

In so far as the first matter is concerned, I refer the Leader of the Opposition to a press release issued on December 15, 1959, in which it was stated that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference would begin in London on May 3. Since then it has been determined as well that the Conference will close on May 13.

So far as the agenda of the Conference is concerned, the hon. gentleman knows from his experience that it is not the practice to make public the agenda for the Conference. It is true that, from time to time, there are speculative articles on the agenda, but because of the agreed and established practice of not disclosing the agenda, press speculation is not made the subject of official comment. The latest declaration in this regard was made in the British House of Commons on December 15, 1959, at which time Prime Minister Macmillan replied in like manner to questions then being asked respecting the matters which will come before this conference.

As the hon. gentleman knows, the field of Commonwealth and international matters is generally traversed. Beyond that, the experience of the past has been that no fixed agenda is followed, and that each and every Prime Minister, having equal status in the conference, may bring before the conference such matters as in his opinion deserve to be considered.

