



FOR RELEASE AT 7.00 P.M. EST
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1963.

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee in London has appointed Dr. Freeman Kenneth Stewart of Toronto as its Secretary and as the Director of the Commonwealth Education Liaison Unit. Dr. Stewart will succeed the first and present incumbent of these two positions, Dr. V.S. Jha of India, who has been in office since April, 1960.

The Commonwealth Education Liaison Unit was set up as a result of a recommendation of the first Commonwealth Education Conference held at Oxford in July, 1959. The purpose of the Unit is to receive information on the programmes and other activities arising from the Commonwealth Education Conference, to report periodically to all member countries and to receive such requests as countries may have found themselves unable to handle bilaterally and to advise where they are most likely to be met. In general, the Unit performs duties for the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee, which is composed of representatives in London of all member countries of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of which is also the Director of the Liaison Unit. The Canadian Representative on the Committee is the High Commissioner to Britain, the Honourable George A. Drew, P.C., Q.C. The Unit has two Deputy Directors, one from Britain and one from Nigeria.

Dr. Stewart, who will take up his appointment on June 1, 1963, is at present the Executive Secretary of the

Canadian Education Association and Secretary of the Standing Committee of Provincial Ministers of Education. As Director of the Commonwealth Education Liaison Unit, he will have a large measure of responsibility in making preparations for the Third Commonwealth Education Conference which is to be held in Ottawa in the late summer of 1964. The Third Conference will review the progress which has been made in the field of Commonwealth educational cooperation since the Second (New Delhi) Conference in January, 1962.

The programme for Commonwealth cooperation has developed as the result of a proposal advanced by the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, the late Dr. Sidney Smith, at the Commonwealth meeting of trade and finance ministers held in Montreal in 1958. Since then, substantial progress has been made in various forms of cooperation and particularly in the exchange of scholars. The target of 1000 scholars studying in various Commonwealth countries under the Plan is expected to be met in 1963-64. Of this number Britain has agreed to provide 500 awards and Canada 250, with the remaining 250 being offered by other countries of the Commonwealth.

— A biographical note on Dr. Stewart is attached.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE - DR. FREEMAN K. STEWART

Dr. Freeman Kenneth Stewart was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, on May 23, 1913. He holds the degrees of B.A. (Honours, Dalhousie, 1934), B.A. Honours, Oxon 1937 and M.A.; IODE Scholar for Nova Scotia); M.Ed. (Toronto, 1956); LL.D. (Alberta, 1962). He was a secondary school teacher and principal in Nova Scotia for five years; served as an administrative officer in the R.C.A.F.; as National Director of the Canadian Legion Educational Services 1945/46 and Industrial Relations Officer with the Canadian International Paper Company, Montreal 1946/47 prior to assuming his present appointment as Executive Secretary of the Canadian Education Association in June, 1947. In September 1960, on the establishment of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Education, he was named its Secretary. Dr. Stewart, who is the author of "Interprovincial Co-operation in Education" (1957) and co-editor, with Dr. G.E. Flower, of "Leadership in Action: The Superintendent of Schools in Canada", has given the course on "Comparative Education" to graduate students at the Ontario College of Education, University of Toronto, since 1958.

Dr. Stewart represented the Canadian Education Association at the International Conference on Public Education, Geneva, 1950. He served as a member of the Canadian Government Delegation to the UNESCO Biennial Conferences in Montevideo, Uruguay, (1954) and in New Delhi, India, (1956); he was also a member of the Canadian Delegation to the Commonwealth Education Conference in New Delhi in January, 1962. Dr. Stewart is familiar with educational systems in various parts of the Commonwealth and also in other countries, having visited in connection with his duties schools and educational agencies in Australia, Britain, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Egypt, Thailand, Uruguay and the United States. His honorary degree from the University of Alberta was given "in recognition of his services to Canadian education".