

remove dangerous misunderstandings in the East about the real purposes and policies of the Western nations.

These meetings of Prime Ministers of the Nations of the Commonwealth are giving those of us from the Western countries an opportunity to explain, in a friendly atmosphere, our real aims and the real motives behind our policies and an opportunity to learn from the Prime Ministers of the Asian members of the Commonwealth what their aims and their policies really are; we know our essential aims are similar and we should be able to co-ordinate our honest efforts to secure and achieve those aims in manners that will be mutually beneficial to us all.

We all recognize that there are differences in attitude and experience between the nations of the East and of the West, but differences and variety are more than the spice of life - they are the essence of life itself. Uniformity and rigidity are the marks of the new form of totalitarian dictatorship which is alien to the civilizations alike of the East and of the West.

Within the Commonwealth we do not seek to impose any standard of uniformity. Membership is based upon a conviction of mutual advantage, mutual respect and increasingly, I believe, upon genuine friendship.

While it may be necessary for many years to come to maintain the armed strength of the peace-loving nations to prevent aggression, and even to resist aggression, we shall never have enduring peace and real security in the world until we can achieve something of this mutual respect and understanding among all nations which we are striving to maintain within the Commonwealth. And that, I believe, is the true significance of the Commonwealth - that our association and our partnership does point the way toward the ultimate objective for the whole world - the ultimate goal in which peace and brotherhood will be the ideals of men and nations everywhere.

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