

Jamaica Constabulary Force Centenary Celebrations

On the 28th November, 1967, the Jamaica Constabulary Force will have been in existence for one hundred years, as it was on the 28th November, 1867 that, with the coming into force of Law 8 of 1867, a new Police Force was created. The Force as we know it today, although in structure and authority substantially the same as it was when first created, has over the years been modernised and its strength has, of course, been greatly increased to meet the requirements of our modern society.

In order to do honour to the Jamaica Constabulary Force, and to show appreciation for the Force's long and distinguished history of service, the Government has decided that the centenary should be publicly recognized, and it has been decided that the week of Monday 27th November to Sunday 3rd December will be known as Police Week. During this week a special programme of events has been arranged.

The first event will be a Ceremony in the square at Spanish Town on the afternoon of Monday the 27th of November, at which a new Police Flag, which has been kindly donated by the British Government, will be handed over to the Prime Minister as head of the Government by the British High Commissioner.

On the afternoons of the 28th, 29th and 30th November, an exhibition will be held in the National Arena, depicting the history and organisation of the Force including replicas of the various types of uniforms used over the years with different badges of rank, as well as exhibits from important criminal cases.

A Police Parade will be held at the National Stadium on the evenings of the 28th and 29th of November at which all branches of the Force will be represented. The theme of the parade will be the handing over from the old Guard representing the 1867 force to the new Guard of 1967. In addition, displays will be given by many branches of the force.

During December, the Parade will be held in the Capitals of certain rural parishes.

On Friday the 1st of December, a dinner will be given by the Officers of the Force at the Sheraton-Kingston Hotel, and in the evening of Saturday the 2nd December, I will hold a Reception on behalf of the Government at the Police Officers' Club on Hope Road in honour of the force.

Police Week will close on Sunday the 3rd of December, with Church Services throughout the Island. The Services for Kingston and St. Andrew will be held at the Kingston Parish Church and the Custodes of the other Parishes have been asked to arrange suitable Services in consultation with the Churches, Members of Parliament, Mayors and Chairmen of Parish Councils.



As an important item of the celebrations, the Government decided that it was appropriate to issue invitations to certain Commonwealth and other Police Forces throughout the world which have been closely associated with our Force over the years, to send representatives to Jamaica to join with us in the week of celebration. Invitations have accordingly been issued through the appropriate diplomatic channels to the Governments of the countries concerned, and it is very much hoped that there will be a good response.

The decision has also been taken to strike a medal for presentation to all members who are on the strength of the Force on the 28th of November, 1967, which is the official anniversary. Unfortunately, the medal will not be ready in time, but will be presented later.

Finally, members will have observed that the Custodes have launched a fund in the Daily Gleaner known as The Police Centenary Amenities Fund. I commend this worthy cause to Members of this Honourable House.

The cost involved in these Celebrations will amount to some £6,150, and this Honourable House has already approved this expenditure in the First Supplementary Estimates.

ROY McNEILL, M.P.  
Minister of Home Affairs  
23rd November, 1967