

THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Tuesday, July 12, 1966.

The Standing Committee on External Relations met this day at 10 a.m.

Senator GUNNAR S. TORVALDSON in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have a quorum, so I will now call this meeting to order. I propose that we adjourn not later than 11 o'clock because there is to be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce at that time.

Our witness today is Mr. Arthur G. Campbell, Head of the Commonwealth Division of the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Campbell has been associated with the department for a number of years, and he has held this office since 1963. For 2½ years he was a member of the High Commissioner's Office in New Delhi, and in 1960 he spent a year in Geneva, being associated there with General Burns.

The meeting is called to receive a report in regard to the recent Canada-Commonwealth Caribbean Conference held here in Ottawa. Mr. Campbell was pretty much in charge of the arrangements for that conference, and from the point of view of our own service was a leading figure there.

I might say that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, had expected to be here and speak to us this morning. However, for the reason that the Prime Minister required to go to Newfoundland with regard to the opening of the Trans-Canada Highway this morning, Mr. Martin had some duties to perform as Acting Prime Minister at 10.00 o'clock this morning and regrets that he is not able to be present. However, Mr. Campbell is with us, and I will ask him to speak to us.

Mr. Arthur G. Campbell, Head, Commonwealth Division, Department of External Affairs: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, I feel very much like a stand-in for the minister, and I hope you will bear with me. The Prime Minister reported briefly to the House yesterday afternoon, and he tabled the final communiqué of the conference. I have not yet read *Hansard* so I am perhaps exposing myself a little bit in doing more than answer your questions. I am altogether at the disposition of the committee, and perhaps it would be useful if I said a few initial words about the background of the conference, and the preliminaries that led up to it. I hesitate rather to assess the conference and its significance, as I presume the Prime Minister did yesterday, and in my capacity as a well-disciplined civil servant I assume that the purpose of the committee here is to secure additional detail which goes beyond what the Prime Minister may have said to the house yesterday, and matters which perhaps would go beyond the interest of the generality of senators and members of the House of Commons.

Before discussing the final communiqué—and I think this would be the simplest way of going about it—and elaborating on it and explaining how it comes to say the things it does, it might be of interest to the committee, since the conference has been judged to be a success, to know that it was in a state of preparation for a good many months. It had its origins in the talks that took place when the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago came to Ottawa in April of 1964, and in the subsequent months, and notably at the Commonwealth