



Heads of government from the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada at the talks.

private investment. Canadian preferences were first offered on selected West Indian exports in 1898 and have been extended so at present 95 per cent of all Commonwealth exports enter Canada duty-free and of the remaining 5 per cent most enjoy preferential tariff treatment.

The heads of government stressed the importance of investment in the Caribbean economies and of improved access to markets for the products of the Caribbean. They noted the opportunities for trade and investment available under the 1979 Canada-CARICOM Trade and Economic Agreement and indicated that areas for improvement should be pursued at the next meeting of the Canada-CARICOM Joint Trade and Economic Committee to be held this year in Ottawa.

The Canada-CARICOM Trade and Economic Agreement and an Industrial Co-operation Protocol have led to new approaches to industrial development over recent years.

Canadian input in the Caribbean in this area has been channelled through the industrial co-operation program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which will sponsor an exhibition of Canadian products in the food and energy sectors in Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 19-21. Fifty Canadian firms will display their expertise and entrepreneurial skills in the CAN-TEC 83 Caribbean exhibition. The exhibition is part of an ongoing program by CIDA to hold transfer of technology exhibitions and seminars in a number of countries.

The Canadian industrial co-operation program makes financial contributions to

projects in the Caribbean that: provide information on industrial co-operation opportunities in a readily usable format; facilitate contacts between Canadian businessmen and their Caribbean counterparts; involve pre-investment studies by Canadians; assist Canadian companies in overcoming special problems; increase the developmental impact of Canadian business ventures; assist technical, business and other organizations providing services or activities relating to the objectives of the program; and assist selected developing countries to improve their capacities for industrialization.

Focus on Caribbean needs

During their talks in St. Lucia, the Caribbean leaders said they were pleased that Canada in its relations with the region had never sought to impose its own philosophy and perceptions on Commonwealth Caribbean countries, but had sought to respond to the needs and priorities of the countries themselves.

They also expressed satisfaction that the Canadian aid program promotes efforts at regional integration and co-operation and supports multilateral regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community Secretariat, the University of the West Indies and similar institutions. The heads of government also said they welcomed the establishment of an annual small projects assistance fund (amounting to \$150 000 in 1983-84) for the CARICOM Secretariat.

The Caribbean leaders expressed the hope that Canada would expand its sup-

port to organizations such as the Caribbean Food Plan. The Caribbean Research and Development Institute, the West Indies Shipping Corporation, the Leeward Island Air Transport Service and the Caribbean Examinations Councils. They expressed a desire for assistance in the region to rationalize air and sea transportation. The leaders said they welcomed the assistance being given by Petro Canada International in helping to develop hydrocarbons both onshore and offshore the Caribbean.

Oil rig disaster simulated

Canada's National Research Council is testing scale models of the *Ocean Ranger*, the ill-fated oil rig which sank February 1982, killing all 84 crew members.

In an effort to determine the cause of the disaster, the NRC and Norwegian experts have built several models of the rig at the NRC laboratories in Ottawa under a \$700 000 contract to the Royal Commission on the *Ocean Ranger* Marine Disaster.

Details of testing at the NRC's hydraulics laboratory and National Aeronautical Establishment are being kept secret because the data collected will be used as evidence at the royal commission's public hearings on the disaster. NRC's portion of the testing contract is worth \$230 000.

Researchers plan to subject a large 600-kilogram model of the rig to rough seas generated in a totally rebuilt wave tank at NRC's hydraulics laboratory.

Seaworthiness tested

In a related experiment, the researchers will also subject a model of the rig to different wind and wave conditions to obtain more general data about the seaworthiness of oil rigs and other "semi-submersible" vessels.

"It will be a landmark in testing because it's the most intensive study of a semi-submersible ever," said Earl Dudgeon, director of the NRC's mechanical engineering division.

The Norwegian segment of the testing will be done at the Hydraulic Laboratories in Trondheim, Norway, giving researchers two separate sets of data to work with. Trondheim was chosen because it had specialized hydraulic equipment necessary for the tests. Norway — a major supplier of offshore rigs and structures — has a world-wide reputation for testing them.

Bob Cooper