

BRITISH GUIANA

FOURTH
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1947-1948

MESSAGE No. 4.

H onourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to refer to Sir Gordon Lethem's Message No. 12 of the 15th of December, 1945, to the Third Legislative Council and to Resolution No. XXI passed on the 7th of February, 1946, in which the Council accepted in principle the establishment of a West Indian University in Jamaica and approved of payment from Public Funds of the Colony's appropriate share of the recurrent cost on the terms set out in that Message.

2. The basis on which these contributions should be made was the subject of discussion at a meeting of representatives of the Governments of the territories concerned summoned at the close of the Montego Bay Closer Union Conference. This Government was represented at the Meeting by the Honourable F. J. Seaford, C. B. E.

At that meeting it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the Colonies concerned should meet the recurrent costs of the University College for the next six years by annual contributions computed on the basis of their respective populations; the basis of apportionment to be reviewed at the end of this period.

3. Assessing the contribution on the interim results of the recent West Indian census, the percentage payable by each Colony would be:-

Barbados	...	...	7.4%
British Guiana	...	...	12.9%
British Honduras	...	...	2.2%
Jamaica	...	...	45.4%
Leeward Islands	...	...	3.9%
Trinidad	...	...	17.9%
Windward Islands	...	...	10.3%

4. The annual net cost of the University College was originally estimated at £68,590. It has now been estimated that the net recurrent costs would be of the order of £160,000 for the first three-year period from September, 1947 to August, 1950; and £150,000 a year for the subsequent three-year period ending August, 1953. British Guiana's contribution over the six-year period would aggregate \$377,712; \$99,072 for the first three

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years (i.e. \$33,024 a year) and thereafter \$92,880 a year. Provision for the payment of British Guiana's contributions towards the recurrent cost of the University College of the West Indies is being included in Estimates on that basis in accordance with the terms of the Resolution referred to above.

C. C. WOOLLEY

Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
British Guiana.

5th February, 1948.

(M.P. 35/59/1 II)

(Circulated for the information of Honourable Members
of the Legislative Council).