

B/N Sangster, Donald

LIVES OF THE PRIME MINISTERS

SIR DONALD BURNS SANGSTER

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Born in St. Elizabeth on October 26th, 1911, Sir Donald Sangster was educated at Munro College, and was admitted as a solicitor of the Court of Judicature in August 1937. He was elected a Member of the House of Representatives in 1949, and the following year became Minister of Social Welfare, a post he held until he was appointed Minister of Finance in 1953.

He continued as Minister of Finance when independence came in 1962. In February 1967 he became Prime Minister until his death in April the same year.

Sir Donald Sangster's contribution to the Commonwealth, race relations and the principles of parliamentary government was considerable.



He made contact with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association soon after his election to Parliament in 1949. As Minister of Social Welfare he was Jamaica's representative on the General Council and a delegate to successive conferences in New Zealand, Ceylon and Canada, besides the conference in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1956, which he himself was instrumental in arranging. 1966

In 1962 he was elected Vice-Chairman of the General Council of the C.P.A. and in 1963 became its Chairman.

He advocated a substantial increase in the exchange of parliamentary delegations between member countries of the Commonwealth, and also the holding of conferences of Speakers and conferences of Clerks, whether at Commonwealth or regional level.

He believed that Jamaica had a great contribution to make to the Commonwealth ideal and could exert a great influence for good.

His death was keenly felt by the many colleagues and friends all over the world who shared his ideas.

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