comments at the end of these joint meetings. Canada's industrial co-operation program stands ready to assist in establishing new mutually beneficial relationships.

Security needs

To deal with the security needs of the region, additional programs will be made available. Among those proposed:

— Canada is prepared to offer training in civil emergency planning (to deal with disasters such as hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, oil spills and epidemics) either to CARICOM as an institution or to individual states.

— Canada is prepared to accept modest increases in the number of candidates for military and police training on a space available basis at Canadian institutions.

— A modest number of candidates for coast guard training will be accepted at the Department of Transport schools on a space available basis.

Fellow ministers, the Canadian government, through its offices in the Caribbean and through increased direct exchanges, has decided to step up the level of consultations with the governments and states of the region and regional institutions on any and all aspects of our present and future relationships.

Only with your guidance, indeed your concurrence, can we bring reality to this enhancement we propose in our relationship. We in Canada will approach the task with alacrity and enthusiasm.

If to the goodwill that exists around this task, we harness political will to improve the situation in these islands, we could establish a model for relationships among states.

I hope you will understand and share my own enthusiasm for the task. I see the purposeful development of closer, more comprehensive links between our countries, and the mobilization of the resources needed to touch and improve the lives of Caribbean men, women and children as a magnificent challenge. We must take these steps to be preserved and protected. While Canada would like, and will try hard to improve our trading and financial status in the region, I can assure you that Cabinet accepted this policy in the full knowledge that the primary profit from the investment of public Canadian resources would be found in human, humanitarian and political benefits. Our policy is a direct response to the Caribbean suggestion at Lusaka that particular attention be given micro- and mini-states.

I am personally delighted to have played a role in the formulation of this policy, pleased and proud to have this opportunity of presenting its broad outline to you today. I will listen with eagerness and attention to you, and I thank you for your attention to me.

S/C