

which enables members to accept different positions, to identify the common elements in them, to determine whether they are amenable to Commonwealth treatment, and then to move forward from this agreed basis to a solution or an amelioration of the problem. The stress increasingly is on practical collaboration and cooperation, and the avoidance of futile political altercations.

The role of Canada, of successive Ministers and Prime Ministers, and of Prime Minister Trudeau in particular, was critical in engineering this change. It was largely through the interventions and suggestions of the Prime Minister at successive Heads of Government Meetings in London and Singapore in 1969 and 1971 and in Ottawa last year that this new focus for Commonwealth activity emerged so sharply. Illustrative of this was the proposal by Prime Minister Trudeau at Singapore that an item on comparative techniques of government be included in the agenda of future meetings.

It is a complex subject, including such problems as that of forward financial planning, and such philosophical ones as the relative functions of politicians and public servants. But the key problem of reaching the people, hearing from them and responding to their wishes is essentially the same for all governments at all levels. This subject was discussed by Heads of Government at their Meeting in Ottawa last year; it will again be on the agenda when they meet in Jamaica in April 1975.

With the decision by Heads of Government at their Meeting in Ottawa last year to reinforce and expand Commonwealth functional cooperation, trends and ideas evident in meetings going back a decade crystallized, and a new stage in the evolution of the association was reached.

Since this meeting, the scale and tempo of Commonwealth functional cooperation have increased remarkably. So has Canadian participation. The budget for the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, stimulated in large part by the matching formula marking the Canadian contribution, has doubled, attaining a level of \$7.5 million. Our own contribution this year will likely reach the \$3 million mark. The Commonwealth Youth Programme, approved by Heads of Government in 1973, has set up a youth awards scheme and has established two regional centres for advanced studies in youth work and will soon inaugurate one more. The Commonwealth Foundation established, or helped establish, professional centres in Commonwealth capitals, financed a new journal on intermediate technology, and with the Canadian International Development Agency, strengthened an intra-Commonwealth bursary scheme to benefit agriculturalists and veterinary officers.