

Meeting of Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth

THE Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth held their tenth meeting since the Second World War in London from May 3 to 13. In attendance were President Ayub Khan of Pakistan, Prime Ministers Macmillan of the United Kingdom, Diefenbaker of Canada, Menzies of Australia, Nash of New Zealand, Nehru of India, Nkrumah of Ghana, and Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaya, Mr. Louw, the Minister for External Affairs of the Union of South Africa, and Senator Cooray, the Minister of Justice of Ceylon. Following past practice, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Sir Roy Welensky, also attended, although his country is not yet completely sovereign. This was the first Prime Ministers' meeting attended by a representative of the Federation of Malaya, which country became independent and a Commonwealth member in 1957 shortly after the last Prime Ministers' meeting.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker was accompanied to the Conference by Mr. George Drew, High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom, and by government officials.

As usual, there was no formal agenda at the meeting, and the sessions were held in secret. This meeting was of even more than usual importance. It was held on the eve of a summit conference. It followed and was deeply concerned with racial disturbances in South Africa, which had been the subject of discussion in parliaments throughout the Commonwealth. It was obliged to consider difficult questions regarding the future size and form of the Commonwealth in a period when several dependent territories are rapidly achieving complete independence.

The texts follow of Mr. Diefenbaker's report on the Prime Ministers' Conference to the House of Commons on May 16 and of the communiqué issued at the end of the Conference:

Statement to House of Commons

... May I begin by referring to the communiqués which were issued. They have been analysed at length, and I propose to ask the leave of the House, in accordance with past experience in this regard, to have the first communiqué of May 3 and the final communiqué at the termination of the Conference printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

However, even in following this course it is necessary for me to elaborate to some extent upon the main trends and, as I see them, the achievements of the meeting. I came back from the London Conference feeling that, bearing in