

Proposed Acquisition of Land
adjoining Caymanas Estates.

It is considered appropriate to inform the House that in connection with the planning for the Jamaica Defence Force, steps have been taken to secure from Mrs. C.B. Hamilton suitable lands, adjoining Caymanas Estates, which are regarded as ideally suited as an alternative site for the Military Headquarters, i.e. accommodation, recreation and administration.

2. For some time past it has been apparent that the lands at Up Park Camp could not be allowed to continue indefinitely to be used for military purposes.

Military establishments are no longer being located in the heart of cities and in many cases where this had happened many years ago, steps are now being taken to have them removed elsewhere.

3. Government's Technical Officers and the Commander, Caribbean Area have inspected the lands in question and report that they are ideally suited as an alternative site for the proposed Jamaica Defence Force.

4. The Commander, Caribbean Area, estimates that about 100 acres of land would be required for military purposes, i.e. accommodation, recreation and administration.

5. The owner was prepared, however, to sell the whole parcel of land which lies roughly south-east of the Caymanas Golf Club and extends to White Marl on the Spanish Town Road where there is an available frontage on the Spanish Town Road of about 880 yards, the whole parcel comprising approximately 790 acres.

6. All the lands not required for military purposes can be developed and used for housing purposes. The expansion of greater Kingston already outstrips immediately available lands and it is considered that it would be extremely worthwhile for Government to acquire the whole of the parcel and it has accordingly been agreed to purchase the land above described consisting of approximately 790 acres on terms which are regarded as extremely reasonable.

7. The owner has agreed to accept a price of £110 an acre, payment to be made on completion of registered title which will take some time. Provision for the purchase will be included in the Estimates for 1962/63.

8. There is no immediate urgency about the development of the land for the purpose of providing a permanent Camp for the Jamaica Defence Force. Plans have been made in consultation with the Minority Party in the House of Representatives in regard to the establishment of such a Force and negotiations will take place at some future time with the British Government in regard to the ultimate disposition of the lands at Camp which in the meanwhile continue to be available for military purposes.

N.W. MANLEY
Premier and Minister of Development
24th January, 1962