

The Canadian Government has more than doubled its contribution (to 32 per cent of the budget) from 1976. In addition, Canada provides more than \$300 million in bilateral aid to Commonwealth countries as an area of concentration in its development assistance.

The Canadian Government has taken its turn as host to a number of recent Commonwealth conferences: the senior officials meeting and the Ministerial Telecommunications Conference in 1972, the Heads of Government Meeting in 1973 and the finance ministers' meeting in 1974. In 1975, the Commonwealth Air Transport Council met in Ottawa from September 29 to October 4. Canada was also the meeting-place in 1974 of a non-governmental conference, the Tenth Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Conference. In June 1976, the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council and the Commonwealth *ad hoc* group for "Habitat" met in Vancouver prior to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. The twenty-third Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is to be held in Ottawa in September and the meeting of Commonwealth law ministers will be held in Winnipeg in August 1977. In 1978, the Eleventh Commonwealth Games and the fourth meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council will be held in Edmonton, and Vancouver will be the host city for the Second General Conference of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and the Twelfth Congress of Commonwealth Universities. Other events of interest have been the initial meeting of the Commonwealth Education Broadcasting Conference in Sydney, Australia, from October 7 to 16, 1975, and the Sixth Commonwealth Educational Conference, held in Jamaica in 1974.

In spite of fears voiced on numerous occasions that the Commonwealth was dead, or on the verge of collapse, the association has grown more meaningful and useful. It has grown in several respects: its membership has increased from a mere half-dozen independent countries to 36; its functional programs have multiplied at an impressive rate, covering a wide variety of activities; and its orientation has changed from an Anglocentric one to a truly multi-lateral one, with no predominant member. If the recent past is an indication, then the future will see the maintenance and expansion of those activities in which the Commonwealth has proved itself so useful — consultation and functional co-operation. Government