

Aird. I strongly support the endorsement he gave to the work of that Committee, mentioning as he did particularly Senators Grosart and Robichaud, and other members of the Committee.

I can say to members of the Committee that I was questioned about this on many occasions. Naturally, I had to reply that it was a Committee report, which did not necessarily in all its particulars reflect the views of the Government, and that the recommendations of the report were being studied by the Government, as indeed they are. I was able to point out, however, that the report itself, the amount of time and effort which had been put into it by members of the Senate under Senator Aird's chairmanship, and their desire to listen to the evidence of a large number of eminent authorities on the Commonwealth Caribbean, demonstrated in concrete fashion the very real interest which existed in Canada towards the region. I might add that, although some of the individual points made in the Senate Committee report were not equally espoused by all of the Caribbean leaders, they were very full in their praise for the excellence, comprehension and balance of the report.

There had obviously been misunderstandings in the Commonwealth Caribbean about the Canadian offer of a \$5-million agricultural development fund. Critical things had been said about it earlier in the year. However, when I explained that the Canadian offer should be judged on its own merits, that it was independent of the sugar-rebates issue, that the fund was replenishable and could be substantially untied, and that it represented a genuine attempt by the Canadian Government to offer help of a generous kind in a sector to which the Commonwealth Caribbean attached high priority, the reception of the Canadian proposal quickly became enthusiastic, and that is the reception that I now note. All governments welcomed the idea of an agricultural development fund, and this, of course, was presaged in the Senate Committee report. We had useful exchanges about the best means of implementing the fund. Some differing views were put forward by countries of the region about, for example, the most appropriate channel of administration, but I am confident that these will soon be resolved and that the fund will soon become operational.

I might say a few words about investment, since it was a subject which figured prominently in the Senate Committee report. I did not meet a single government in the Commonwealth Caribbean which did not want more private Canadian investment in its country.

In asking for more Canadian investment, however, most governments also raised the issue of local policy guidelines. These are more advanced in some countries than in others. Much of the Commonwealth Caribbean is going through the same sort of soul-searching examination that has been taking place in Canada on the question of how much control can or should be effected on foreign investment in key sectors. Many would like to see some form of local participation in most investment. Lack of local resources or the type of investment may not make this possible in all cases. What all governments are seeking, however, is some means of ensuring that foreign capital is used to promote the development of the country and the welfare of its people within the framework of national policies. They recognize that foreign investment is a means of importing needed skills and expertise, as well as capital, but they also want local peoples to be trained in these skills and to be employed in these industries.