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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, W.I.

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The Honourable Acting Minister of Home Affairs has appointed a
Committee "to consider and submit a draft code of Flag Etiquette "
comprising:

Mr. Werner Boos	-	Chairman
Mr. Enos Sewlal	-	Secretary
Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips		
Acting Senior Supt. A. Gentle,		
Representative of the Commissioner of Police		
Dr. R. Marcano		
Commander Peyton Jones		
Lt.-Col. Pearce Gould		
Dr. S. Moosai-Maharaj		
Col. K. Gittens		
Mr. Eric Mahabir		

Ministry of Home Affairs
8th June, 1962



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, W.I.
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
PRESS RELEASE

Whitehall,
Maraval Road,
Port-of-Spain.
Telephone : 23141

No. 227

14th July, 1962.

THE NATIONAL FLAG, COAT OF ARMS AND MOTTO OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

On the 31st May, 1962 a Committee was set up to consider a suitable and appropriate design and colours for a National Flag and for a Coat of Arms for Trinidad and Tobago, and to submit recommendations. The Committee was requested to report within two weeks.

Its recommendations were submitted to Cabinet on the 26th June, 1962. It was explained that a considerable amount of research was involved as well as the need to consider submissions by members of the public who had been invited by the Committee through the medium of the Press and Radio to offer suggestions for designs and colours. Fifty-seven (57) persons representing a cross-section of the public submitted to the Committee designs for the flag and coat of arms and suggestions for the motto.

With respect to the National Flag the Committee submitted for consideration by Government three designs, indicating which of these three was its own choice. This design was also favoured by Cabinet. Government decided on 28th June, 1962 that the colours of the National Flag of Trinidad and Tobago should be black, white and red. The selection of these colours was largely influenced by Technical considerations, after experiments in consistency and blending of "fast" colours by a team of our leading local artists. There is no racial significance in the choice of these colours. Indeed a statement of the symbolism of the colours chosen follows this more or less technical description of the Flag. On a Red Field - a Bend Dexter Sable bordered silver, that is, there is on a Red Field a diagonal from left to right in black bordered with white. The total of the black and white bands together measure one-fifth of the length of the flag and each white band is one-sixth of the white and black bands together, so that the black is four-sixths of the total of the white and black.

The decision with regard to design was arrived at in much the same manner as in the case of the colours. Simplicity with pleasing visual quality was

preferred to symbolism with its possibilities of controversy and complexity.

Nevertheless, the symbolism of the colours approved by Government is as follows:-

BLACK represents the dedication of all in one strong bond. It is the colour of strength, of unity and purpose and the wealth of the land. WHITE is said to represent the sea by which these lands are bound, the cradle of our heritage, the purity of our aspirations and the equality of all men under the sun.

RED was felt to be the colour most expressive of the country and can be said to represent the vitality of the land and its peoples. It is the warmth and energy of the sun, the courage and friendliness of the people.

Thus, the colours chosen, black, white and red, represent the elements of Earth, Fire and Water that encompass all our past, present and future, to inspire us as one united, vital and dedicated people.

The Coat of Arms recommended and approved by Government incorporates essential historical and indigenous features of Trinidad and Tobago in a design of artistic elegance that has been approved by the College of Heralds.

What is commonly known as a Coat of Arms is more properly called an Achievement of Arms and comprises:

- (a) The livery coat or colour on a shield
- (b) Charges or devices on the shield
- (c) The helm of special design
- (d) The mantle which covers the helm
- (e) The wreath to hold the mantle in place
- (f) The crest
- (g) The supporters
- (h) The motto.

(a) The Colours

The colours are as for the National Flag, black, white and red, on a shield.

(b) Charges or Devices on the shield

Government agreed that the charges on the shield should be of three ships proper, i.e., in their natural colour, and two conventional hummingbirds gold.

The THREE SHIPS were to represent the Trinity, the discovery, the sea which brought our people together, the commerce and wealth of the country.

The HUMMINGBIRDS were to be retained for sentimental interest. It was agreed that these devices should be deployed on the shield as would be most appropriate. The College of Heralds, however, for technical reasons of design and reproduction, have, with the agreement of the Premier in London, amended the devices slightly without losing the symbolism. There will now be only one Ship and two Hummingbirds, thus the idea of the Trinity is preserved. (Two Hummingbirds and one Ship appropriately arranged whilst still keeping the idea of Sea, Discovery, Commerce on the one trend and the sentimental attachment to the Trinity on the other).

(c) The Helm

Government agreed that it should apply for the grant of the Queen's Helm, i.e. a gold helmet facing front and having five gold bars across the visor, the interior lined red.

(d) The Wreath

The wreath by tradition carried all the colour of the achievement.

(e) The Crest

The Crest should be a conventional palm infloriate and having five branches.

(f) The Supporters

The supporters should be a Scarlet Ibis for Trinidad in the senior position and the Cocrico for Tobago, both rampant and proper.

(g) The Motto

Government agreed that the Motto of Trinidad and Tobago should be:

"TOGETHER WE ASPIRE! TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE!"

Government considered that the Motto had the merit of originality and represented a welcome break from cliches and time-worn platitudes. It reflected also, both in a material and spiritual sense, the precise and important needs of the people of Trinidad and Tobago as exemplified by the guiding principles enunciated by the Honourable Premier, already generally accepted as a national watchword: "Discipline, Production and Tolerance". It has a timeless appropriateness.

Government now takes pleasure in announcing that it was informed by telegram yesterday that the Colours and Designs have received the approval of the College of Arms with the changes indicated above.

Government is confident that the National Flag, Coat of Arms and Motto would also receive the overwhelming approval of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.
