

scope and nature of the assistance available in existing bilateral, regional and other defence arrangements, as well as prior agreements on guidelines indicating in which situations such assistance should be sought.

In reviewing Canada's role in the region it was noted that in addition to its traditional role as an important aid donor, Canada could:

- if invited, expand its diplomatic role as an interpreter (especially to the international financial institutions) of the special needs of the Caribbean small states and re-evaluate the adequacy of existing consultative arrangements with the Caribbean;
- make its policies in the Caribbean more responsive to the interests of the large Caribbean immigrant communities in Canada;
- provide expanded institutional support and project assistance for the regional integration movements, in particular by supporting their capacity to implement decisions taken by regional bodies;
- provide assistance, as a Commonwealth state sharing similar institutions and values, in strengthening the institutional structures of the small states.

In the long term the Canadian role in the region might involve support for any federal or confederal arrangements that the Caribbean Community or the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States may choose to undertake. This support could be provided at the diplomatic level, but given Canada's longstanding political and technical experience of confederation what might be more important would be for Canada to provide technical support for, and advice on, initiatives for the promotion of political union, or any other closer association between the Caribbean small states.