

electrical machinery notes losing sales because he could not secure satisfactory delivery dates for some LDC exports, and a smaller eastern industrial chemicals manufacturer reports:

"Sailing frequencies to Latin America have caused scheduling problems. As well, freight costs from North America are much higher than from Europe."

Ocean carriers do not, in general, often stray from their published schedules. Though not particularly common, instances of schedule delays can result in inconvenience and additional cost as illustrated by the comments of a medium sized exporter of agricultural products who indicates that schedule delays in shipments to certain Caribbean and African countries have resulted in unexpected storage costs and in extreme cases, product deterioration. In addition, a large eastern Canadian firm complains of those countries which require use of national flag carriers which do not arrive at port on time, with the result of delays in payment.

4.5 PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON SERVICES

Few shippers report any difficulty in obtaining comprehensive and current information from their ocean carriers regarding rates, conditions, sailing dates, etc. Two eastern Canadian firms in the fabricated metals industry note that there are often unpublicized sailings from Canadian ports, and suggest that the federal government could provide assistance by publishing a detailed index of shipping lines and services available to different parts of the world.

4.6 AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE CONTAINERS

Little difficulty in obtaining suitable containers is reported, although a small eastern shipper indicates that less than container load (LCL) shipment rates are extremely high and suggests that the establishment of consolidation services would make it easier for small shippers to export to LDC's.

4.7 PORTS OF CALL

Canadian exporters to LDC markets are generally satisfied with carriers' selection of regular ports of call. However, there is an expressed desire that more ocean carriers be attracted to Canadian ports, improving access to foreign destinations. For example, as indicated by a small western manufacturer of non-electrical machinery: