

For other countries struggling with the complexities of economic development, there are a host of changes necessary if they are to begin to achieve even their most modest goals. For example, more rationality and order must prevail in the field of commodities and raw materials if the developing nations are to be able to predict and plan for their future. This is a complex problem, and solutions will depend on more assured access to finance, to technology and to markets. Each of these needs is itself surrounded by certain difficulties and there is not always agreement about the solutions.

We know, for example, that over the past five years the gap in access to finances has widened - particularly for those developing countries which must import the oil they need for industrial development. It is now quite evident that we have to adapt the international lending institutions to alleviate the impact of these structural difficulties.

We also know that more imaginative approaches to the sharing of technology are essential - approaches based on bilateral, trilateral or regional cooperation.

Access to markets is absolutely essential to developing countries. In part, this can be achieved through multilateral trade negotiations. But equally essential is the access they have to markets in developed countries - an objective that is frustrated by protectionist measures in the latter countries.

Food security is another pressing issue. If we cannot reach agreement on ways of increasing food productivity in developing countries within the next decade, their combined food deficit will have increased by as much as four times.

The level of expenditures on armaments is not only a threat to world security. It cuts heavily into the resources that could be made available for development. This year we will spend about \$450 billion on armaments, and only about \$30 billion on development assistance.

Against this background, what might be the rôle of the Commonwealth - not as a collectivity of nations, but as an institution having a demonstrated capacity to effect change and, on occasion, to play a key rôle in making vital political change possible? Nowhere has this been more amply demonstrated than in resolving the difficulties in Zimbabwe, a country whose admission to the United Nations I had an