

The Treaty also has a provision of free movement of workers between all the nations by the end of the 12 years (transitional period) and by that time all restrictions for a person of one member state to establish in another state will be eliminated.

It is clear from this and the other provisions I have mentioned that, if the Treaty were carried into effect, the close economic ties envisaged would involve substantial derogations of sovereignty on the part of its various members.

One of the sources of strength peculiar to the Commonwealth is the degree to which it permits its members to make and adhere to allegiances beyond the Commonwealth.

Will this hold true if Britain in the sixties moves progressively into the European community sketched in the Treaty of Rome? How much of a strain will be placed on the Commonwealth association if the oldest and central member commits its primary allegiance to Europe and accepts the decisions of Europe's institutions of the future?

The answer to these questions are being pursued at this time together with the related problems which will arise for us in the field of trade if Britain joins the Common Market. We have made it clear that, while each member of the Commonwealth is naturally free to make its own decisions, the other members have the right to be consulted. That principle is accepted, and we have just completed a stage of consultation in an exchange of views in Ottawa with Britain's principal negotiator on Common Market problems, Mr. Heath.

We have also made clear our view - and this too is accepted - that, before any final decision is reached by the United Kingdom, there should be no commitment with regard to British entry until there has been a full opportunity for discussion at a meeting of Commonwealth prime ministers.

---

S/C