

representatives, widened members interests, and given them a better foundation for asking questions. The Conservatives maintained a respectable 61 to 68 per cent attendance, the Liberals a 48 to 57 per cent rate while the NDP fluctuated between 37 and 71 per cent. (See Table 12) Between 1976 and 1979 the committee had averaged only 15 meetings per year. In 1980 this rose to 36 while in 1981 it fell back to 26 before climbing to an all time high of 73 in 1982. (See Table 10) The committee now ranked fifth among all standing committees for meetings held. It produced 16 reports and gathered 4,629 pages of evidence. (See Table 15) The extraordinary work of the committee in 1982 can be explained by the 39 sessions devoted to security and disarmament and the 19 sessions devoted to debating a sub-committee's reports on Canada's relations with the Caribbean, Central and South America. (See Table 11) Both were topical subjects in which there was considerable public interest, marked party divisions and sharp differences within the Conservative and Liberal parties.

For many members it has been on sub-committees, where they could concentrate on a single subject, that they have found their greatest fulfilment. In the last ten years four important sub-committees have focused on international development assistance, the Madrid Conference on European Security and Economic Cooperation and on Canada's relations with the Caribbean, Central and Latin America. (See Table 14)

Parliamentarians had always shown above average interest in international development matters but allegations of mismanagement in CIDA in 1974 served to point up how little control parliament seemed to have over its administration and policies. Even Government members began to have doubts about the operation. "Parliament has less and less control over this organization" argued one member in pleading that members be given copies of the Price-Waterhouse study of CIDA's operations. Another blatantly announced that "CIDA has become a kind of state within a state, and nobody seems to know quite what is going