

it will do much to place our future relations on a sound and intimate footing. I shall not try to anticipate the results of the conference, but I know that Canadians all across the country share with me the hope and expectation that it will serve to strengthen further the Commonwealth as well as our relations with the West Indies....

SITUATION IN RHODESIA

Now I should like to say something about the Lagos conference last month, at which Commonwealth representatives considered the Rhodesian situation. This was not the first time Rhodesia had been considered at a Commonwealth meeting. The readiness of Commonwealth leaders in 1964 to face the question of race relations and issue a declaration of principle on racial equality went far to ensure the continuation of the Commonwealth as a meaningful political institution. Last month, the question was again faced in Lagos in an even more explosive form, and again the members displayed their adaptability and their readiness to use the association for constructive consultations. Canada took an important part in the conference, as you know. At the suggestion of our Prime Minister, consultations will continue in two committees, which will have several functions. They will consider sanctions against Rhodesia, aid to Zambia required in connection with the Rhodesian crisis and the development of plans for Commonwealth assistance in the large-scale training programme for Rhodesian Africans, which is likely to be launched after constitutional government is restored.

These committees provide an interesting example of new Commonwealth machinery devised to help deal with a particularly awkward problem.

Although, as I have pointed out, there is a significant movement away from this emphasis, for most members still the most important factor in the Commonwealth is their relations with Britain.

This is only natural when you consider the very brief career of independence of many of them and the correspondingly short period for politically significant groups to draw distinctions between their relations with the Commonwealth and their relations with Britain. Indeed, this is an important reason why the Rhodesian crisis is also a Commonwealth crisis, since some African governments have questioned the determination of Britain to suppress the illegal Rhodesian regime and lay the basis for a government in Salisbury responsible for the majority.

NEW ATTITUDE TO COMMONWEALTH

However, the members are increasingly coming to look upon the Commonwealth as not only a link with Britain but also a forum for valuable consultation and action among widely-scattered and diverse countries. The late Prime Minister of Nigeria had this wider appreciation and accordingly proposed the Lagos meeting. Although Ghana and Tanzania have severed relations with Britain at the call of the Organization of African Unity, President Nyerere, at least, has expressed the hope that Tanzania's Commonwealth associations can be preserved. His appreciation of the Commonwealth for the relations it provides with such countries as Canada (I remind

you that we are helping to train his army and air force) no doubt influenced his attitude.

I might add that Canada is trying to diminish the damage to the Commonwealth from the break in relations by looking after British interests in Tanzania and after Tanzanian interests in Britain.

The Rhodesian situation and the Lagos conference have been, therefore, severe tests of the continuing interest of many states in the Commonwealth association. If this association were declining, and if attitudes were generally apathetic, a problem as great as the Rhodesian one would probably have led to its abandonment by many states.

I am not overlooking what are still very considerable dangers to the Commonwealth inherent in the Rhodesian situation. What I should like to stress, however, is that African leaders who have been most critical of Britain and impatient over Rhodesia have, nevertheless, given due weight to the substantial and good features of the Commonwealth connection. In fact, no country has left the Commonwealth on this issue.

MEANING OF COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP

I do not intend to list or comment on the many practical implications of Commonwealth membership. I would simply remind you, by way of current examples: (1) that by far the largest part of our expanding Canadian aid programme goes to Commonwealth countries and that other developed members of the Commonwealth do a great deal to help the developing nations within its ranks; (2) that we are giving military aid also to several Commonwealth nations; (3) that, for the first time, a Secretariat was set up last year by the collective decision of members to promote co-operation and consultation (a Canadian is the Secretary-General); (4) that the Commonwealth Educational Scheme has promoted very significant contracts between Commonwealth nations and that new cultural exchanges have been inaugurated only last year; (5) that trade preferences remain from earlier years and that, in many ways not always well known throughout the world, there are clear economic and technical advantages to remaining within the world-wide framework of specialized institutions which originated in an Empire and survived to serve a Commonwealth; (6) that, in spite of reluctance in earlier years to consider joint measures in external affairs and in spite of the dissensions about the Rhodesian situation, there has been a significant agreement on action to deal with the illegal declaration of independence by the Smith Government....

LINKS AMONG RACES

There must be compelling ideas also to guide the development of these activities. The most important political feature of the Commonwealth is its multi-racial character. By providing important links between many races, between nations in different parts of the world, and between economically advanced and developing countries, the Commonwealth supports the United Nations in its work of universal peace making and economic and social development. The Commonwealth nations can scarcely hope to be free from the conflicts of interest found elsewhere in the