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JAMAICA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

Jamaica became a Member State of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in November, 1962, and three years later, on the 1st November, 1965, in accordance with Article VII of the Organisation's Constitution, the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO was established for the triple purpose of fostering and coordinating the work of UNESCO in Jamaica, keeping the Jamaican public advised of such work, and advising Government on all relevant matters.

2. The Commission's activities over the past year have included:-

- (a) acting as a clearing house for a large quantity of material to and from UNESCO and its affiliated organizations;
- (b) presentation by the Chairman of a Paper at a Conference on the Atlantic Provinces and the West Indies, sponsored partly by the Canadian Commission;
- (c) attendance by a representative of the Attorney General's Department at a conference on Copyright in Rio de Janeiro;
- (d) useful discussions with two visiting UNESCO staff members, one from the Regional Office for Education in Santiago, Chile, and the other from the UNESCO Regional Office in Havana;
- (e) attendance of the Chairman and Secretary, as observers at the First Caribbean Conference on International Affairs held at the University of the West Indies on the theme "The Role of Small Countries in a Big World";
- (f) attendance of the Secretary at a joint consultation of UNESCO Secretaries in Paris; and
- (g) as a culmination to the year's efforts, representation at the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris in October to November, 1966.

Following the deliberations at this Conference, a UNESCO gift coupon scheme for assisting literacy work in Jamaica is expected to start in the near future, and requests for technical assistance in the areas of library planning and submarine archaeology (Port Royal) are also likely to be approved.

3. The work of disseminating information about UNESCO has also been pursued in various ways including -

- (a) preparation of a television film of UNESCO's 20th Anniversary Celebrations in Jamaica;
- (b) transmission of a message to the Director-General from the Governor General of Jamaica on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary;
- (c) circulation to school children throughout the Island, of UNESCO Art slides from other countries;
- (d) an exhibition of paintings by Jamaican children at an Art Exhibition held in Taiwan;
- (e) the display in several parts of the Island of a UNESCO water colour exhibition;
- (f) the permanent display of UNESCO publications on a mobile book stand through the courtesy of the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library; and
- (g) circulation throughout the Island of a UNESCO Exhibition on the art of writing, featuring historical and evolutionary aspects of the writings of various peoples.

4. For the future, the Commission hopes to expand its activities, especially in the following fields:-

- (i) support of UNESCO travel grants for youths;
- (ii) formation of UNESCO clubs in the schools and adoption of UNESCO's Associated Schools Project, both designed to promote international understanding among young people;
- (iii) sponsorship of public events, e.g. in connection with UNESCO's Anniversary or Human Rights matters;
- (iv) the supply to UNESCO of Jamaican cultural material, such as folk lore and folk music, on an exchange basis, with a view to the promotion of cultural understanding;
- (v) closer collaboration with other National Commissions for the promotion of international understanding.

Ministry of Development & Welfare,
Kingston.

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