

JAMAICAN NATIONAL FLAG

The attention of Honourable Members is drawn to Ministry Paper No. 23 requesting the House to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 9 (erroneously referred to as paragraph 8) in the Paper under reference and seeking directions that all the necessary steps be taken to complete the formalities so that adequate supplies may be secured for decorative and functional purposes before the date of Independence.

2. Since then there have been further discussions between Government and the Opposition arising out of the noticeable similarity which the suggested design and colours bear to the National Flag of the recently independence country of Tanganyika.

3. Despite the fact that the Flag as proposed for Jamaica had indeed received the necessary clearance by the proper authorities in London as being basically distinct from any other national flag, there were strong feelings among some Members that the possibility of mistaking the one for the other was not altogether remote and it was accordingly DECIDED to RECOMMEND to the House that :-

the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of Ministry Paper No. 23 on a Jamaican National Flag should be varied to the extent that :

- (a) the proposed parallel bands be substituted for a diagonal cross or saltire with four triangles in juxtaposition;
- (b) the diagonal cross should be in GOLD and should be one-sixth of the length of the fly of the flag;
- (c) the top and bottom triangles should be in GREEN; and
- (d) the hoist and fly triangles should be in BLACK.

4. It will be observed therefore that the Flag has been changed only in its geometric design and not in its colours or symbolism and it may still be said that the Flag symbolises "Hardships there are, but the land is green and the sun shineth".



2.

5. Members of this Honourable House are to be informed that this new design has already been cleared officially with the Admiralty and other authorities and Members are now requested to approve formally the new design as outlined in paragraph 3 above.

ALEXANDER BUSTAMANTE

Premier.