

- "75. The members of the Commonwealth are united by a common allegiance to the Crown. This allegiance is the basis of the common status possessed by all subjects of His Majesty.
- "76. A common status directly recognised throughout the British Commonwealth in recent years has been given a statutory basis through the operation of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914.
- "77. Under the new position, if any change is made in the requirements established by existing legislation, reciprocal action will be necessary to attain this same recognition the importance of which is manifest in view of the desirability of the facilitating freedom of intercourse and the mutual granting of privileges among the different parts of the Commonwealth.
- "78. It is of course plain that no member of the Commonwealth either could or would contemplate seeking to confer on any person a status to be operative throughout the Commonwealth save in pursuance of legislation based upon common status is in no way inconsistent with the recognition within and without the Commonwealth of the distinct nationality possessed by the nationals of the individual states of the British Commonwealth.
- "79. But the practical working out and application of the above principles will not be an easy task nor is it one which we can attempt to enter upon in this report. We recommend, however, that steps should be taken as soon as possible by consultation among the various Governments to arrive at a settlement of the problems involved on the basis of these principles."

3. Eight years have elapsed since it was recommended (paragraph 79) that "steps should be taken as soon as possible by consultation among the various Governments to arrive at a settlement of the problems involved on the basis of these principles".

4. It is submitted that in view of the greater clarity which now seems to prevail with regard to constitutional matters affecting the Union of South Africa, at any rate, the statement contained in paragraph 79 that the "practical working out and application" of the principles stated above "will not be an easy task" might be qualified and the task involved found to be not so difficult after all in so far as the Union is concerned.