

## IX TOURISM

While the economic impact is impossible to calculate with precision, tourism is obviously a major Canadian import (in the broad sense) from the Caribbean and one which is still growing very rapidly, even after the phenomenal expansion of the past few years. There is even a prospect of accelerated expansion with the advent of jumbo-jet service.

Although the tourist industry is clearly an important source of revenue, and is officially encouraged by all the governments of the area, the Committee has been given many reasons for apprehensions about further rapid growth.

The concerns reflected in this section almost all fall under the powers and responsibilities of the Caribbean governments. This discussion is undertaken for two reasons: first, to point out broad implications for Canada-Caribbean relations in general, and second, to assess the real economic impact of this export industry.

The massive influx of affluent white tourists to small islands populated mainly by poor, non-white citizens with memories of European colonialism will inevitably result in envy and resentment. By definition, tourists will tend to monopolize the most attractive and desirable properties, and most of the local people employed in the industry will be involved in a kind of servant capacity. The irritations are aggravated if most of the industry is foreign-owned. Basically these conditions prevail in the Caribbean, and a number of other undesirable social side-effects of tourism are probably also at work.

In the public mind, Canadian tourists in the area are in many ways viewed as being representative of Canada. While there is no reason to believe that they have engendered more resentment than other identifiable groups, nor can they be expected to be any more attuned to local concerns and sensitivities. As Canadian tourists establish a stronger presence, inevitably the whole issue of public goodwill toward Canada becomes involved.

From the viewpoint of both Canada and the Caribbean countries, there appears to be a definite limit on the number of tourists that can be absorbed without damaging consequences. In some countries, this point is close or may even have been passed. While the initiative is necessarily in the hands of the responsible Caribbean governments, Canadian officials (and, hopefully, tourists) must appreciate the problems and be prepared to respond with understanding to efforts to alleviate them.

Another major problem has been that too little of the economic benefit of tourism has accrued to the local societies. Prevalent foreign ownership has resulted