

Establishment of the Working Party of Officials on
Independence

Immediately following the Referendum Government gave consideration to the administrative action that needed to be taken in the light of the decision of Jamaica to seek independence as a sovereign state. Once it was known that Independence would come at some date possibly not too late in 1962, it became necessary to make preparations for a number of things which had to be put in train before Independence so that on the Independence date the country would be ready to accept the major responsibilities of nationhood. To take the matter further the Central Planning Unit was directed on September 20th to embark forthwith on a preliminary examination of the problems arising consequent on this decision and to indicate as far as practicable at that stage their range and complexity.

2. Constitution of the Official Working Party on Independence

On the 25th September Cabinet gave detailed consideration to the many suggestions and the recommendations made as a result of these official investigations and endorsed the opinion that there were five distinct jobs to be undertaken before full independence for Jamaica could be achieved, namely:-

- (a) Removing Jamaica from the Federation.
- (b) Negotiate and prepare for Jamaica's independence on its own.
- (c) Negotiate for Jamaica's continued participation in such joint services as the Government of the day shall determine and accept.
- (d) Prepare for negotiating:-
 - (i) a financial agreement with the United Kingdom;
 - (ii) U.S. and Canadian aid to be based on a special development plan.

Accordingly, Government immediately took steps to establish a Working Party of Officials:-

- (a) to undertake a comprehensive study of the financial and other implications of Jamaica's independence on her own;

- (b) to examine within the context of her political disengagement from the West Indies Federation the future of all the common services;
 - (c) to draw up interim proposals so that services did not come to an abrupt end, and finally
 - (d) to suggest what were the likely permanent solutions.
3. Composition of the Working Party

The Working Party of Officials held its inaugural meeting on the 27th September, 1961, under the Chairmanship of Mr. G.A. Brown, Director, Central Planning Unit, and the following officials were appointed members of the Official Working Party :-

Messrs G.A. Brown, Director, Central Planning Unit, Chairman
 P.W. Beckwith, Acting Financial Secretary
 V.H. McFarlane, Permanent Secy., Office of the Premier
 & Ministry of Development.
 H.L. Lindo, Governor's Secretary
 V.C. Smith, Permanent Secy., Ministry of Trade and
 Industry
 A.I. Morais, Asst. Under Secy., Office of the Premier,
Executive Secretary
 B.J. Scott, Assistant Secretary

In the light of the five important tasks with which the country was now confronted on the road to independence the Working Party proceeded to give detailed consideration to those matters which fell within its competence; agreed that a number of technical studies and investigations on a broad basis would be necessary if a full appreciation were to be gained of all that was required to be done.

4. Sub-Committees

In order to achieve this objective with the greatest possible speed the Official Working Party proceeded to establish a number of sub-committees each charged with the responsibility to examine and report back to the Central Working Party on five specific subjects: Defence, External Affairs, Finance, Trade and the Common Services.

The composition and their terms of reference of these committees were accordingly settled as in ANNEX I.

Each member of the Working Party undertook the Chairmanship of one of the sub-committees whilst the Chairman and Executive Secretary were ex officio members of all Sub-Committees thereby ensuring constant liaison and coordination of effort as between Committees and the Central Working Party.

The Cabinet placed the highest level of priority on the task of the Working Party and its sub-committees, and Ministries and their Departments have been requested to cooperate fully by supplying promptly any relevant information required for analysis or study and to make available the services of any officer whose specialised training and advice would facilitate discussion and research.

5. Residual Matters

All other matters not specifically assigned to a Sub-Committee fell to be dealt with by the Central Working Party until a decision was taken by Government to allocate them elsewhere.

The general range of these subjects appear in ANNEX II

Soon after the establishment of the Working Party the Premier, by a unanimous vote in the House of Representatives on the 17th October, 1961 secured the approval of the Resolution setting up a Select Committee in the House to prepare proposals for a Constitution of Jamaica to take effect on Independence.

Members of this Honourable House are aware of the fact that work is proceeding in this connection and the Official Working Party is therefore concentrating its attention on matters largely of a non-constitutional nature.

6. In closing the debate on the Resolution referred to above the Premier, in replying to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who had recommended that the Civil Service should be set to work in committees examining the things that had to be done now before Independence and immediately after Independence, closed the debate by informing the House that Civil Service Committees of senior officials had already been put to work from as early as 20th September, the day after the Referendum, on the immediate needs of Jamaica moving swiftly to Independence.

