

Caribbean Meteorological Service

In Ministry Paper No. 34 of the 23rd July, 1962, on the subject of the Common Services Conference the House was informed, inter alia, of the decision taken at this Conference that Jamaica would continue to participate in the operation of a Regional Meteorological Service with Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, British Honduras and British Guiana. Barbados, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands indicated that they would withdraw after September, 1963.

2. In paragraph 2(1) of Ministry Paper No. 56 of the 12th November, 1962, on the same subject, the House was also informed that a meeting of representatives of the Government of Jamaica, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and the "Eight" was convened in Jamaica on the 30th October, 1962, to settle details preparatory to the formal establishment of the new Service and a Ministerial Council which will control its operation.

3. Attached as Appendix I is a Summary of Decisions taken at this meeting and as Appendix II a Schedule of the Functions proposed for the Caribbean Meteorological Service. It will be observed that the decisions are subject to ratification by the Governments of the territories concerned and copies have already been sent to these Governments for necessary action. It will also be observed that the major decisions taken at this meeting relate to the following matters :-

- (a) the establishment of a Caribbean Meteorological Service with general control vested in a Caribbean Meteorological Council with effect from the 1st January, 1963. Barbados, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands have now agreed to participate;
 - (b) staffing of the Service;
 - (c) the provision of meteorological facilities in each of the participating territories;
 - (d) the sharing of the cost of the Headquarters Unit;
- and,
- (e) a formal Agreement to be executed by the participating territories.

4. With regard to (a), it was agreed that the meteorological services now being provided for territories participating in the West

Indies Meteorological Service should continue to be provided on a basis of regional co-operation for a period of six years in the first instance, and that this Service should be established with effect from 1st January, 1963, and be known as the Caribbean Meteorological Service. It shall consist of a Headquarters Unit, main Meteorological Stations and other Stations. The responsibility for the general control of the Service shall vest in a Council to be known as the Caribbean Meteorological Council, which shall be comprised of one representative from each of the participating territories.

5. With regard to (b) (Staffing), the arrangement proposed will ensure that we are always in a position to meet our commitments in this field. As a result of this decision, it will be necessary to create new posts on our local establishment to meet our meteorological requirements, to which appointments will be offered to Jamaicans presently employed in the West Indies Meteorological Service, or to other suitably qualified officers now employed in the Service if qualified Jamaicans are not available for all the posts.

6. With regard to (c) (provision of Meteorological facilities), it is proposed that it shall be the responsibility of each participating territory to decide on the meteorological facilities which it requires in its own territory from time to time, and to finance all costs incurred in providing these services after the 31st December, 1962. This arrangement will allow each participating territory to develop and/or expand its own meteorological facilities within the limits of its own resources.

7. With regard to (d) (sharing of the cost of the Headquarters Unit), it was agreed at the Common Service Conference in Trinidad that Jamaica's share of these expenses should be slightly higher than that of either Trinidad and Tobago or the Bahamas, on the ground that the Jamaica Division of the Service has a higher staff complement than either of these two territories, and that the Headquarters Unit would therefore be required to perform more services for this territory. However, it was decided at the meeting in Kingston that each of the territories with main meteorological offices (at present, Jamaica,

Trinidad/.....

Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas) should contribute equal amounts towards the cost of the Headquarters Unit.

8. The primary function of the Headquarters Unit is to furnish technical advice to the Meteorological Council and the Divisional Units with a view to ensuring that proper meteorological standards are maintained in each territory. The Unit will be responsible to the Council for matters relating to the World Meteorological Organisation, training of staff and for the operation of regional schemes e.g. the current Hurricane Research Project.

The Headquarters Unit will also make recommendations to the appropriate Governments regarding the interchange of staff throughout the region and the Director will be empowered to make temporary postings up to one year in the first instance subject to the usual formalities.

9. As regards Jamaica's local requirements consequent on the new arrangements proposed, a comparative schedule, setting out the new posts which it will be necessary to create on our establishment with effect from the 1st of January, 1963, and the salary scales proposed, as well as the other expenses involved in the operation of the Jamaica Division of the Service for the calendar year 1963, is attached as Appendix III.

APPENDIX III

10. Supplementary provision of £8, 180 will be required in the current financial year to meet the necessary expenditure during the period 1st January, 1963, to 31st March, 1963. It will be observed from Appendix I (Summary of Decisions) that 50% of the contributions to the Headquarters Unit must be paid prior to the 15th of January in each year.

11. The House is invited to :-

- (a) ratify the decisions of the Regional Conference set out in Appendix I and agree that a formal Agreement between the participating territories embodying these decisions may be signed on behalf of this Government;
- (b) agree to the creation of the new posts and to the salary scales proposed, as set out in Appendix III;

(c) approve/.....

- (c) approve the provision of a sum of £8,180 in Supplementary Estimates, 1962/63, to meet the expenditure during the period ending 31st March, 1963.

