

I believe that this can only be avoided if we have these clear-cut objectives about which I spoke. I am concerned when I attend various meetings to hear spokesmen for the Commonwealth -- and I mean within different countries of the Commonwealth -- advocating a variety of initiatives for us, some of which I suggest if not totally foreign to the basic idea of the Commonwealth, are nevertheless a danger to its survival, and here I would urge all of you who have any part in various Commonwealth organizations to ensure that the sort of criteria I established initially of effectiveness and credibility are the yardsticks by which we move. I think also that it is important in the same context that we within the Commonwealth must be prepared to stand up and to oppose oppression and tyranny when it exists within the Commonwealth membership. There have been occasions in the past when, because of a fear that perhaps there might be some distintegration of support or some problems between members, we have been reluctant to make the kind of emphatic statements based on the moral principles to which I referred a few moments ago when a Commonwealth country has been concerned. We all know that there are offenders within the Commonwealth. Not many, I am happy to say. But we must be just as vigilant insofar as our own membership is concerned, and we must be just as prepared to speak up, as indeed we are when it occurs in some country that is not in the direct sense of the word related to us.

We in Canada have a very strong commitment to the Commonwealth. We believe in it. We believe in it as a working instrument. I think it was Sonny Ramphal who said that the Commonwealth cannot negotiate for the world, but it can help the world to negotiate, and that is a principle to which we subscribe fully.

We also believe that we have a special relationship with the United Kingdom.

There are just too many of us in Canada who, like me, grew up with this awareness of what we then used to call the mother country, so much so in my own province, Newfoundland, that as recently as 20 years ago we were talking about the "home boat", the vessel that came each week or so from the United Kingdom. But there are too many of us who have that tradition, too many of us who are aware of the enormous benefits that the United Kingdom down through the centuries has brought to the world, to be prepared to jettison this strong element in our Canadian tradition.

We have of course, as well, that second stream which we regard as being equally vigorous and equally important and which, in a sense, by its nature illustrates the diversity of the Commonwealth and its capability to embrace all manner of concepts and various groupings of people.