

as three to four years. This will depend primarily on absorptive capacity, and in particular, the amount of resources that regional governments can and will make available for development projects and programs. I can confirm today that that part of the Canadian Official Development Assistance Program over which we have most influence, the bilateral program, will jump from current levels of over \$30 million to at least \$55 million by the mid point of the decade.

— All countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean, regardless of level of economic development, will be eligible for Canadian development assistance.

— We are prepared to make emergency balance-of-payments assistance available to countries whose balance-of-payments needs have been internationally recognized and for which an International Monetary Fund remedial program is agreed upon. This will be additional to and not offset by reductions in regular allocations.

— As regards the program objectives of this increased assistance, we will work with the Caribbean countries towards greater emphasis on the maintenance of economic, social and political stability, and the promotion of sustained economic development and growth.

— In accordance with the Canada/CARICOM agreement, we will pay particular attention to the development needs of the less-developed country states of the Eastern Caribbean. Canada is prepared to organize, with the World Bank, a special consultative meeting this spring on the needs of the Leeward and Windward Islands.

— We will continue to accord the highest possible priority to increased regional co-operation.

— To ensure more rapid disbursement of development assistance funds and to improve the effectiveness of program development, we will give serious consideration to decentralizing CIDA operations to the field.

— We will provide increased levels of technical assistance concentrated on economic and financial management in the public sectors, and on the production areas in private sectors.

— One million dollars a year on highly concessional rates can be made available to CARICOM in industrial co-operation credits to permit the hiring of Canadian advisers to assist in industrial development planning and implementation.

— At CARICOM's request, Canada is ready to provide a Canadian official to the joint CARICOM/Canada desk on industrial co-operation for up to three years.

— Canada is similarly willing to help in funding alternative solutions to current energy problems by commissioning studies and by supporting Canadian companies who have appropriate technologies to enable them to test, demonstrate and transfer these techniques to the Caribbean.

— Canada also offers to help CARICOM in computerization, particularly in the application of mini- and micro-computers through industrial co-operation studies and technology transfers.
