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CANADIANS TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today the composition of the Canadian Delegation to the Forth Commonwealth Education Conference which will be held in Lagos, Nigeria, from February 26 to March 9, 1968. The Delegation will include representatives of provincial Departments of Education, the university community and organizations concerned with various forms of educational co-operation in the Commonwealth. Its membership is as follows:

Chairman: Dr. J.F. Leddy, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Windsor.

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. L.H. Bergstrom, Deputy Minister of Education for the Province of Saskatchewan.  
Dr. J.G. DeGrace, Deputy Minister of Education for the Province of New Brunswick.

Members: Dr. T.C. Byrne, Deputy Minister of Education for the Province of Alberta.

Mr. C.W. Dickson, Associate Deputy Minister of Education for the Province of Quebec.

Dr. A.G. McCalla, Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Alberta.

Dr. F.K. Stewart, Secretary-General of the Third Commonwealth Education Conference.

Msgr. J. Garneau, Associate Director of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

The Delegation will also include representatives of the Department of External Affairs and the External Aid Office.

NOTE

This Conference is the fourth in a series which has been convened primarily for the purpose of discussing governmental programmes of educational co-operation within the Commonwealth, and not education in the Commonwealth as such. At the first conference held in Oxford in 1959, four types of co-operation were recommended - a Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, the training of teachers, the supply of teachers for service in other Commonwealth countries and technical and vocational education. Developments in these schemes were reviewed and new areas of co-operation examined at a second conference held in New Delhi in January 1962. Delegates to the Ottawa Conference in 1964 studied progress that had been made since the New Delhi Conference in existing areas of co-operation.

The delegates to the Lagos Conference will discuss education and training related to social and economic development, adult literacy, agricultural training and community development. The Conference will also consider the latest developments in the use of mass media in education, curriculum development in primary and secondary schools (both rural and urban) and the role of libraries in the development of education.

One of the most important items on the agenda, as at the earlier conferences, is the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. Under this Plan the Commonwealth countries make available 1,000 scholarships and fellowships to citizens of the Commonwealth and of this total 250 are contributed by Canada for study in Canada.

The Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, based on a common effort and partnership between all the countries of the Commonwealth, plays an important part in maintaining and strengthening the common ideals on which the Commonwealth is founded. It enriches each country of the Commonwealth by enabling an increasing number of its abler citizens to share the wide range of educational resources available throughout the Commonwealth, and thus promotes equality of educational opportunity at the highest level. The majority of the awards under the Plan go to men and women of high intellectual promise, who may be expected to make a significant contribution to life in their own countries on their return from study overseas.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General will be the Secretary-General of the conference, and will be responsible for its organization, with the assistance of the host government, the Federal Military Government of Nigeria.