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MINISTRY PAPER NO. 22

Activities of the Ministry of External Affairs
during the year 1967/68 and forecast for 1968/69

The following is a report on the activities of the Ministry of External Affairs during the year 1967/68, with a forecast for 1968/69, for the information of members of this Honourable House.

General

2. The year under review opened with the serious illness and death of the late Prime Minister, Sir Donald Sangster. Sir Donald was treated in a Montreal Hospital during the last weeks of his illness, and this Government is deeply indebted to the Government and people of Canada for their kindness and help during and after this trying time.

3. Very close and friendly relations between Jamaica and Canada continued to exist during the year, which marked the celebration of 100 years of Canadian Independence. Jamaica joined in this celebration by taking part in Expo '67. The Jamaican Pavilion proved very popular among visitors, and Jamaica's National Day attracted one of the largest audiences at the Place des Nations at Expo.

4. I made my first official visit abroad in August last year, when I was the guest of the Canadian Government. The opportunity of my visit was taken to discuss a wide range of matters of mutual interest both to Canada and Jamaica. In February 1968, I also had further opportunity to hold discussions with the Canadian Prime Minister when he visited Jamaica as a guest of the University of the West Indies.

United Nations

5. During the period under review, Jamaica continued to participate actively in all spheres of the work of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies. At United Nations Headquarters in New York, the year 1967 was marked by an unusual degree of activity, in that two special sessions of the General Assembly were held, in addition to the Twenty-second Regular Session of the Assembly, from September - December 1967. The 5th special session of the General Assembly was convened in New York from April 21st to June 13th 1967, to deal with the question of South West Africa; whilst the 5th emergency special session of the General Assembly met from June 17th to July 21st to consider the situation in the Middle East.

Jamaica was fully represented and took an active part in the deliberations at all three of these sessions of the General Assembly, including the numerous ancillary regional group meetings and other informal negotiating caucuses which constitute so important a part of the machinery of the Organization.

6. Jamaica continued to serve also as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights, which is to take place in Teheran, Iran, from April 22nd to May 13th next, as one of the highlights of the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights. Jamaica is being represented at this conference by a strong delegation.

It will also be recalled that the Government has recently announced its decision to accede to the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

7. To assist in the implementation and co-ordination of the programme of activities being undertaken at national, parish and area levels to mark the celebration by Jamaica of the International Year for Human Rights, the Government also established in December of 1967 a Human Rights Secretariat, under the aegis of the Jamaica Organizing Committee for Human Rights Year.

8. The Government will continue to place great emphasis on activities in the field of Human Rights, and it is proposed that the celebration of Human Rights Year in Jamaica will culminate in a week of special activities from December 3rd to 10th, ending with the ceremony of presentation of the Marcus Garvey Prize for Human Rights.

9. Among other subjects in which Jamaica took an active part in the discussions during the 22nd Regular Session of the General Assembly, were: the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, the question of the Reservation of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor for Peaceful Purposes, the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Territorial Asylum, the problem of apartheid and racial discrimination in Southern Africa, the question of United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations, and a number of issues relating to the Ending of Colonialism.

10. In the year ahead, Jamaica will continue to demonstrate the fullest support of and interest in all spheres of United Nations activity - whether it be in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security, of human rights, or of economic and social advancement.

Commonwealth
Affairs

11. During the period under review, diplomatic relations were established with another Commonwealth country - Ghana - which has accredited its Ambassador to Mexico as High Commissioner to Jamaica.

12. Another British colony, Mauritius, achieved Independence on the 12th of March 1968, and was welcomed as a sovereign member of the Commonwealth. It is expected that Swaziland will become independent on the 6th of September, 1968, and join the Commonwealth.

13. In September, 1967 Ratu K.K.T. Mara, Chief Minister of Fiji, visited Jamaica as part of his tour to meet Ministers of independent commonwealth countries in order to learn something from them of the problems encountered when the ministerial system was introduced in their countries, and to discuss efforts of organising development planning.

