

In this connection, I have noted with interest proposals made on various occasions by Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, with respect to the desirability of forming a Caribbean Economic Community. I have noted also the recent statements by Prime Minister Burnham of British Guiana in favour of closer economic co-operation among the Caribbean countries.

Of course, we fully accept that the arrangements which the Commonwealth Caribbean countries wish to have among themselves are a matter for them to determine. However, the question is of interest to us since the existence or absence of machinery for co-operation, especially among the territories that have not yet attained independence, obviously will affect the ease and efficiency with which we may conduct our practical relations.

From what I have said, I think it will be clear that the development of our special relation with the Commonwealth Caribbean countries represents a wonderful opportunity for Canada to play a significant role in a region where we have had, and continue to have, many contacts and many friends.

At the Ottawa conference in July, we shall be concerned with translating this special relation into practical measures that will reflect the needs and interests of all the participants. I do not want to single out any particular field to which particular attention might be paid, since I believe that there are numerous aspects of our relations that are important, and that can be strengthened. At the present time, I think what should be stressed is Canada's sincere willingness to explore all paths to co-operation, and our sense of excitement at the prospects for genuine achievements.

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