

bilateral basis and would inform the U.K. of the sort of aid we are prepared to make available.⁸⁷

13. Before discussing this sort of reply with the Group, we would wish to have your views on it and on the larger issues raised by the U.K. approach.

14. As you know, the Prime Minister last week answered a question from Mr. Balcom (Halifax) by saying that the "development of the Federation" was under study.⁸⁸

J[ULES] L[ÉGER]⁸⁹

745.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], April 1, 1957

CANADIAN AID TO THE WEST INDIES FEDERATION

In my memorandum of March 12 last I reported on the inter-departmental discussions which had been held on this question. You concurred in the view that something more was needed by way of aid to the Federation than a once-for-all gift (possibly of ships) and the continuation of technical assistance (which has been small and *ad hoc*).

2. We have been thinking about the matter further, and, in the light of the discussion which took place at and in connection with the Bermuda Conference, I submit the following proposals. We have not considered in the memorandum the larger question of the expansion of the membership of the Colombo Plan or of assistance to the new Commonwealth and other nations; the question of aid to the West Indies Federation is more immediate and, of course, a reply has to be made to the United Kingdom note of last June.

3. It may be assumed that with the setting up of the Federation, and the lessening of United Kingdom participation in the affairs of the federating colonies as they move closer to full independence, it is desirable that Canada play a somewhat larger role in that area. There are commercial ties between the BWI and Canada, particularly the Maritime Provinces, of long standing and continuing importance. These commercial ties, coupled with tourism, have resulted in many close personal contacts by Canadians with West Indian affairs, probably closer than with any other Commonwealth territory aside from the United

⁸⁷ Note marginale :/Marginal Note:

Yes [L.B. Pearson]

⁸⁸ Voir, Canada, Chambre des Communes, *Débats*, 1957, volume II, p. 2013.

See Canada, House of Commons, *Debates*, 1957, Volume II, pp. 1930-1931.

⁸⁹ M. Léger a ajouté le paragraphe suivant à la main :/Léger added the following paragraph by hand:

I am not too happy about this. I agree that we haven't got sufficient elements to come to a firm recommendation but I am afraid that we may be forgetting some of the wider political implications connected with the future of the Federation both within & without the Commonwealth. In due course, U.K. influence is bound to disappear; is it in our interests that it be replaced more or less *in toto* by the U.S.?

Pearson répondit./Pearson responded:

I agree entirely with your preoccupations. My feeling is that we may have to accept some special responsibilities — which might also be opportunities — in the West Indies. The alternative is, of course, the "Yankee dollar" without any political brakes this time.