

External Affairs

Honourable Members should be made aware of the progress in the establishment of a Ministry of External Affairs and of Missions Overseas.

2. On the assumption of responsibility by the new Government on the 24th April, 1962, formal responsibility for the pre-independence planning of the conduct of External Affairs was undertaken by the Premier through the Division of External Affairs in the Premier's Office. With the attainment of Independence this Division became a Ministry and the Prime Minister assumed the portfolio of External Affairs in addition to his other responsibilities.

3. One of the first tasks of the Ministry was the initiation of arrangements for the establishment of Overseas Missions. Three Missions began operation, if to a limited extent, on Independence Day. These were an Embassy to the United States of America, in Washington, D.C., and High Commissions in Britain and Canada, situated in London and Ottawa, respectively. The following appointments of Heads of Missions have been made:-

United States of America	- Mr. N.N. Ashenheim, C.B.E. (Ambassador)
Great Britain	- Mr. H.L. Lindo, C.M.G. (High Commissioner)
Canada	- Mr. E.A. Maynier, O.B.E. (High Commissioner).

Mr. Maynier assumed his duties on the 6th August and Mr. Ashenheim will shortly proceed to Washington; Mr. Lindo, now acting as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, will take up his post before the end of the year.

4. In addition, it is intended shortly to establish a Permanent Mission to the United Nations, on the admission of Jamaica to membership of that body, application for which has

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already been made, and a Consulate-General in New York. ^{H.R.} E.R. Richardson, C.M.G., Financial Secretary, and Mr. K. Johnson, now on the staff of the United Nations, have been selected for appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Consulate-General, New York, respectively.

5. The primary task of these Missions will be the representation of Jamaica's interests in the countries to the Governments of which they are accredited and at the United Nations. They will provide the channel for communications which this Government wishes to make to those Governments and the United Nations. To discharge their functions adequately it will be important that they should be kept fully informed on all aspects of life in Jamaica; arrangements to ensure this are in hand.

6. The establishment of further Overseas Missions will receive consideration in the light of their needs and having regard to the availability of funds and staff.

7. Honourable Members should also be informed of the establishment of diplomatic missions in Jamaica by other Governments. Among Commonwealth countries, the British and Indian Governments have already appointed High Commissioners (the British High Commissioner is doyen of the diplomatic corps) and the Canadian Government has indicated that it intends to make a similar appointment. Charge' d'Affaires representing the following countries are already in post:-

The United States of America;
France;
The Netherlands;
The Republic of China.

In addition, it is expected that a Belgian Minister will shortly be appointed.

Alexander Bustamante
Prime Minister
and Minister of External Affairs.
29th August, 1962.