

Montserrat seeks steelband aid

Staff Reporter

A FORMAL request to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago from the Government of Montserrat will soon be made for assistance in a number of fields, including steelband and education.

Mrs. Mary Tuitt, Montserrat's Minister of Education, Health and Welfare, disclosed this yesterday at the end of a busy two-day stay in Trinidad.

The Minister held talks with Trinidad's Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Carlton Gomes, and officials of the Office of the Prime Minister.

She said her visit was primarily to discuss possible areas of aid Trinidad could give to

Montserrat especially in areas relative to her Ministry.

Mrs. Tuitt said Montserrat would request assistance in teacher training, community development and sports.

With respect to the steelband, she said:

"I think it has become an important part of the culture of the Caribbean." She added that the steelband movement in that country was still in the infant stage.

Asked if she could foresee steelband music being taught at schools in her country, Mrs. Tuitt replied:

"We have a long way to go in this direction, seeing that the steelband is quite new to

Montserrat but this can be done if it is developed sufficiently."

She said she would like to see steelbandmen from Trinidad going to her country to train people in the skills and technique of steelband music.

"From the discussions I had with Government officials I have been assured that help will be forthcoming when we make a formal request.

"I have been feeling out the situation and we will be making a formal request for assistance in the areas discussed," the Minister stated.

She left Trinidad for home yesterday afternoon.

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