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*Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet**Extract from Cabinet Conclusions*

SECRET

[Ottawa], April 11, 1957

Present:

The Prime Minister (Mr. St-Laurent) in the Chair,
 The Minister of Trade and Commerce and Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Howe),
 The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner),
 The Minister of National Health and Welfare
 and Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin),
 The Minister of National Revenue (Dr. McCann),
 The Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg),
 The Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson),
 The Minister of Veterans Affairs and Postmaster General (Mr. Lapointe),
 The Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris),
 The Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Prudham),
 The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair),
 The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Campney),
 The Leader of the Government in the Senate and Solicitor General (Senator Macdonald),
 The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill),
 The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage),
 The Minister of Transport (Mr. Marler).
 The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Bryce),
 The Assistant Secretaries to the Cabinet (Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Martin).

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BRITISH WEST INDIES FEDERATION; CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

21. *Mr. Martin, as Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs* submitted a memorandum from Mr. Pearson which said that, with the establishment of the new British West Indies Federation and the lessening of United Kingdom participation in the affairs of the federating colonies, it would be desirable for Canada to play a larger role in the area. The U.K. had asked if the Canadian government would be willing to be associated with them in extending aid to the new federation and, in addition, informal approaches had been made by a number of the political leaders of the proposed federation. It was naturally desirable that the federation develop strong free institutions and a democratic way of life, and this could be assisted if the older Commonwealth countries, and perhaps the United States, helped the federation find solutions to their more pressing economic needs. In addition, it was undesirable, from Canada's point of view, for the vacuum caused by the decline in U.K. influence to be filled by the U.S. alone.

Compared with the Colombo Plan countries, standards of living in parts of the West Indies appeared high. Nevertheless, there was no doubt that the capital and technical needs of the federation as a whole were real. Aid could take the form of a direct grants to the budget of the federation, or, alternatively, be provided through a regular contribution to a joint development fund. However, both these methods would appear to be inappropriate for a number of reasons, including the lack of effective control over the funds voted, and the absence of identification of the aid as Canadian. It would appear preferable that any programme should consist of "technical" and "capital" assistance. Technical assistance might be provided in a manner similar to that under the Colombo Plan. As regards capital, it could be expected that considerable amounts would be provided through private invest-