

One aspect of Canadian aid which is of particular interest to the Maritimes is our programme of assistance to The West Indies. There are, of course, long-standing links between Canada -- especially this part of Canada -- and The West Indies. At the present time the islands in The West Indies are emerging toward independence within the Commonwealth. They are doing so under the auspices of a Federation established last year with its capital at Port-of-Spain. This new Federation will be Canada's closest Commonwealth neighbour and we anticipate that our relations with the Federation will come to reflect this special association through greater and freer trade, through increasing student exchanges, and in many other ways. We have already undertaken to provide The West Indies with assistance in their economic development by undertaking to make a total of \$10 million available to them for this purpose over the next five years. The form which this assistance will take is intended to reflect Canada's interest in seeing the bonds of the Federation as such strengthened. To this end, it is likely that the bulk of the funds to be made available to The West Indies will be used for the building in Canada of two ships for inter-island service in The West Indies. These ships will mean to the new Federation what our transcontinental railway meant to Canada in linking the Maritimes to Western Canada in the building of our nation. These ships will, it is hoped, contribute to the development of a viable economy for the new Federation in which the resources of the small and scattered islands may be harmoniously and advantageously, rather than competitively exploited. The consequent development of a broader commercial and industrial system will be of direct benefit as well to the Maritimes with which The West Indies already enjoy such mutually advantageous traditional trading links.

There is, however, a third reason underlying international aid today which is directly related to the cold war now being relentlessly waged between East and West. I cannot leave the twin subjects of trade and aid which have been my main theme this evening without referring, however briefly, to the challenge that we are facing from the Soviet Union on both counts.

In recent years the Soviet Union and its communist partners have launched a trade offensive which is calculated to capture markets in all parts of the world almost without regard to considerations of cost or profit. They have also, from time to time, disrupted the world's commodity markets -- tin and aluminum are two examples -- by releasing supplies at times and in quantities sufficient to create or intensify serious falls in prices. Offers of economic assistance, too, have been and are made on terms which it is difficult or even impossible for the free economies of the West to meet. In actual fact, of course, the countries of the West have done very much more to help the economically under-developed countries of the world than has the Soviet Union and its allies and satellites. But this certainly does not mean