1958 BWI FEDERATION SERIES

Established in 1958, the West Indies Federation comprised the ten territories of: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, the then St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago. The Federation was established by the British Caribbean Federation Act of 1956 with the aim of establishing a political union among its members.The Federal government was headed by an Executive Governor-General, appointed by Britain and included a Prime Minister, elected from among and by the members of the House of Representatives, a Cabinet, comprising the Prime Minister and ten other elected Members chosen by him, a Council of State presided over by the Governor General. The Council included the Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet as well as three senators and three civil servants. The senators and civil servants were chosen by the Governor General. The Council of State was the principal policy and decision-making body at the start of the Federation. In 1960 Britain agreed to abolish this Council and allow the Cabinet to take over the powers of the Council. There was a forty five-member House of Representatives, with Members elected from among the Territories and a nineteen-member Senate, nominated by the Governor General following consultation with the Prime Minister. The decisive development, which led to the demise of the Federation was the withdrawal of Jamaica, the largest member, after conducting a national referendum in 1961 on its continued participation in the arrangement. The results of the referendum showed majority support in favour of withdrawing from the Federation. This was to lead to a movement within Jamaica for national independence from Britain. It also led to the now famous statement of Dr Eric Williams, the then Premier of Trinidad and Tobago that, one from ten leaves nought, referring to the withdrawal of Jamaica and signifying and justifying his decision to withdraw Trinidad and Tobago from the Federal arrangement a short while later. The Federation collapsed in January 1962.

ANTIGUA





BARBADOS





DOMINICA





1958 BWI FEDERATION SERIES

GRENADA





JAMAICA





MONTSERRAT





St CHRISTOPHER NEVIS ANGUILLA





1958 BWI FEDERATION SERIES

St LUCIA





St VINCENT





TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