7. Work of the Committees

Interim Reports have so far been prepared by the Committees dealing with Defence, External Affairs, Trade and the UCWI and other Common Services. These have been considered by the Central Working Party of officials and are to be closely examined by Government before decisions

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are arrived at.

In so far as Defence is concerned substantial agreement has already been reached on a bi-partisan level on all points of major importance.

The report of the Sub-Committee on External Affairs and Overseas Representation has been examined by Government and a Ministry Paper is to be presented for debate in the House setting out the proposals for this important function of sovereignty.

Interim reports from other committees are yet to be considered by Government and proposals formulated for the consideration of the House.

8. All the foregoing has been in keeping with the assurance given by the Premier to this Honourable House on the 23rd September, 1961, to the effect that it was not the intention of Government to settle the forms of Jamaica's independent constitution or any matter of major national interest without the fullest consultation between the two parties represented in the House of Representative. Government has considered it a matter of the greatest importance that now that we have settled which road we are to take, both parties in Jamaica should collaborate in the decisions which will have to be made.

N. W. MANLEY

Premier and Minister of Development

January, 1962.

LIST OF SUB-COMMITTEES ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

1. DEFENCE H. L. Lindo, Governor's Secretary, CHAIRMAN
 V. H. McFarlane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development
 O. H. Murray, Acting Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance
 A. H. Stuart, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of
 Development, SECRETARY

Coopted Members:

Brig. D. W. Lister, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Commander,
 Caribbean Area
 Brig. J. F. Lindner, O.B.E., M.C., Secretary, Jamaica
 Territorial Forces
 Lt. Col. David Smith, E.D., Commanding Officer, W.I.R.
 Lt. Col. M. McClure Williams, R.A., A.A. and Q.M.G.
 Caribbean Area.
 Major John Garnett, General Staff Officer

Terms of Reference:

To deal with all matters affecting national defence and internal security, which now have to be re-considered by virtue of the fact that the West India Regiment and other elements of defence as at present constituted would cease to be a Federal force.

To make recommendations.

2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OVERSEAS REPRESENTATION

V. H. McFarlane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development,
 CHAIRMAN
 O. D. Sanguinetti, Under Secretary, Establishments Division,
 Ministry of Finance
 A. B. Smith, Chief Personnel Officer, Services Commission
 A. I. Morais, Assistant Under Secretary, Office of the Premier
 Miss C. Parris, Assistant Training Officer, Ministry of
 Finance, SECRETARY
 S. J. G. Fingland, Commonwealth Relations Office Adviser on
 Commonwealth Relations & External
 Affairs (Co-opted Member).

Terms of Reference:

To study all aspects of overseas representation for Jamaica in particular establishment and organisation.

To examine the relationship with existing overseas services established by the Federation or any local statutory body and the administrative arrangements that would be needed in Jamaica to deal with external affairs.

To outline a programme of training and its related costs.

3. TRADE AND RELATED MATTERS

V. C. Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade & Industry,
 CHAIRMAN
 H. Barber, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance
 K. B. Scott, Acting Deputy Collector General
 H. A. Braham, General Manager, Industrial Development Corpora-
 tion
 D. Hall, Central Planning Unit, SECRETARY
 S. St. A. Clarke, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance
 (Coopted Member)
 F. G. Holder, Acting Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry
 of Agriculture and Lands
 (Coopted Member)

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Terms of Reference:

To examine all matters relating to trade agreements, trade negotiations and the position of an independent Jamaica with regard to the GATT, the European Common Market and all relevant international and regional commodity agreements.

To assess the advantages or otherwise of a trading community in the area in terms of a modified Customs Union or Free Trade Area.

To make recommendations.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS

P. W. Beckwith, Acting Financial Secretary, CHAIRMAN
H. A. Walker, Investment Officer, Ministry of Finance
Mrs. G. Scott, Principal Assistant Secretary, Central Planning Unit
C. Madden, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance
C. H. Dinroe, Acting Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Coopted Member)
S. Payton, Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, (Coopted Member)
D. R. Clarke, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance, (Coopted Member)

Terms of Reference:

To deal with all matters relating to finance and fiscal policy, banking and currency, international financial institutions, interim and long term economic aid, financial settlement with United Kingdom Government.

To examine all aspects of possible financial liability to the Federal Government arising from secession vis a vis any legitimate claim by Jamaica on Federal reserves.

To make recommendations.

5. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES AND OTHER COMMON SERVICES

G. A. Brown, Director, Central Planning Unit, CHAIRMAN
O. H. Murray, Ministry of Finance, Deputy Chairman
V. H. McFarlane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development
Winston Stewart, Chief Technical Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
O. H. Goldson, Assistant Under Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
H. Tomlinson, Acting Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance
A. A. Rattray, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Terms of Reference:

To examine the position of the University College of the West Indies in the context of an independent Jamaica.

To examine all aspects of our relationship with other common services, international and regional organisations.

To make recommendations regarding possible future patterns of association and the financial implications.

SCHEDULE OF RESIDUAL MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY
THE CENTRAL WORKING PARTY

1. COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES
 - (i) Jamaica's relationship with the Federal Government in the matter of technical assistance available under the various advisory and consultative services sponsored by the C.D.&W. Programmes, for example, Marketing, Meteorology, Telecommunications, Standards, etc..
2. CROWN AGENTS
 - (i) Continuation of policy of liaison with Crown Agents following independence, and the advantages or otherwise of retaining services of this organisation as Purchasing Agents for the independent Jamaica, and as a Clearing House for other matters.
3. PROTOCOL CEREMONIAL AND STATE RITUAL
 - (i) Preparation of Table of Precedence, Standard Operating Procedure for State Ceremonies (convening and proroguing of Parliament, State Funerals, Royal Visits and other State visits).
 - (ii) Creation of National Orders, Dignities and Titles.
 - (iii) Decision to continue to be the beneficiaries of Royal Honours.
 - (iv) Erection of Government Hospitality Centres and State Conference Rooms.
 - (v) Civil Dress for Senior Members of Civil Service, Ministers of State, High Commissioners and Ambassadors.
 - (vi) Preparatory work associated with the composition of a National Song, and the design of a National Flag.
4. TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
 - (i) Examination of treaties, conventions, protocols and international agreements, negotiated by the United Kingdom on our behalf as a colony with a view to ascertaining whether they may be ratified or re-negotiated.
 - (ii) Consideration of new treaties and conventions needed to regulate relationships between Jamaica and the Commonwealth, the United States, and other foreign states, effective after independence.
5. CIVIL SERVICE
 - (i) Plans for intensive training programmes in specialised disciplines, for example, international law and legal system, GATT-manship, secret cyphers, security, international financial institutions, protocol, etc..
 - (ii) Use of the Department of Technical Cooperation, the Commonwealth Relations Office, Foreign Office, or any other appropriate agency as coordinating bodies for training.

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- (iii) Notional estimates of the expansion in Civil Service establishment imposed by the wider functions of independence.
- (iv) Re-orientation of Ministerial and Departmental functions to reflect independence.
- (v) Review of present civil service rules and possible modifications in the light of independence, e.g. Financial Instructions, General Orders, Transport Regulations etc.. Need for a Foreign Service Supplement.
- (vi) Revision of Public Officers Agreement and Compensation Schemes applicable to expatriate officers following Independence.

6. STATUTORY REVISION

- (i) Revision of appropriate local statutes and regulations to reflect Sovereignty, e.g. need to amend the Education Law extending the Minister of Education's present powers with regard to Higher Education; the Official Secrets Act; extension of the scope of the law relating to Accounting Officers to include High Commissioners and Ambassadors.
- (ii) Drafting of new statutes imposed by Sovereignty, e.g. The Nationality and Citizens Act and settling procedures for issuing passports.
- (iii) Revocation of act relating to Federal Holidays.
- (iv) Recommendations to Jamaica Legislature not to pass acts unilaterally affecting agreed common services e.g. U.C.W.I. and Meteorological Services, pending negotiations with the Federal Government as to their future operations.
- (v) Redrafting of Immigration Act in the light of independence and settling deportation procedures.

7. MISCELLANY

- (i) Housing and accommodation policy for the Prime Minister, Ministers of State, Parliamentary Secretaries, Permanent Secretaries, Under-Secretaries, etc..
- (ii) Formulation of Secret Cypher and National Code.
- (iii) Establishment of Telex Services.
- (iv) Design of Jamaica Independence Passport.
- (v) Future relationship with Federal Emergency Committee in matters of hurricane relief or similar regional disasters.
- (vi) Formulation of accession procedures in the event of our former dependencies (or other territories) seeking attachment as Associated Overseas Territories or otherwise.
- (vii) Design of Commemorative Issue of Stamps on Independence.