

Canada. Visits to Canada by TCI exporters have been uncommon due to the limited extent and nature of the Islands' exports and the ability to sell available fish products to the U.S. market.

Visits by parliamentarians between Canada and the TCI have been infrequent. Most of those parliamentarians who have travelled to the other country have tended to have do so without public support.

Previous sections (e.g. III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, X and XII above) have outlined some of the constraints to increased trade and investment and recommended a number of specific remedial measures. My discussions with representatives of the private sector in Canada and in the TCI indicate that they would welcome additional support from the public sector (beyond those areas mentioned in preceding sections of this report. The ideas proposed by the private sector focus on the following, ie additional public sector support for:

- (a) a program of visits by political leaders;
- (b) creation of a focal point in Canada to facilitate TCI contact with potential investors, and exporters; and
- (c) Canadian trade missions to the Island to promote exports and TCI missions to Canada to increase tourism.

There is also a feeling on the part of some members of the private sector that Canadian investment in the Islands would increase if there was some assurance about the security of investment.

On the surface these would appear to be mutually beneficial activities which would warrant public sector support. However, from the Canadian perspective these are practical constraints. These focus on:

- (1) the limited availability of financial and human resources in relation to our priorities in other countries with larger markets and greater potential economic benefits for Canada (See Appendix 52 for a comparison of population and Gross National Product and GNP per capita for countries in the Caribbean and Central America); and
- (2) the prevailing view that the private sector should remain responsible for making its own decisions on resource allocation based on a case by case assessment of the potential profit and loss and of the risks involved.