



Conference centre in Ottawa, formerly the old Union Station, where the 1973 Commonwealth meeting took place.

#### Canada's capital as the site of an international meeting place

The choice of Ottawa as the site of the Commonwealth meeting in itself suggests the organization's continuing change. The regular meetings were first held only in London, for London was the heart of the body. London is still a heart – and Britain is the eldest member – but the Commonwealth now has as many hearts as it has members.

Ottawa has about 500,000 people and is both English- and French-speaking. The river that flows below it represents a picture of Canadian industrial wealth – swirling booms of logs on their way to pulp and paper mills. It is a rela-

tively new city and one of its most distinctive buildings, the nineteenth century Parliamentary Library on Parliament Hill, links it to an older age and the culture of its founding nations.

Commonwealth visitors missed the winter skaters on the old Rideau Canal and the spring display of 600,000 daffodils, half a million crocuses and two million tulips, but they did catch the Changing of the Guard on lawns of the Parliament Buildings, with the scarlet and black of the Governor General's Foot Guards, the Canadian Grenadier

Guards and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police contrasting sharply with bright green grass.

The American writer Edith Iglauer noted in an article in *The Atlantic Monthly*, that the people of Ottawa move "easily through the clean streets, purposeful but not pushed. Even during the morning and evening traffic rushes Ottawa seems to remain sane". Visitors are surrounded by nature – flowers and trees and lakes and the splendour of the Gatineau Hills. Ottawa is chilly in December but it is fresh, lovely and certainly warm on a summer day.

those with economic interests in South Africa and Namibia, might best bring influence to bear to promote change. Heads of Government reviewed the efforts of the indigenous people of the territories in Southern Africa to achieve self-determination and independence and agreed on the need to give every humanitarian assistance to all those engaged in such efforts. The British Government reserved its position in relation to the last proposal in circumstances in which assistance

might be converted into military purposes.

"Heads of Government expressed their intense concern for the situation in Rhodesia and the damaging consequences of a continued absence of a settlement. They appreciated the efforts made by the British Government with whom the responsibility lay and were united in their willingness to contribute towards a solution. All were agreed on seeking a peaceful settlement and that the objective was ma-

majority rule. They took note of the meeting between Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa and associated themselves with the British Government's wish for the discussions to be broadened and the necessary steps taken to remove restrictions so as to enable all groups representative of Rhodesian opinion to take part. The British Prime Minister welcomed the constructive suggestions made and undertook to take them into account as the situation developed. "Heads of Government considered the