

### AID WEST INDIES

Prime Minister, J.G. Diefenbaker, has announced that the Government proposes to recommend to Parliament that Canada give the West Indies a ship to carry passengers and cargo between the various islands of the new federation. The decision was taken following discussions between Canadian and West Indian representatives who have been reviewing the needs of The West Indies and the possibility of Canada extending assistance. This ship is the first major capital project in the Canadian aid programme for The West Indies, which was initiated some time ago when interim arrangements were made for provision of Canadian technical assistance for The West Indies. The Prime Minister proposed that further discussions on the Canada-West Indies aid programme take place during the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference which representatives of the West Indian Federation are being invited to attend.

The following message conveying the offer of the Canadian Government to the Government of The West Indies has been sent by the Prime Minister to Lord Hailes, the Governor-General of The West Indies, and the Advisory Council:

"To the Governor-General and Advisory Council, Port of Spain:

"Following discussions between representatives of The West Indies and of the Canadian Government, my colleagues and I have had an opportunity to consider the needs of The West Indies for assistance in carrying out the economic development plans of the federation and how Canada could help most effectively. A few weeks ago interim arrangements were made to provide The West Indies with the services of some Canadian experts. We now have had an opportunity to consider further the Canadian aid programme for The West Indies. We recognize that an inter-island shipping service, to move goods and people between the various islands, is one of the most acute needs of your new federation. This is a need which Canada is able and willing to meet and I am happy to be able to inform you that the Government has decided to recommend to Parliament that it authorize the Government to provide The West Indies with a ship to be used in your inter-island Service.

"Over the next few months there will be opportunities for consideration to be given to the design and other matters respecting this vessel. Further discussion regarding capital aid and technical assistance from Canada could best take place, I suggest, at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference to be held in Montreal in September.

"With this message I send my warm personal greetings to you and the Advisory Council and I assure you that the emergence of a new Commonwealth nation in the Western Hemisphere has the warm sympathy and the support of the

people of Canada. We are looking forward to increasing and strengthening the traditional ties between the Canadian people and the people of the West Indies. John G. Diefenbaker".

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### \$22,000,000 HOUSING AND SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Mr. Howard C. Green, Minister responsible for the operations of the Federal housing agency, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has announced that the Corporation will undertake a new \$22 million programme of housing and school construction for use by the Department of National Defence at various locations throughout Canada.

The programme, which includes 1,911 housing units for married personnel of the Navy, Army and Air Force, nine schools and 21 school extensions, and all related ground services, will require a peak labour force of more than 3,000 men. It is anticipated that tender calls will be completed by October but much of the work will be underway by that date.

Row, semi-detached and detached housing units are included in the programme with the largest project at Petawawa, Ontario, where 600 units will be constructed. The houses will provide two, three and four-bedroom accommodation. The new schools will range in size from four classrooms to a 19-room school with auditorium. School extensions range from one to 10 rooms.

The distribution of the projects by regional areas is as follows: Atlantic Region - 157 housing units, four schools, three school extensions; Quebec Region - 347 housing units, six school extensions; Ontario Region - 824 housing units, three schools, seven school extension; Prairie Region - 400 housing units, one school, one school extension; B.C. Region - 183 housing units, one school, three school extensions.

Localities at which work will be undertaken include: Dartmouth, Shearwater, Newport Corners, Shelburne and Greenwood, Nova Scotia; Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick; Val Cartier, Chicoutimi and Parent, Quebec; Ottawa, Petawawa, Barriefield, Clinton, Edgar, Foymount and Falconbridge, Ontario; Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta; Esquimalt, Aldergrove, Matsqui and Comox, British Columbia.

Under its present DND programme, CMHC has 2,132 housing units and five schools under construction with 2,333 housing units, nine schools and 21 school extensions still to go to tender.

Under earlier programmes, CMHC administered contracts for the completion of 19,200 housing units and 73 schools for the Department of National Defence.