

political, economic and moral strength to all of its members and it is of value indeed to the free world which not so long ago it saved from disaster and defeat. Its tried methods of consultation have survived many perils and are always followed by decisions taken by the respective member governments and by agreement on the part of its respective member governments, if only agreements to disagree, which occasionally happens.

The relations, for instance, among the Commonwealth delegations at the United Nations are very close and important and it is significant, I think, to realize that at the recent General Assembly of the United Nations there were members of the Commonwealth who were in what might be termed almost violent disagreement in their approach to certain items on the agenda; but that that never at any time prevented those members of the Commonwealth in such disagreement from meeting around the table at a Commonwealth meeting to try to iron out their difficulties in private before they were expressed in public.

May I, while I am on Commonwealth relationships, mention one other recent consultation, the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers held in London last November. It will be recalled that this conference concluded that -- and I quote from its communiqué --

---a more positive policy can now be adopted both by the Commonwealth countries themselves, and in concert with other friendly countries, to promote the expansion of world production and trade.

And it emphasized that Commonwealth countries -- and again I quote --

-- have no intention of seeking the creation of a discriminatory economic bloc; rather their object is by strengthening themselves to benefit the world economy generally ... the Commonwealth countries look outward to ... co-operation with others, not inward to a closed association ...

That is from the communiqué at the end of that conference. This conference was no narrow group aiming to improve its position at the expense of or without consideration for others. It was a widely representative meeting seeking to find some basis on which beneficial national action could be taken and from which international co-operation could proceed, but fully aware that such co-operation, to be effective, must have a broader basis than even the Commonwealth association.

The effectiveness of this Commonwealth conference cannot of course, be judged finally until more is known of the measures adopted by individual governments following it, and until further discussions have taken place between its members and other governments, particularly the Government of the United States, and with various international organizations, particularly the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. The Commonwealth countries have, however, taken a useful initiative. In following it up there will have to be co-operation on the broadest possible basis to ease the necessary but not easy adjustments which may have to be made, especially by some of the members of the Commonwealth. In this process the Canadian Government will naturally wish to play a full and, I hope, constructive part.

Another Commonwealth initiative on which I can only touch at this time, but which I am sure will be given consideration later, is the Colombo Plan which likewise was framed in full awareness of the interests of other countries and other organizations, particularly the United Nations. That plan is now nearing