

A. 73FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1963

A Commonwealth Conference on the Teaching of Science in Schools, at which Canada is to be represented, will be held at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, from December 9 to 21, 1963. At the invitation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, the following three Canadian educationists will comprise the Canadian Delegation :

Dr. Herbert Hugh John Nesbitt, Dean of the Faculty of Science at Carleton University, Ottawa (Chairman);

Mr. Marcel Sicotte, Professor of Science in Jacques Cartier Normal School, Montreal;

Mr. J. Archie Flemming, Supervisor of Physics and Mathematics at Simmonds High School, Saint John, New Brunswick.

The convening of this conference of experts, which is sponsored by the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee, arises from a recommendation of the Second Commonwealth Education Conference at New Delhi in January 1962. The recommendations of delegates attending this conference in Ceylon will be studied at the Third Commonwealth Education Conference which, at the invitation of the Canadian Government, will be held in Ottawa in August 1964.

The Ceylon Conference is designed primarily to assist developing Commonwealth nations in planning science education, particularly at the secondary school level, so that new laboratories may be built and syllabuses revised to meet present needs, taking into account the extraordinary growth in scientific knowledge and the technological advances achieved in recent years. Recognized authorities from a number of countries both inside and outside the Commonwealth will lead discussions on the aims and methods of science teaching and delegates will hear first-hand accounts of new studies and experiments which are yielding encouraging results.

There is a growing awareness among the newer members of the Commonwealth that a rapid improvement of science education is one of the essentials for speeding up economic development. It is thus significant that these developing countries, in requesting educational assistance from the Canadian Government, have assigned high priority to the provision of specialists in the fields of science and mathematics. Of the 158 Canadian teachers and teacher-trainers currently working abroad under the auspices of the External Aid Office of the Canadian Government, 104 are teachers of science and mathematics.