

regimes in Africa. Indeed, they almost certainly do believe all of these things, and discussions on these matters could have left us in no possible doubt of the passionate sincerity with which they hold these opinions. At the same time, it is perhaps easier for them to realize in informal discussions with non-African Commonwealth leaders the very real problems and uncertainties that have led to a more cautious approach by such countries as Britain and Canada, and, however much they may disagree with our policies, they are perhaps less likely, through the very nature of the discussions, to attribute evil motives to us.

African questions were an important subject of discussion at this conference, as in previous ones — happily without the overtones of crisis and confrontation that have sometimes existed in the past, as at the previous Commonwealth heads of government conference in Singapore, where Britain's intention to sell military equipment to South Africa was a major subject of controversy. Another issue that was raised at this conference was that of nuclear testing. As you know, Pacific Commonwealth nations, in particular Australia and New Zealand, have been active in their opposition to the recent series of atmospheric nuclear tests conducted by France, which Canada has also condemned. While not singling out any country by name, the conference did express opposition to all forms of nuclear testing and called for a comprehensive test-ban agreement.

No international conference today would be complete without a discussion of world economic problems, and this conference did not by any means neglect them. For the Commonwealth, of course, one of the important new facts of life is that Britain is now a member of the European Common Market — a fact that has important economic consequences for all other members, and perhaps most of all for developing countries in the Commonwealth. The old system of Commonwealth trade preferences is no longer operative for Britain, and it is not yet clear what arrangements will be possible for developing countries in their trading relations with the Common Market as a whole.

Given the composition of the Commonwealth, it is no surprise that problems of aid and development were an important item in the economic discussions. There was also considerable attention given to the problems of international trade in the context of the needs of developing countries. These problems range from the efforts now being made to establish a system of preferences, under the GATT, for the products of developing countries, to the much more complicated question of fair and stable prices for primary agricultural products, such as coffee, sugar and cotton, on which so many of the developing countries depend for their foreign-exchange earnings.

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