12. A Resolution will be moved in due course seeking the approval of the House of Representatives of the proposals in paragraph 11 above.

K.A.N. JONES,
Minister of Communications and Works,
17th December, 1962.

M.P.NO. M.C.W. 82/2/09

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
HELD AT KINGSTON, JAMAICA - 30TH OCTOBER-2ND NOVEMBER, 1962

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Caribbean
Meteorological
Service:

The meteorological services now being provided for territories participating in the West Indies Meteorological Service should continue to be provided on a basis of regional co-operation for a period of six years in the first instance, and this Service shall be established with effect from 1st January, 1963, and be known as the Caribbean Meteorological Service. It shall consist of a Headquarters Unit, main Meteorological Stations and other Stations.

Participat-
ing Terri-
tories:

The participating territories in the Caribbean Meteorological Service are to be -

Jamaica
Trinidad & Tobago
The Bahamas
Barbados
British Guiana
British Honduras
British Virgin Islands
Antigua
Dominica
Grenada
Montserrat
St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla
St. Lucia
St. Vincent

and any other territory or country which may join the Service.

Control of
the Service:

The responsibility for the general control of the Service shall vest in a Council to be known as the Caribbean Meteorological Council, which shall be comprised of one representative from each of the participating territories.

Headquarters
and Stations:

The Headquarters Unit is to remain in Trinidad for the time being, but its location is to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Council. The Headquarters Unit is to be responsible directly to the Council. The Director of this Unit is to consult the member of the Council in whose territory the Unit is located on urgent matters of policy.

The main Stations in Jamaica, Trinidad and the Bahamas and such other main Stations as may be established, and the other Stations shall obtain such advice as is required from the Headquarters Unit, but it shall be the responsibility of the Government of each participating territory to decide on the meteorological facilities which it requires in its territory from time to time. The Headquarters Unit is to advise on the maintaining of proper meteorological standards in each territory.

Staff:

The Headquarters Staff shall consist of -

1 Director (who is to be in charge of the Unit)
1 Senior Meteorological Assistant
1 Senior Clerical Officer
1 Secretary/Stenographer
1 Office Attendant

Provision for these posts should be included in the establishment of the territory in which the Headquarters Unit is located, and the officers posted for duty with the Caribbean Meteorological Service. The posts in respect of all other staff required for duties in the Service are to be provided on the establishment of the participating territories according to their own requirements and at such salary scales as each territory deems fit.

Each territory is to undertake to offer employment with effect from the 1st of January, 1963, to the staff presently employed by the West Indies Meteorological Service to ensure continuity of the Service. These offers are to be made in the first instance to its own nationals.

Staff are to be interchangeable throughout the region subject to the approval of the appropriate authority in the territories concerned in cases of permanent transfers on promotion or otherwise.

Staff may be posted temporarily for periods up to one year in the first instance by the Headquarters Unit to any participating territory.

Leave for Staff:

The Interim Commission should be asked to examine, as a special case, a recommendation that officers in the West Indies Meteorological Service should be compensated by the Commission for the accumulated vacation leave for which officers will be eligible as at the 31st December, 1962, in order that all these officers may commence their service with the new organisation without any outstanding leave at their credit, or, alternatively, that the Interim Commission should make funds available to the various territories equivalent to the cost of outstanding leave and passage concession in order that such leave may be granted at a convenient date.

Cost of Service and sharing of cost:

Each territory is to be responsible financially for all costs incurred in providing meteorological services within its territory.

The cost of the Headquarters Unit estimated at approximately \$56,400 (W.I.) for the first year is to be met in part by fixed contributions from the territories without main Meteorological Stations, and the balance by the territories with main Meteorological Stations in equal proportions. The territories without a main Meteorological Station (except the British Virgin Islands) are to contribute in the same ratio to each other as they did to the British Caribbean Meteorological Service prior to the establishment of the Federal Government.

The standard figure to be used for assessing these contributions is 50% of British Guiana's existing annual contribution of \$18,000 (paragraph 13 of the Appendix to the Interim Commission's Savingram, No. 465 of the 17th September, 1962, refers). Fifty percent of these contributions are to go in each case towards the expenses of the Headquarters Unit, and 50% to the territory providing the forecasting service on behalf of the territory concerned.

Contributions towards the cost of the Headquarters Unit are to be paid half-yearly in advance, prior to the 15th of January and the 15th of July in each year.

The territory in which the Headquarters Unit is located is to

provide

provide facilities for the financial transactions of the Unit, for the auditing of accounts, for the giving of legal advice and for other like matters.

