

# PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, P. C., C. H., will be the President of the Third Commonwealth Education Conference, which is to be held in Ottawa from August 21 to September 4, 1964, on the invitation of the Canadian Government.

This Conference is the third in a series of conferences which have been convened primarily for the purpose of discussing governmental programmes of educational co-operation within the Commonwealth, 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 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 will study progress that has been made since the New Delhi Conference in present areas of co-operation, including the provision of textbooks, rural education and the holding of conferences of experts. Among new topics which will be discussed are the use of mass media in education,

co-operative arrangements for the planning and development of educational institutions, and the problems of adult illiteracy.

It is particularly appropriate that Mr. Massey has accepted the Presidency of the Third Commonwealth Education Conference bearing in mind his personal contributions both to the evolution of the Commonwealth concept and to the educational and cultural scene in Canada. It will be recalled that, before 1920, Canada had no independent diplomatic representative abroad, although, as early as 1920, it was agreed by the British and Commonwealth Governments, and by the United States, that a Dominion Minister could be appointed to Washington. Mr. Massey was designated as Minister in 1926 and the first Canadian legation was opened in Washington early in 1927. Mr. Massey remained as Canadian Minister to the United States until 1930 and, subsequently, was Canadian High Commissioner to Britain from 1935 to 1946. In 1952, Mr. Massey became the first Canadian-born Governor-General. In 1962, he was the Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's second Commonwealth Study Conference which was held in Canada.

It will also be recalled that, in 1949, Mr. Massey was appointed the Chairman of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, which led to the establishment of the Canada Council in 1957. In the education field, Mr. Massey acted as Chancellor of the University of Toronto from 1947 to 1953 and directed the building of Hart House and established the new Massey College at that university.