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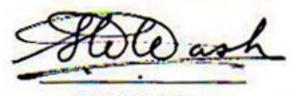
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GERALD CASH, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., J.P., GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

It is with much pleasure that I extend to my fellow Bahamians and all who reside in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas my warmest greetings and sincere best wishes on the occasion of the Ninth Anniversary of our country's Independence.

As we celebrate this occasion, I should like for us to reflect on a line found in our National Anthem which is: "Pledge to excel through love and unity". When we sing these words, we make a binding promise and commitment for excellence in whatever we do in our lives and in our relationships with others to make our nation great. The attainment of excellence can only materialize through the love we have for our God, our country and our fellowmen. With this abiding affection, we can have that unity of mind and soul, which would strengthen us to be loyal and patriotic to this country of ours.

Let us therefore strive for excellence, to demonstrate leve and portray unity, so as to make our country a better place for all, and to be an example to other nations of the world. In making this pledge to excel in love and unity, we should always be mindful of and give thanks for God's bounteous blessings which have been bestowed upon us.

May the Almighty God continue to guide and bless out beloved country.



GOVERNOR-GENERAL