The contributions to the expenses of the Headquarters Unit based on an estimate of \$56,400 as its cost for the first year are to be as follows:-

Jamaica	..	..	\$14,000	(W.I.)
Trinidad & Tobago	..	..	\$14,000	
The Bahamas	..	..	\$14,000	
Barbados	..	..	\$ 5,400	
British Guiana	..	..	\$ 4,500	
British Honduras	..	..	\$ 1,800	
Windward Islands	..	..	\$ 1,800	
Leeward Islands	..	..	\$ 900	

Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward and Windward Islands are to contribute a similar amount to Trinidad towards the cost of the forecasting service it renders for them, and British Honduras is to contribute a similar sum to Jamaica for its forecasting service. A decision regarding the apportionment of cost between the Units of the Leeward and Windward Islands is to rest with those Governments.

World Meteorological Organisation:

The Caribbean Meteorological Service is to seek membership in the World Meteorological Organisation, and the cost thereof shall form part of the Headquarters' expenses.

Telecommunication:

Each territory shall be responsible for the provision of Telecommunication within it, and shall meet any cost which may be involved in connection therewith.

United Kingdom's position:

The Conference noted that the United Kingdom Ministry of Aviation has agreed to give consideration to the continuation on a reducing basis of the special annual contribution of £13,000 now being made to the West Indies Meteorological Service, to the new Service, if it is established on a regional basis. The United Kingdom's representative agreed to get a final decision on this as early as possible.

Caribbean Meteorological Institute:

The Conference noted with satisfaction that there were proposals for the establishment of a Caribbean Meteorological Institute in Barbados, and, on behalf of the Council, undertook to consider proposals (to be submitted at a later date) for participation in and support of the project.

Formal Agreement:

A formal Agreement, embodying the decisions taken, is to be executed by the participating territories. The Agreement is to include provision for the withdrawal of territories without a main Meteorological Station at any time by giving six months' notice.

Ratification of Decision:

The above decisions are to be subject to ratification by the Governments of the territories participating in the Caribbean Meteorological Service.

7th November, 1962.

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

The functions of the Service shall comprise -

- (a) Meteorological service to civil aviation;
- (b) Provision, in co-operation with the United States Weather Bureau or any other like organisation, of an efficient hurricane warning system;
- (c) Provision of meteorological information and advice to government departments, new industries, public corporations, the press, radio and general public;
- (d) Collection and analysis of all meteorological data available in the area and publication of results;
- (e) Co-operation with other meteorological services, particularly those in and neighbouring the Caribbean;
- (f) Participation in the work of the appropriate international organisations particularly the World Meteorological Organisation and the International Civil Aviation Organisation;
- (g) Carrying out of basic scientific observations such as measurement of solar radiation etc. of benefit to the area;
- (h) Participation in work in Applied Meteorology, Agricultural Meteorology, Hydrology, and associated research of direct interest to the area;
- (i) Co-operation with all relevant scientific institutions within the area; and
- (j) Such other ancillary or auxiliary functions as the Council may from time to time determine.

Caribbean Meteorological ServiceDetails of Provisions required for 1963PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

<u>POST</u>	(1) <u>FEDERAL SALARY</u> <u>SCALE</u>	(2) <u>PROPOSED SALARY</u> <u>SCALE</u>	(3) <u>ACTUAL PROVISIONS</u> <u>FOR 1963</u>
1 Divisional Assistant Director (Meteorology)	£2,150 (Fixed)	£1,900 (Fixed)	£2,150 (A)
1 Senior Technical Officer (Meteorology)	£1,050-2,000 (Classified as Meteorologist)	£1,700 (Fixed)	£1,700
4 Technical Officers (Meteorology)	£900 - 1,700	£840 - 30 - 900; £950 - 50 - 1,050; £1,150-50 - 1,300; P.B. £1,400-50 - 1,600	£4,550
1 Senior Meteorological Assistant	£1,050-1,400	£940-40-1,100- 50-1,200	£1,050
15 Meteorological Assis- tants	£425-1,000	£400-25-500; £580-30-700; P.B. £860-40-1,020	£7,990
1 Clerical Officer II	£350-600	£340-20-500	£500
1 Messenger Grade II	£225-350	95/- - 5/- - 100/- - 7/6 - 115/-	£260
Temporary and Relief Staff	-	-	£1,300 (B)
Acting Allowances	-	-	10
			<hr/> £19,510

OTHER CHARGES

Transport and Subsistence	-	£ 5,325 (C)
Office and General	-	£400
Equipment, Stores, Maintenance	-	£1,650
Contribution to Headquarters Unit, Caribbean Meteorological Service	-	£2,917

TOTAL FOR YEAR

£ 29,802

(i.e. Personal Emoluments and
Other Charges)

- (A) Includes a personal pensionable allowance of £250 per annum to the Jamaican Officer who now holds a similar post in the Bahamas and who is now in receipt of a salary of £2,150 per annum. This allowance will only be payable if this officer is offered and accepts this post.
- (B) Includes provision for U.K. Technical Officer on temporary secondment.
- (C) Includes £2,000 for meal allowances.