



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1957.

NO. 48

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT DISCUSSIONS OF A PRELIMINARY AND EXPLORATORY NATURE ARE TO BE HELD TODAY AND TOMORROW IN OTTAWA, BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS. THE WEST INDIAN OFFICIALS ARE SIR STEPHEN LUKE, COMPTROLLER, DEVELOPMENT WELFARE IN THE WEST INDIES AND CHAIRMAN, STANDING FEDERATION COMMITTEE, AND MR. JOHN MORDECAI, FEDERAL SECRETARY.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IS TO CONSIDER ECONOMIC MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST TO THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AND CANADA. IN PARTICULAR, THE WEST INDIAN OFFICIALS, WHO ARE CONCERNED IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMING INTO BEING EARLY NEXT YEAR OF THE PROPOSED FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIES, WILL REVIEW WEST INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDICATE SOME WAYS IN WHICH THEY FEEL THAT CANADA MIGHT HELP THE FEDERATION. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ENABLED BY THESE DISCUSSIONS TO REPORT ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF CANADIAN AID TO THE NEW FEDERATION AND THEY WILL PUT BEFORE THE WEST INDIAN OFFICIALS VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MIGHT GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERATION.

THE STANDING FEDERATION COMMITTEE IS DUE TO MEET WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND WILL RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TALKS FROM THEIR OFFICIALS.