

Mozambique Government that the Commonwealth would fulfil the commitments made at Kingston. It also acted as a powerful stimulus to international action. Since then, the Secretariat has been closely involved in the United Nations machinery established to implement the Security Council Resolution which Commonwealth action had itself helped to secure. The Secretariat provided an important member of the United Nations mission despatched by the Secretary-General to help determine Mozambique's essential requirements. And the same senior adviser has now been made available at Dr. Waldheim's request to assist in co-ordinating the international programme of assistance to Mozambique.

In addition, after I visited Maputo and talked with President Machel in March, the decision was taken to establish a special Commonwealth fund for technical assistance to Mozambique. To date, pledges to that fund from Australia, Britain, Canada, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria and Sierra Leone total some £819,000 out of the initial target of £1 million which I put to Governments. This specific Commonwealth contribution under the umbrella of the United Nations Programme is, of course, additional to the substantial bilateral and multilateral assistance in capital and kind which Commonwealth Governments are contributing, again under the UN umbrella.

In such tangible ways is the Commonwealth placing itself at the service of the international community in key areas of international action. I know that Dr. Waldheim values this contribution and I know too that this role for the Commonwealth is in accord with the wishes of Commonwealth Governments. I am sure that all our member countries would echo the sentiments of Nigeria's Commissioner for External Affairs at a dinner he gave jointly for the United Nations Secretary-General and for me in Lagos last month:

"The United Nations and the Commonwealth", he said, "in spite of the dissimilarities of their origin have nevertheless sought for themselves the same goals -- to promote self-determination and independence in larger freedom and also to promote world peace and international co-operation...."

"If the empire is no more the bonds that still unite members of the Commonwealth are an assurance that the shared experiences of the past are not lost and the possibilities of the future are not omitted."

But there are other respects, also, in which the Commonwealth is engaged, and must remain involved, in finding solutions to global problems. None among these is more important than the problem of poverty and the search for a new order of economic relationships between the states and peoples of this planet. For these general reasons the Commonwealth must necessarily be concerned with the problems of development and, more particularly, with the issue of change in the world's economic arrangements. But, there are more particular reasons why the Commonwealth's concern with development and its involvement in the establishment of a new international economic order must be a matter of special priority.

In population terms, and therefore in human terms, Commonwealth countries account for 44 per cent of the developing world. But the involvement with poverty goes much deeper. Of the world's absolute poor, of the 950 million people of developing countries with annual per capita incomes of less than \$200, 760 million live, if it can indeed be called living, in a Commonwealth