

CANADA-CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

Prime Minister Pearson recently welcomed members of the first Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference to Ottawa. The following is a partial text of his remarks:

...We begin today the first conference of the Caribbean countries of the Commonwealth and Canada. I emphasize that it is the first conference for I feel that we should look upon this meeting as the start of a process of close and continuing consultation, and of meetings to advance our collective and individual interests.

We in Canada have a special feeling for the West Indies and there is a long tradition of friendly and constructive contact between us.

In the past few years the constitutional framework for our relations has been changing. In 1962, we in Canada welcomed independence for Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago - and it is a pleasure for me to greet again in Ottawa old friends in Dr. Williams and Mr. Sangster.

In May of this year we were happy that Guyana joined the ranks of independent countries. I want to say a special word of welcome to Mr. Burnham on his first visit as Prime Minister. It is also a pleasure to congratulate the Premier of Barbados on the positive outcome of the constitutional discussions he has just concluded in London.

We have watched with interest the development of the plans worked out with the United Kingdom for associated statehood now coming to fruition for Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. I offer our best wishes for the time, as I believe early next year, when their new arrangements will come into effect. When the Premier of British Honduras was here just over a year ago, he

told us of his hopes for constitutional development in the near future.

It is fitting that, as the framework changes and we settle into new constitutional patterns, we should take steps to review our relations and place them on the basis most promising for present and future circumstances. It will be equally fitting for us to decide to keep those relations under review in the years ahead.

Since the spring of 1964, a number of us have been discussing informally the organizing of this conference. I think it was wise not to be hasty in convening such a conference but to wait upon the unfolding of certain international developments that are bound to affect our relations. I have in mind the course of events in the UNCTAD and the GATT negotiations, as well as the constitutional changes affecting some of us here, which, until recently, were in a state of some uncertainty. The preparatory work has been well done. I am confident, in this connection, that the conference will benefit greatly from the preliminary discussions you had in Barbados last month, as well as from the talks our officials had in Jamaica in January, and the other preliminary exchanges looking towards our talks.

Forty-one years ago today the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was signed. It has served all of us well and still serves us. But no matter how wise an earlier generation may have been, it could not foresee the full range of trading problems that would arise in a world far different from that of 1925. I hope it will prove to be a happy coincidence that our deliberations begin on this anniversary date and that our discussions may be as constructive and durable as those of our predecessors....

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CANADA-BULGARIA COMPACTS

Documents resulting from the visit to Ottawa in June of a delegation from the People's Republic of Bulgaria were tabled recently in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin. The delegation, which was led by Mr. Gero Grozev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Bulgaria, conferred with members of the Canadian Government and officials of several federal departments.

TWO TYPES OF DOCUMENT

The interrelated documents, which constituted an important step toward the restoration of normal relations between Canada and Bulgaria, as well as between Canada and the other countries of Eastern Europe, were classed as Agreements and Understandings. Those in the former category were completed after diplomatic relations had been established and a small number of financial claims arising from postwar nationalization had been settled. The latter dealt with consular protection, the reuniting of families and the status of persons possessing dual nationality.

MALAYSIAN MISSION TO CANADA

A two-man trade mission, representing the electric authority of the Malaysian Government, arrived in Ottawa recently for a tour of Canadian thermal and hydro-electric installations. The members were Raja Zainal Bin Raja Sulaiman, General Manager of the National Electricity Board of Malaysia, and Chief Accountant L.H. Tan. The tour was sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

During their visit to Canada, the Malaysians inspected installations at Tracy, Beauharnois and Niagara Falls, and discussed developments in electrical power generation and transmission with leading Canadian electrical consultants and manufacturers.

Through the Colombo Plan, Canada has cooperated with the National Electricity Board of Malaysia in a detailed engineering and geological survey for the Upper Perak Hydro electric development. Projects currently under construction or consideration by the NEB of Malaysia, for the 1966-70 period, are valued at \$130 million, indicating the potential for sales of electrical equipment and engineering services.