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CANADA'S TRADE WITH THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN

Partial Text of a Speech by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Robert H. Winters, to the Halifax Board of Trade, February 27, 1967.

...I particularly want on this occasion to say a few words about Canada's trade and economic relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Here in the Atlantic Provinces there has been, since the earliest times, a special affinity for and interest in the Commonwealth Caribbean. This historic relation has strengthened over the years. The economic and political development of Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean countries has led to the broadening and deepening of the contacts and co-operation between us.

Many Commonwealth Caribbean countries have in recent years achieved full or partial political independence. Economic development programmes have led to rapid expansion in the area. Secondary industry has been encouraged by various investment schemes. Tourism has expanded rapidly. There has been an extensive development of supporting services: roads, airports, ports, communications and transportation, educational facilities. Resource developments continue to be a most important stimulant, particularly in Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad. Standards of living in the West Indies have increased substantially.

National production has been increasing in many Commonwealth Caribbean countries at a faster rate than even in Canada. Between 1954 and 1964 our national production has doubled but that of Trinidad and Jamaica has increased by two and one-half times. Those countries are moving ahead rapidly.

This industrialization has affected Canadian exports in many ways. The growth of industry in the West Indies has led to the need for increasingly advanced industrial material and capital equipment. Industrialization is leading to higher standards of living and to expansion of imports of consumer goods and foodstuffs. It has led to greater participation by Canadians in many service fields, such as engineering, architecture and science, where our knowledge and experience is needed. I want to stress that our business relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean cover the whole spectrum of economic activity and that there is in this relationship much of mutual profit to the Commonwealth Caribbean and ourselves.