

These African problems are more than Commonwealth problems, but the Commonwealth has played its part to encourage their resolution and thereby to improve the international atmosphere and hence our security. I invite all of you to encourage further support for the Commonwealth undertakings I have mentioned by the parliaments and nations you represent.

Another major issue discussed at the heads-of-government meeting in London was the so-called "North-South dialogue" and the restructuring of global economic relations. To put the matter bluntly, it is the question of rich and poor, of poverty and inequality — in short, of economic security. In this respect, the Commonwealth is more than just a reflection of the rest of the world. Eighty-nine per cent of the Commonwealth's people are from developing countries, and these represent 44 per cent of the population of the entire developing world. Eighty per cent of those people in the world who earn annual incomes of less than \$200 (the absolute poor) exist (for that is all it can be called) in the Commonwealth. It is clear that all of us in the developed nations, both within and without the Commonwealth, must be prepared to do our share to reverse the trend towards growing economic disparity in the world. Unless we can move rapidly beyond the stage of vigorous debate to practical measures to overcome this trend, economic insecurity may become perpetual and violent reaction, confrontation and conflict inevitable.

We have the resources for this effort; we must now marshal them effectively. Security from the oppression of grinding want and despair of the many is a goal to which all must contribute if we are not to imperil the security of all.

There must be a recognition by all of us of the importance of continuing in a constructive way the dialogue between the developed and the developing countries. This was fundamental to the discussions in London of all the issues arising in the context of the world economic situation. Of course this dialogue is only one step forward on a very long road, but it is an important step, in which we can take some satisfaction.

I think that we can say in all honesty that real progress has been made and that the contribution of the Commonwealth to this dialogue has been a positive one through formal and informal contacts, and through the work of the MacIntyre Group.

There have been concrete measures of progress since the 1975 heads-of-government meeting in Jamaica — for example, the Fifth IDA (International Development Association) Replenishment of over \$8 billion and the achievement of a \$1-billion target for the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development. In other areas, a package of reform measures for the International Monetary Fund was approved in Jamaica last year and their application is now under way. Further consultation on energy between industrialized, OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries) and developing countries should deepen understanding of how we must work together for our mutual benefit.

Most recently, the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) has agreed on positive measures to aid economic development: a special action program to assist the poorest developing countries; endorsement of an emergency grain reserve;