14. As a further example of Commonwealth co-operation, when one of Her Majesty's dominions changes its constitutional status, it has been the practice of this Government to enact legislation to ensure that the operation of the law of Jamaica in relation to the particular country is not affected consequent on its change of status. To this end the following legislation has been enacted during the year 1967/68:

- (a) the Malawi Republic Act
- (b) the Singapore Act
- (c) the Botswana Act
- (d) the Kingdom of Lesotho Act

Visa Abolition
Agreements

15. Agreements for the abolition of visas have been entered into with the following countries:

- (a) Israel
- (b) Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, and
- (c) Mexico

These agreements contain provisions exempting visitors from the necessity for obtaining visas provided that the visit is for a period not exceeding ninety days; that they hold valid passports and do not take up employment; and provided the laws of the respective countries are observed. Apart from cementing our already friendly relations it is expected that the abolition of visas will increase the flow of visitors between Jamaica and those countries. The Government is in the process of negotiating similar agreements with other countries.

Rhodesia

16. The illegal Smith regime ^{still} remains in control in Rhodesia, and the problem of bringing it down and returning the country to constitutional rule leading to independence on the basis of universal adult suffrage remains a matter of the greatest concern to my Government. This Honourable House was informed of the situation as at the 13th of March 1968, in a Ministry Paper

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which I presented on that date, when the matter was debated and a Resolution condemning the recent atrocious acts of the regime, and supporting this Government's action was unanimously passed.

17. In that Ministry Paper I informed this Honourable House, inter alia, that I had instructed the Jamaican Mission at the United Nations immediately to identify Jamaica with the Committee of 24 at the United Nations, to seek the convening of the Security Council on the Rhodesia question and to seek permission for Jamaica to be allowed to address the Council. The Jamaican Permanent Representative to the United Nations accordingly was invited to sit in on the Council's deliberations, and he addressed that body on Wednesday, the 20th of March 1968, setting out this Government's position in the matter. This is the second time that Jamaica has addressed the Security Council, and on both occasions the subject was Rhodesia. Jamaica will continue to urge and support vigorously all action calculated to bring down the regime.

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons 18. During the period under review Jamaica became a party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, under the terms of which all Participating States agree to forego the acquisition of nuclear weapons within their territory, but are permitted to develop and utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

19. Before signing the Treaty, the Government took the opportunity to express before the United Nations its strong objection to the provisions of the Treaty whereby Guyana and British Honduras would at present be precluded from becoming parties to the Treaty, on the ground of their respective border disputes with other Latin American countries. However, as proof of Jamaica's belief in the broad objectives of the Treaty - which represents a unique regional step forward in efforts to limit and prohibit the acquisition of nuclear weapons on a world-wide scale - Jamaica on October 26, 1967, became a signatory to the Treaty, in Mexico City.

Europe and the E.E.C.

20. In furtherance of friendly international relations, and because of the important implications to Jamaica, in particular to the economy of the country, if Britain gains admission into the European Economic Community, accompanied by Ministers and Advisers, I visited Britain, France, Holland, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America in September and October 1967. A report on this visit has been presented to Parliament. Further similar visits to the

remaining....

remaining European Economic Community countries are planned for 1968 and it is hoped that these visits will provide an opportunity of creating additional links with the Community.

Diplomatic
Representa-
tion

21. Since my visit to Germany the Jamaican High Commissioner in London has been accredited as Jamaican Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, and consideration is being given to a further strengthening of relations with Europe. Meanwhile, the Government will continue to maintain its links with the European Economic Community through a diplomatic mission in Brussels accredited to the Community. The Government also is exploring all possible means of co-operation and trade with other European countries and, in this connection, established diplomatic relations with Austria during the past year.

Diplomatic relations have also been established with Columbia recently.

While Jamaica is anxious to reciprocate these diplomatic ties, limitations of funds and personnel remain an important factor, but the whole question of increasing our diplomatic and consular representation abroad is constantly under review by the Government and it is proposed, during the forthcoming year, to appoint Honorary Consuls or Consuls General to a number of key areas to supplement the career foreign service in Europe, North America, Latin America and Central America.

Vietnam

22. Jamaica maintains the view that there is need for co-operation and accommodation in Vietnam. We expressed through the United Nations our grave concern about the implications and possible consequences of the situation there, and about the plight of the unfortunate people of the North and the South. The Government welcomes the contacts which have recently been made between the parties concerned, and sincerely hopes that meaningful negotiations will commence and lead to ^{the} establishment of the foundation for a lasting peace.

