

MEETING ON RHODESIA SUPPORTED

Mr. L.B. Pearson, Prime Minister, recently sent a message to Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister of Nigeria, in reply to a message from the latter proposing a meeting of Commonwealth heads of government on or about January 10, in Lagos or some other Commonwealth capital.

Mr. Pearson told Sir Abubakar that he welcomed this proposal and would be prepared to attend such a conference if it were agreeable to Commonwealth governments.

In the view of the Prime Minister, the crisis in Rhodesia could place a great strain on Commonwealth relations, and an early exchange of views should help to reduce areas of possible misunderstanding and further the aim of all Commonwealth countries of bringing the illegal situation in Rhodesia to an early end.

AN IMAGE OF POVERTY

A recent study conducted for ARDA by the Canadian Welfare Council has revealed that, in some areas, Canada's rural poor subsist on monthly incomes, consisting of welfare and family allowances, as low as \$11.71 a person.

The findings of the CWC study, which are intended to provide an "image of poverty" in Canada by learning from the poor themselves how they live and how they feel about being poor, were published in a report released recently by ARDA. The report, made public in Ottawa at the Prime Minister's Federal-Provincial Conference on Poverty, covers four rural areas defined as poor by national standards, namely, Inverness County in Nova Scotia, Gatineau, Papineau and Pontiac counties in Quebec, Lanark County in Ontario and the Interlake region of Manitoba.

Some 290 families in these low-income areas were interviewed. The resulting case histories include data on a father whose total income of \$164 a month — from social assistance — must support himself, his wife and 12 dependent children. This man, in his 50s, disabled and unable to work, sees little hope of change. Appalling living conditions were discovered in some homes, but rarely, if ever, were these conditions seen as the cause or the symptom of moral or social degradation, as is commonly supposed.

The average *per capita* monthly income for the families interviewed was found to be highest in Lanark County, at \$44, followed by the three Quebec counties with \$41, Manitoba \$36 and Inverness \$28. For the most part, families derive income from primary industries — farming, fishing, woodcutting — and unskilled labour.

Their isolation and inability to do anything about it frustrate the rural poor; control of the systems that produce income is in the cities and towns and the rural poor do not share in it. They are torn between settled habits of employment and the necessity of moving into unfamiliar areas in search of work. Afraid to take the chance of moving, they become

resigned to remaining poor at home rather than risking starvation in the big cities.

Practically all the families agree on the importance of education and want their children to have the best, so they may be equipped for suitable employment, and they realize that this is to be found only outside their communities.

"If there is a single conclusion to be drawn from the study," says project director David Woodsworth, "it is that the poor are not degraded, and that there is a great deal that can be done to restore to them a just share in the life of the country. These people are hard-working and infinitely patient. They are open to the possibility of change, but they are pervaded by the sense of the inadequacy of their own resources to meet the demands of a changing world."

CRIME STATISTICS, 1964

Preliminary figures from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that police forces in Canada reported 959,361 offences during 1964, excluding traffic offences. Police reported 215 capital and non-capital murders in 1964 compared to 214 during 1963. Rape offences increased sharply over 1963. The rate for assaults, excluding indecent assaults, increased from 208.3 in 1963 to 252.1 per 100,000 population aged 7 years and over in 1964. Assaults include such offences as common assault and assault causing bodily harm. Breaking and entering and theft offences also increased since 1963, while robbery decreased. Fraud offences showed a slight increase in rate since 1963 (193.3 to 207.1). Increases were reported for offences against federal statutes, while the rate for provincial showed another marked increase in 1964.

NUMBERS CLEARED

Of the 959,361 reported offences, 541,099 (56.4 per cent) were cleared. Of 215 capital and non-capital murder offences reported, 174 (80.9 per cent) were cleared. In general, offences against the person such as murder, rape, assaults, wounding showed a higher percentage cleared than offences against property, such as theft over or under \$50, breaking and entering or robbery. In 1964, 105.9 per cent of manslaughters were cleared. Some of these 1964 clearances were for offences reported in earlier years. Of all offences, thefts over \$50 had the lowest per cent cleared. In general, offences against federal and provincial statutes and municipal by-laws showed a high percentage cleared.

Police reported 453,136 persons charged with offences in 1964, a rate of 2,823.0 persons per 100,000 population 7 years of age and over, compared to the 1962 rate of 2,524.0 and the 2,675.9 rate for 1963. While the rate for persons charged under provincial statutes and for criminal code offences rose in approximately the same proportion, there was a marked decrease in the number of persons charged under municipal by-laws.

The rates for adults charged rose for the criminal code, federal statutes and provincial statutes to a lesser degree than the rates for total persons charged,