NATIONAL SONG, PRAYER AND PLEDGE FOR USE IN SCHOOLS

Following discussions last October with the various teachers' organisations, my predecessor established a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Henry Fowler, M.A. to formulate plans for preparing the youth of Jamaica for responsibility, independence and freedom.

2. This Committee has made several recommendations including the preparation for use in all schools (public and private), of:-

(i) A National Song for use on all suitable occasions;
(ii) A National Prayer for use weekly;
(iii) A National Pledge for use at the beginning and end of term, and on other special occasions.

3. The Song, Prayer and Pledge, copies of which are attached for the information and endorsement of this Honourable House, were approved in principle by the last Cabinet, endorsed by the main religious denominations in Jamaica and approved by my predecessor and me after minor modifications.

4. It is intended to give wide publicity to them and to send copies to heads of all educational institutions informing them of my desire that they should be recognised and used in schools as and where indicated.

Ministry of Education
30th May, 1962.
A NATIONAL SONG FOR USE IN SCHOOLS

I PLEDGE MY HEART

(to the tune of "I Vow to thee, my Country")

I pledge my heart forever
To serve with humble pride
This shining homeland, ever
So long as earth abide.

Vow now, my heart, this island
As God and faith shall live
My work, my strength, my love, and
My loyalty to give.

O green isle of the Indies,
Jamaica, strong and free,
Our vows and loyal promises,
O heartland, 'tis to thee!

(By Victor Stafford Reid).
NATIONAL PRAYER FOR USE WEEKLY IN SCHOOLS

THE RESPONSE IS: "WE GIVE THEE THANKS, O GOD"

Let us Pray:

Let us give thanks for all God's goodness and the wonderful heritage into which we have entered:
For Jamaica, our Island home, the land of our birth -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For the majesty of our hills, the beauty of our valleys, and the flaming loveliness of our gardens -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For the warmth and brightness of our days and the calm and peace of our countryside -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For the rich heritage of our people coming from many races, and yet one in purpose, in achievement, and in destiny, and for the dignity of labour and the service given by every citizen of our land -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For freedom, just laws and our democratic way of life -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For the high privilege and responsibility of Independence and for bringing us to nationhood -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For our parents, teachers, religious and other leaders and all those who in every walk of life are helping to prepare us for responsible citizenship, and for all those who are giving voluntary service in the public interest -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For the poets, artists and thinkers and all who create in us the vision of a new and better society -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.
For our godly heritage, the example of Jesus Christ and the sacrifices of our fathers in the faith -
   We give Thee thanks, O God.

THE RESPONSE IS: "HEAR US, WE BESEECH THEE, O GOD".

Bless, we pray Thee, our Queen, our Governor General, our Prime Minister and other Ministers of State, our Parliament, and all who are sent in authority over us and grant that under them we may be peacefully and justly governed -
   Hear us, we beseech Thee, O God.
Grant us love and compassion for all those in need and distress and help us to remove poverty and ignorance from our land, and grant us prosperity and true wisdom, we pray -
   Hear us, we beseech Thee, O God.
Forgive us all that is unworthy and evil in our national life, establish us in righteousness and inspire us to work for universal brotherhood, we pray -
   Hear us, we beseech Thee, O God.
Guide and bless our nation, we pray, and make us loyal and dutiful citizens, through Almighty God, the Father of us all.

Amen.
Before God and all mankind, I pledge the love and
loyalty of my heart, the wisdom and courage of my
mind, the strength and vigour of my body in the
service of my fellow citizens. I
promise to stand up for Justice, Brotherhood and
Peace, to work diligently and creatively, to think
generously and honestly, so that Jamaica may, under
God, increase in beauty, fellowship and prosperity,
and play her part in advancing the welfare of the
whole human race.