

interests. In November, Canada hosted the first meeting of the Joint Trade and Economic Committee provided for under the Canada/Caricom Agreement to enable its members to review progress and consult on economic matters of mutual concern. In 1979 Canadian exports to Caricom states amounted to \$257million; the value of our imports reached \$114 million. A number of industrial co-operation projects were initiated.

To assist the region in combating its serious economic and development problems Canada participated in the second annual meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development (CGCED) in June and a \$10-million pledge covering lines of credit and project assistance for Jamaica, Barbados and the Leeward and Windward Islands, was announced in October. A Canadian representative was asked to serve on the CGCED Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, which met in November to examine regional project proposals. Canada also joined in a second meeting of the "Friends of Jamaica" group held to assist Jamaica in resolving its economic difficulties, and Canada played an active role in the Caribbean Development Bank. The development assistance programs of CIDA continued to stress the generation of productive employment opportunities, and the area remains the highest per capita recipient of Canadian assistance of any part of the world.

The heavy movement of people between Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean continued in 1979. Some 400,000 Canadian tourists travelled to the area seeking a respite from the rigours of a northern climate and approximately 7,400 immigrants from the Commonwealth Caribbean joined the large and growing segment of Canadian society comprising persons of Caribbean origin. Students from Caribbean countries continued to be welcomed in Canadian universities and some 4,400 persons came to Canada in 1979 for temporary employment in agriculture under the Caribbean Seasonal Workers Program.

In November, a group of six Caribbean journalists were invited to Canada for a cross-country tour which enabled them to develop their knowledge of the country. Naval visits to Caribbean countries continued in 1979 with Canadian ships calling at Bermuda, the Bahamas, Antigua, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia and Barbados.

Co-operation between Canada and the states of the Commonwealth Caribbean in international forums remained close in 1979. At the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored a resolution on the independence and territorial integrity of Belize which received the support of the states of the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean were further strengthened through a number of visits which took place in 1979. In January, the Secretary of State for External Affairs accompanied by three members of Parliament and a group of seven Canadian businessmen visited Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia for bilateral talks and the signing of the Canada/Caricom Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement. Members of Parliament represented Canada at the festivities marking the two-hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of the Parliament of the Bahamas, as well as those marking the independence of St. Vincent and the opening of the Grantley-Adams airport in Barbados, designed and built with Canadian assistance. In the other direction, official visits were paid to Canada in 1979 by the Prime Ministers of Grenada and Dominica.

The person-to-person links which are such an important part of the ties which bind Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean were also reinforced by numerous other visits, essentially of a private nature. Among those who came to Canada in 1979 for private visits were the Prime Ministers of Jamaica, Barbados and the Bahamas and the Governor General of the Bahamas.