

55. Heads of Government reaffirmed their belief in the value of regional co-operation as a means of promoting accelerated growth and development. They noted the active participation of Commonwealth countries in a wide range of regional associations in five continents and agreed that the Secretariat should continue to assist efforts directed at fostering and strengthening regional and inter-regional co-operation. Recognising the valuable contribution which Commonwealth consultation at the regional level could make in enhancing co-operation on matters of Commonwealth interest and promoting Commonwealth objectives, Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the first meeting of Heads of Government of the Asia/Pacific region held in Sydney in February 1978. They commended the initiatives flowing from the Sydney Meeting and hoped that progress in the consultative and working groups that had been established would contribute to the success of the next Heads of Government Regional Meeting in New Delhi in 1980.

**Commonwealth  
Fund for Technical  
Co-operation**

56. Heads of Government recorded their appreciation of the work of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and in particular of the expeditious and flexible way in which the Fund responded to a wide variety of requests. They agreed that, while maintaining its reputation for informality and cost-effectiveness, the Fund expressed in a practical way the ideals of mutual assistance and functional co-operation and thus strengthened multilateral links amongst Commonwealth countries and peoples. Recognising the need of the Fund to grow in order to maintain its ability to meet the expanding requirements of Commonwealth Governments, and to be innovative in response to new needs, including housing, urbanisation and protection of the environment, Heads of Government called for a positive approach by all members to the provision of additional real resources and they welcomed the intention expressed at the Meeting by a number of developed and developing countries to make significant increases in their contributions.

**International Year  
of the Child**

57. Cognisant of the fact that their Meeting was taking place during the International Year of the Child, Heads of Government recognised that the future economic and social wellbeing of all Commonwealth countries depends in large measure on the extent to which the special needs and aspirations of children are fulfilled. They agreed that all future development planning should reflect this important priority.