

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Fourth Annual Student Commonwealth Conference will take place in the L.B. Pearson Building Conference Centre, Monday, April 26 to Wednesday, April 28. The Conference, organized by the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society and supported by the Department of External Affairs, the High Commissioners resident in Ottawa, and the Ottawa, Carleton, Renfrew and Frontenac school boards, will bring together over 100 students from secondary schools in the national capital region and from the Renfrew and Kingston areas. The students will be divided into two to three member delegations representing each of the 34 member countries of the Commonwealth. The student delegates will participate in a series of simulation exercises and regional workshops, as well as listening to addresses, all revolving around the Conference's theme: "A role for the Commonwealth in a Changing World".

The two theme addresses will be given by Mr. Arnold Smith, former Commonwealth Secretary-General and currently holder of the Lester B. Pearson Chair of International Affairs at the Carleton University School of International Relations (2000 hrs. April 26) and His Excellency, Dr. H.W. Tambiah, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka (1345 hrs. April 27). The students will be host to a reception-buffet at the L.B. Pearson Building on April 27 from 1830 to 2100 hours, with High Commissioners, representatives of the Canadian government, members of the Royal Commonwealth Society Ottawa Branch Council and other distinguished guests in attendance.

A high point of the Conference will be the opening session of the Model Heads of Government Meeting (April 28, 0845-0830) at which Miss Monique Bégin will be present to make some remarks on the Commonwealth and to meet informally with the participating students. The Model Heads of Government Meeting will occupy the rest of the last day of the Conference, and will be presided over by the head of delegation of the host country, Nigeria, in the person of Miss Colleen Mayo of Merivale High School. The delegates will discuss the following four agenda items and will agree on statements regarding them which will be published in the Final Communiqué:

1. The New International Economic Order

The 1975 Heads of Government Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica agreed to establish a small Group of Experts who would prepare a report on a programme of practical measures designed to close the gap between rich and poor countries. The ensuing report, entitled "Towards a New International Economic Order" received the general endorsement of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers, meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, August 25-28, 1975 and they agreed that "the early implementation of these proposals would constitute a first step towards achieving the progressive removal of the wide disparities of wealth now existing between different sections of mankind". The report also received