STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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No. 64/15 THE EXPANDING COMMONWEALTH

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mindedness, if you wish to put it that way, I suspective more difficult Statement to the House of Commons on July 17, 1964, ed of beau by the Right Honourable L.B. Pearson, Prime Minister energy al of Canada, beveries ad nes end dand anothe end of public bens, important today. I believe, than it has ever been in the bast anter more meaning of

of theidnesse, The new members have come from AfM out the Caribbean and

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to make a report to the House on the Commonwealth Conference which has recently concluded its work in London jettatoosse aids of ealley ball of tanges enotismeted Billis doling and the second is the second to the theory background and tast has been it to flash the second is the second to th

I was assisted in representing the Government at this Conference by the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom, an old colleague of ours in this House, and by a small group of officials. I believe ours was the smallest of all the delegations. However, so far as the officials are concerned it made up in quality what it lacked in quantity. I should like to pay a very warm tribute to their hard work, and it was hard work

such a large membership representing such a wide range of inferests; viewoin There were 18 representatives of Commonwealth governments who sat around the table this time, a considerable increase since the last Commonwealth Conference, and they included many new countries which have emerged to independence since that last Conference was held in London. I doubt, Mr. Speaker, if anything can do more to bring home to one the problems with which the new countries in Africa and Asia are contending than to participate in the kind of meetings that were held in London during the last ten days. I doubt also, Mr. Speaker, if anything can do more to remove doubts about the value the Commonwealth can have -- and I hope and believe will have in the years ahead -as a link between races and cultures and continents, and as an agency to promote co-operation and understanding among men and nations

The final communiqué which was made public on the last day of the Conference, very late on Wednesday evening after a communiqué session which began in the morning and went through until nine o'clock in the evening, gives an indication of the nature and scope of the discussions and of the most important points on which agreement was reached and on which views were recorded. No previous meeting, I believe Mr. Speaker, has led to so expansive a statement in a communiqué on so many subjects. I am now talking about Commonwealth prime ministers' meetings; and no previous meeting, I suspect, went through quite so much debate in trying to agree on just what should be said in the communiqué. terrende this was seen mode sharely is the confrontetion between the Soviet

There is nothing surprising about either fact. The communiqué is long because the discussions were far-ranging, because the interests of the Commonwealth countries are world-wide and the problems for attention are varied. The long debate over the production of the communiqué was, I think, to be expected, when there were participating 18 countries of extremely different views, and often contending views, on a great many subjects.