

VII THE WORK OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. *General*

In general, the Caribbean is an area of intensive concentration for the overseas activities of the Canadian voluntary sector. In addition to the traditional involvement of the Christian Churches, many of Canada's main voluntary agencies are active in relief and welfare work, youth projects, education, and medical assistance.

In its hearings, the Committee met with representatives of several churches and the Canadian University Service Overseas (C.U.S.O.). Further attention has been given to the work of voluntary agencies in general, and additional material has been examined. The Committee has been extremely impressed by the knowledge and dedication of the personnel of voluntary agencies in the Caribbean, and by the extent and value of their work.

It is clear that the changing conditions in the Caribbean countries are affecting vitally the methods and objectives of voluntary activities. In most cases, the objective of economic and social development is paramount, and the maximum involvement of the local population is an urgent priority. The emphasis is on cooperation rather than "assistance", and the goal is to eliminate the need for outsiders as soon as possible.

In the educational and technical assistance fields, the qualifications required of outside personnel are constantly rising. In some cases this has led to difficulties in recruiting and paying personnel at more senior levels. It is generally recognized, however, as heartening evidence of progress in local manpower development. In general, too, the personnel of non-governmental agencies appear to continue to enjoy a large measure of public goodwill in the area despite the growing nationalism and even blanket hostility toward foreigners in some sectors of opinion. On a person-to-person basis, Canadian voluntary agencies make a positive and substantial contribution to Canada-Caribbean relations.

2. *Canadian Official Cooperation*

The Canadian Government has recognized the invaluable and often unique contribution of Canadian voluntary agencies in assisting developing countries. In 1967 C.I.D.A. instituted a Special Programs Division with the objective of assisting non-governmental agencies in development projects and programmes. In 1969-70 the total allocation for assistance to non-governmental organizations is \$6.5 million, a substantial increase over the 1968 level. Grants are made to volun-