



The University of the West Indies

**W.I. Federal Archives Centre**

Cave Hill Campus



## THE WEST INDIES FEDERATION (1958-1962)

**T**he West Indies Federation came into being on 3 January 1958. The West Indies Federation was a political federation of ten territories in the Anglophone West Indies. It comprised of ten territories namely, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent with British Guiana and British Honduras as associated territories.

The Federal Parliament was bi-cameral consisting of an elected House of Representatives and a nominated Senate. Queen Elizabeth II was the Head of State and her representative to the Crown was Governor General, 1st Baron Hailes. The only Prime Minister of the Federal period was Sir Grantley Adams of Barbados.

In September 1961, Jamaica voted for secession from the Federation by way of a referendum. Trinidad and Tobago soon followed and The West Indies Federation was subsequently dissolved by the West Indies (Dissolution and Interim Commissioner) Order-in-Council (S.I.No.1084, 1962) on 29 May 1962.

available records of



TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY



## THE W.I. FEDERAL ARCHIVES CENTRE THE FEDERAL FLAG



### **Description:**

A blue background, with four white wavy bars, the top pair of bars being parallel and lower pair also parallel; the flag to have an orange sun in the centre.

(FWI-FS-SPC-4)

**T**he official flag of the West Indies Federation (1958-1962) is irreplaceable. The symbols of the flag were intended to be representative of all ten territories that made up the Federation. The final design for the Federal Flag was favoured and agreed upon because "its presentation of the elements of sea and sun [was] appropriate to the West Indies".



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## THE W.I. FEDERAL ARCHIVES CENTRE COAT-OF-ARMS



The heraldic description of the Coat-of-Arms of The West Indies Federation as given to the Court of St. James's on 1st August 1957 read,

**“For Arms: Or a Pile Gules thereon another Argenta Bordure Barrywavy of the last and Azure and Berzanty on a Chief also Gules a Lion passant guardant gold: And upon a representation of Our Royal Helmet mantled Gules doubled Argent, for the Crest: On a Wreath Argent Sable Azure or Vert and Gules Adexter Cubit Arm sunburnt proper holding erect a Torch or enflamed Gules: And for the Supporters: On either side a Brown Pelican wings elevated and addorsed Gold: together with the motto ‘To dwell together in unity’...**



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## THE FEDERAL CABINET

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*In 1960, constitutional reform led to the establishment of a Federal Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Sir Grantley Adams.*



**Standing – left to right:**

**Hon. Victor Vaughan, Minister without Portfolio;**

**Hon. Allan Byfield, Minister without Portfolio; Hon. James Liburd, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance;**

**Fred Phillips, Cabinet Secretary; Hon. Novelle Richards,**

**Minister without Portfolio; Hon. James L. Charles, Minister without Portfolio.**

**Seated – left to right: Hon. Frank Ricketts, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Mrs. Phyllis Allfrey, Minister of Social Services; Hon. Robert L. Bradshaw, Minister of Finance;**

**Hon. Sir Grantley Adams, Prime Minister; Hon. Carl La**

**Corbinere, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade;**

**Hon. Andrew Rose, Minister of Communication and Works.**



## THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES (UCWI)

*The University College of the West Indies (UCWI), established in 1948, played a major role in The West Indies Federation as a chief source of trained manpower and expertise. The University College produced several outstanding West Indian citizens and served as a symbol of West Indian hopes for regional unity.*



The College gained university status in April 1962 just as the Federation was collapsing. It continues to fulfil its role as an exceptional regional body as The University of the West Indies.





## WEST INDIES TRANSPORT

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*The ability to move freely around the West Indies was a prime concern of the Federal Government. It was felt that the freedom of movement of goods and people would serve as the 'glue' that would hold the Federal territories together. It was therefore imperative to establish inter-island transport services.*



Towards this end, the British West Indies Airways (BWIA), a subsidiary of the British Overseas Airways Corporation Associated Companies Limited (BOAC) became a quasi-national carrier to the West Indies.



The Canadian Government, which served as a vital source of support to the Federal Government, further fulfilled the need for inter-island transport services by giving two gift-ships, namely the *Federal Maple* and the *Federal Palm* in 1961.



(Biennial Report of the Federal Government 1958 - 1959)

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## THE W.I. FEDERAL ARCHIVES CENTRE MISSION STATEMENT

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*The mandate of the W.I. Federal Archives Centre is to acquire, preserve and make available records of the West Indies Federation (1958-1962). The Centre will enhance the knowledge of those in the participating territories of the Federation, the wider Caribbean and the international community by providing primary sources of information on the Federal Government and its demise. The Centre will also serve as a repository of archives from Caribbean integration movements, associations, organisations and business entities. Records will be stored, conserved and described in compliance with international archival standards and access will be provided wherever possible to users and potential users.*





## SCOPE AND CONTENT



*The records of The West Indies Federation (1958 – 1962), now referred to as the Federal Archives, compose of administrative files, original agreements, oath books, ledgers, registers, drawings, architectural plans, newspaper clippings, press releases, savingrams, reports, records of judgments, statistical data, card indexes, reel-to-reel magnetic tapes, black-and-white photographs, maps, architectural plans, artifacts in the form of metal seals, original flags, coat-of-arms and a mahogany plaque.*

*This unique body of records can only be found at the W.I. Federal Archives Centre and are priceless.*

