

Looking to the future, I can foresee more strict conditions under which new Canadian investment will be welcome in the area and increasing pressures on existing Canadian investment to conform to local policies. Responsible investment is, however, wanted in the area and, from what I was told by governments, they are fully aware that the Canadian investor must be allowed to operate profitably at the same time as being expected to conform to local policies.

From what I have said, I think it is clear that I personally have no reservations about the closeness of our present relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean. My judgment is that these will continue. Time and time again I heard local leaders say that they liked dealing with Canada, in part because of our long historical association, in part because we treated them as equals, in part because we had no pretensions of imperialism or domination, in part because of similar traditions of law and government, in part because of strong personal connections. From prime ministers to taxi drivers, all seemed to have been to Canada, to have a relative in Canada, to want to go to Canada, or to have just received a letter from a friend in Canada. And the Caribbean leaders still look to Canada for friendship and help, perhaps now more than ever in the past.

We in Canada sometimes feel that we are a very small unit in a large, modern complicated world, trying against odds to control our own destiny. The same feeling, perhaps more powerfully, exists in the Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Domestically, they are trying, with limited resources, to promote rapid development and at the same time to cope with all the economic problems and social stresses which go with rapid development. Externally, they are conscious of shifting world trading patterns and economic alignments. But they tend to feel "comfortable", as one leader put it, in dealing with Canada and I found wide respect for the sort of foreign policies which we pursue in this country.

I do not wish to underemphasize the likelihood that new problems will arise in the future to test our goodwill and diplomatic skill. The Commonwealth Caribbean countries will judge their own national interests by their own national priorities, just as we judge ours. Nor do I wish to imply that the goodwill I found in my tour in any way meant that our discussions of bilateral problems were less than extremely vigorous. Trade, aid and political problems were raised with me at practically every stop, and frequently it was pointed out that there were very real differences of policies being pursued on our side and on theirs.

In the context of trade, the sugar question is much broader than simply the rebates issue which I mentioned earlier, and it affects most of the countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean with the exception of some of the smaller islands. Their basic grievance is that the price Canada pays them for their sugar is less than their cost of production. While they accept the fact that greater efficiencies are required in their production techniques, to bring their costs more in line with the world free price of sugar, they also argue that a number of particular circumstances apply to them, such as lack of domestic market, lack of resources to subsidize production and relatively high labour costs, which mean that the West Indies must obtain higher prices for their sugar exports if they are to survive as sugar producers.