



Church flails 'sex' ads that lure Japanese

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Illegal sex will run rampant on Caribbean islands if tourism authorities continue to use half-dressed women to entice Japanese tourists, a prominent churchman has charged.

"There's been a move in the Caribbean to attract rich Japanese visitors but I object in the way they're promoting the islands," said Alan Kirton, leader of the Caribbean Council of Churches.

"If you show half-dressed women in the promotion, you can't be surprised if the purchaser wants that product delivered when he gets here.

"The islands better repackage their product and aim for a different market," he warned.

Kirton wants the advertising aimed at family groups and up-scale travellers who stay briefly but spend more.

He said, "The ordinary Japanese worker ends his day by having a good time. Studies I've seen prove that when these people travel in areas like Manila and Thailand they go after sex. We don't want them here."

Mass tourism of any sort is damaging the islands, Kirton charged at a meeting of the International Coalition on Third World Tourism held in Tobago.

"A lot of hotels don't make adequate provisions for waste disposal and waste gets ejected into the seas," he said. "There's also a lack of capacity to deal with the large cruise ships. Because the islands don't have facilities to deal with waste coming from the ships it gets jetted into the water."

Careless tourists are de-

stroying the islands' ecology, he added. To alert the islands to the dangers, a video called "Cry For Buccoo" has been produced showing the damage done to the Buccoo reef in Tobago caused by tourists ripping off chunks of coral to take home as souvenirs.

"I also find the architecture of resorts offensive because the huge multi-story buildings don't fit in with the rest of the islands' architecture," Kirton said. "But what bothers me most is that tourists are given a false perception of how we live. Tourists don't want to be segregated. I believe they want to see us as we are... eat the same food we do and enjoy the same entertainment we enjoy."