



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 21 No. 8

February 23, 1966

CONTENTS

The Developing Commonwealth.....	1
Nelson River Power Development.....	3
Eight-Year Peak in Immigration.....	3
Copper Scrap Exports Suspended	4

THE DEVELOPING COMMONWEALTH

The following is a partial text of a speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, in Toronto recently:

...I have chosen this topic because I believe that Canadians are sometimes concerned about conflict between Commonwealth nations, about reports of serious dissension over matters such as Rhodesia, about changes in the familiar patterns of Commonwealth activity. They may ask whether we are faced with a declining rather than a developing Commonwealth.

I do not propose to begin by trying to define what the Commonwealth means in general terms or to trace the development towards the present relationship among Commonwealth nations. We may understand the present situation better if we examine one or two current or recent developments.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES

I have chosen some positive and welcome developments to begin with. Canada is taking important steps to develop its relations with Commonwealth members in the West Indies.

We in Canada have a long history of association with the West Indies, going back to the years before Confederation. Our present trade is regulated by an agreement that is more than 40 years old. There are strong ties in the past and they have grown stronger in the present. We look forward, in the future, to even closer links with these territories as they take over the direction of their own affairs. In 1962, we welcomed as members of the Commonwealth Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and we look forward to the

accession of British Guiana to independence in May of this year. Three weeks ago the Barbados Legislature completed the processes of deciding to seek independence, and I expect that a constitutional conference will be called this year. British Honduras has, I understand, comparable ambitions for the not-too-distant future. The other islands are progressing towards a wider measure of self-government.

We feel particularly close to the Commonwealth members in this Hemisphere because of the facts of geography and history. We are especially concerned that they should enjoy political stability, social progress and economic welfare. In anticipation of the coming of independence, Canada embarked in 1958 on a five-year programme of development assistance for the Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean. Since 1963, this programme has been enlarged and, as these countries work out their plans for the future, we are seeking new and improved ways of co-operating with them.

For some months we have been discussing with various Caribbean leaders, the organization of a conference at which all aspects of relations between Canada and the West Indies might be reviewed. You will have noted that, when the Prime Minister paid official visits late last year to Jamaica and to Trinidad, the communiqués issued after his talks with Mr. Sangster and Dr. Williams referred to such a conference. Three weeks ago a group of Canadian officials met with officials from the two independent countries and ten of the dependent territories to take preparatory steps towards the conference, which is to take place later this year. I am confident that