Migration

23. The principal outlet for Jamaican Migration abroad has been gradually shifting from Britain to the United States of America. In addition to the increase in persons going to that country as residents, the recruitment of farm workers was maintained.

Meeting of
Jamaican
Heads of
Missions

24. In July 1967 I held a conference of Jamaican Heads of Missions. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects and proved most valuable in assessing the situation at home and abroad, and in planning future action and policies.

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The opportunity was taken of the presence of the Jamaican diplomats in Jamaica to enable them to meet and talk with representatives of Statutory Boards and Associations which play an important part in the life of the nation, as well as with Ministers of Government and senior officials.

Caribbean
Area

25. Continuing under the impetus of the historic Canada/West Indies meeting in Ottawa in July 1966, a Trade and Economic Committee met in St. Lucia early in 1967 to work out administrative and organisational arrangements for a Trade and Economic Committee, to review progress on discussions taken at Ottawa and to discuss other problems. Topics included International Commodity Arrangements, the Kennedy Round, the UNCTAD, the preparation for studies on a Regional Development Bank; and it was agreed that the Government of Guyana should initiate consultations concerning a meeting of officials to discuss Caribbean Free Trade proposals, after Governments had had an opportunity to study papers to be prepared by the University of the West Indies.

26. The recommendations of this meeting of officials which took place in Guyana in August were discussed by the Fourth Conference of Heads of Caribbean Commonwealth Governments and other Territories, who met in Barbados from 23rd - 27th October, 1967. I led Jamaica's delegation at this meeting of which this Honourable House has received details in Ministry Paper No. 57 which was laid on 14th of November, 1967.

27. Arising from the Fourth Conference a series of meetings of officials were held in Jamaica on proposals for a Free Trade Area, a Regional Development Bank, in Trinidad on Regional Co-ordination in External Representation, a Regional Air Carrier and a Regional Secretariat.

28. On 21st - 22nd February, Ministers of Trade met in Georgetown to examine and accept proposed changes in the original CARIFTA Agreement. Jamaica requested a postponement of this meeting for approximately one month to allow for a detailed scrutiny and consultation on the final form of the supplementary agreement, only available in Jamaica 15 days before the scheduled meeting. Jamaica was unable to attend and it was not until a month later, on the 22nd March, that Jamaica informed the other Commonwealth Caribbean countries of its acceptance of the principles and provisions of the main CARIFTA Agreement and Supplementary Agreements. The new agreement establishing a

Caribbean Free Trade Area is scheduled to come into operation on 1st May 1968.

19. On the matter of the Regional Development Bank, a meeting of Ministers of Finance was held in Georgetown on 25th -26th March, 1968, to consider the terms of a constitution and other matters relative to the establishment of the Bank. The final form of the constitution, as well as the siting of the Headquarters and a branch, remain to be settled and a further meeting of Ministers of Finance is scheduled to take place in Antigua later this month.

Anguillan
Question

30. Between May - August, 1967, Jamaica was associated with the Governments of the United Kingdom, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in efforts to restore constitutional rule in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, which had broken down as a result of the attempt of the people in Anguilla to establish an independent Government.

31. Jamaica did not find it possible to take part in any action which did not have the support of the majority of the people of Anguilla, and to this extent plans for joint action proved abortive.

Trade and
Development

32. The Ministry of External Affairs has, through our Missions abroad, continued to be closely associated with Jamaican efforts in the important area of trade development.

33. Jamaica continued to serve on the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and was this year elected to the Trade and Development Board, the permanent organ of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

34. Jamaica participated fully in the Second Conference of UNCTAD in New Delhi and will continue to support efforts of the UNCTAD to create equitable terms of trade between the developing and industrially developed countries.

35. A Jamaican delegation, led by the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Hon. Robert Lightbourne, is currently in Geneva attending the International Sugar Conference. Mr. Lightbourne has been elected Chairman of the Conference.

36. The Government has received ^{from} a number of countries and organisations, technical assistance, trained personnel, scholarships and training schemes which have been of great assistance to our development programmes and have contributed to cementing the bonds of friendship beyond national boundaries.

H. L. Shearer
Prime Minister and Minister
of External Affairs
22nd April, 1968.