

Canada, had a first meeting in January to review Commonwealth Secretariat activities and to assist in determining priorities.

Commonwealth representatives met in Geneva in March, immediately before the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, to exchange views on issues due to be considered by the conference. Similarly, Commonwealth health ministers conferred at Geneva in May prior to the annual meeting of the World Health Assembly. The year also saw an increase of consultative meetings of Commonwealth delegates to GATT and to the United Nations General Assembly. One of the practical results was the co-ordinated effort on behalf of Belize during the thirtieth UN General Assembly. Other Commonwealth government meetings included the ninth Triennial Conference of Commonwealth Auditors-General, a conference of Commonwealth meteorologists, a meeting of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee, the first Commonwealth Education Broadcasting Conference, the eighth Commonwealth Conference of Statisticians, and a conference of the Commonwealth Defence Science Organization, at which Canada offered to act as host to the next meeting of the organization in Toronto in May 1978. The meetings and consultations between Commonwealth governments are numerous and varied and contribute to the growing pattern of functional co-operation characterizing the contemporary "nuts-and-bolts" orientation of the Commonwealth.

This government co-operation is supported in many ways by the activities of more than 200 non-governmental bodies that serve to link member countries and give substance to their Commonwealth association. For example, the Commonwealth Foundation, a body that promotes the activities of professional associations throughout the Commonwealth, sponsored a seminar on the subject "The Professions, the Universities and the Civil Service: Mutual Interaction" at Kingston, Jamaica, in January. In April, the Governing Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Commonwealth Engineers Council met in Ghana in June and at the same time the annual conference of the Commonwealth Press Union took place in London. Also in June, the Royal Commonwealth Society sponsored a conference on "The Official and Unofficial Commonwealth" in London. In July the

sometimes esoteric but crucial nature of Commonwealth agricultural co-operation was manifested by the ninth Commonwealth Conference on Plant Pathology, the Commonwealth Entomological and Helminthological Conferences, and the seventh biennial conference of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth. The fourth Commonwealth Magistrates Conference was held in Malaysia in August and the Commonwealth Survey Officers Conference in Britain.

Parliamentary exchanges

The traditional active participation by Canadian parliamentarians was maintained at the twenty-first annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in India. The federal delegation was headed by Mr. Maurice Dupras. Premier Regan participated in his dual capacity as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and leader of the Nova Scotian delegation. Jamaica was the site for the thirteenth meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Council in November. Domestically, the eight branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society in Canada were engaged in a wide assortment of activities, one of the more notable being the Ottawa branch's Third Student Commonwealth Conference. This involved 67 Ottawa and area high-school students in a series of simulations and discussions on the theme "The Commonwealth and the World Food and Energy Crisis", and concluded with a model heads of government meeting. A highlight of the conference was the visit of Prince Charles, who had informal discussions with student delegates.