

The development of heavy tourism from Canada has significant effects. Over 400,000 Canadians visit the region each year and, in some countries like Barbados, they are usually the single largest group of tourist arrivals. A large number of Canadians own homes, notably in Montserrat, Grenada and Antigua, and are resident in the area for at least part of the year. These movements of people are not always free of difficulty. But the balance sheet is decidedly pro-goodwill, of economic benefit to the region and a source of personal pleasure to Canadians. Regular meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the frequent special exchange visits of Canadian and Caribbean parliamentarians, have developed a special relationship and affinity between legislators.

As you would expect, we also looked closely at our development cooperation relationship.

Public consensus in Canada supports this cooperation. For average Canadians, the Commonwealth Caribbean is the part of the developing world they know. It was one of the first areas of concentration for Canadian development assistance. It is an area where we have confidence that aid dollars are well spent. Waste and ostentation are minimal and a high degree of public probity prevails. I salute you ministers and your governments that this continues to be the case.

CIDA has disbursed approximately 300 million Canadian dollars since the inception of its programme in the area in 1959. Indeed the region remains the highest per capita recipient of Canadian assistance. In the current year Canadian development assistance provided to the Commonwealth Caribbean will total about 41 million Canadian dollars. Thirty-one million dollars bilateral assistance is provided on a government-to-government basis, about 3.5 million dollars through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), five million dollars through the non-governmental programme and about one million dollars by the industrial cooperation programme. You will also be aware that the Commonwealth Caribbean has benefited from Canadian funds provided to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Development Bank (IDB), Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its agencies which fund programmes in the area. In short, there is an impressive tradition of important investment. We decided to protect and enhance this mutual investment for the future.

Quite naturally we reviewed our political links. We found that Canada's relations with the states of the region have traditionally been excellent, nourished by a constant two-way flow of leaders on private and official