

and refrain from introducing measures of discrimination between Commonwealth sources of supply unless this is necessary for balance of payments reasons.

The Conference recognized how important it is that obstacles should not be placed in the way of the export of manufactured goods of the under-developed members of the Commonwealth, and agreed that Commonwealth Governments will give full weight to this consideration whenever decisions are necessary concerning the terms of access of such goods to their markets.

Views were exchanged on the various aspects of the new situation created by the more active participation of a number of the Sino-Soviet Group of Countries in world markets.

#### COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND AGRICULTURE

The Conference recognized the serious problems caused by the prevalence of wide fluctuations in commodity prices and the need for remedial action. To this end, Commonwealth countries agreed to participate in a commodity by commodity examination of the situation.

It was proposed that an international study group should be established without delay to examine the current trade problems relating to lead and zinc.

The Conference expressed concern that the International Tin Agreement should survive and succeed, and agreed that Commonwealth countries should consult together, as necessary, about any appropriate measures to strengthen it.

The Canadian and Australian Governments were pleased to note the intention of the United Kingdom to participate in the preparatory discussions for a new International Wheat Agreement.

The Conference on the need for measures to mitigate the adverse effects of protection afforded to basic agricultural commodities and minerals.

The Conference agreed that care has to be taken in the disposal of surpluses on world markets at non-commercial terms so as not to cause harm to the interests of traditional suppliers. Non-commercial disposal can help to improve the living standards of the less-developed countries. However, such transactions call for adequate consultations so that the interests of all parties may be safeguarded as much as possible.

#### FINANCE

The Conference recognized the vital role of sterling in financing the flow of world trade. It was essential to the stability and progress of the whole world trading community that sterling remain strong.

It remained the agreed objective that sterling should be made convertible as soon as the necessary conditions had been achieved.

Agreement was reached on the desirability of expanding the resources of the Inter-

national Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Conference welcomed the initiative of President Eisenhower in this regard.

The Conference discussed the possibility of establishing a new Commonwealth financial institution and agreed that further studies should be undertaken to consider methods of mobilizing resources for Commonwealth development.

#### DEVELOPMENT

The Conference stressed the great importance of more rapid economic progress in the less-developed countries.

All countries undertook to co-operate in this urgent task. This would require more capital, both public and private, more technical assistance, better opportunities for education, and increased opportunities for trade.

The United Kingdom announced its intention to make Commonwealth Assistance Loans from Exchequer funds. The loans to independent Commonwealth countries will be made under the Export Guarantees Act and those to Colonial Territories under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Offers of Commonwealth Assistance loans already made total over £ 50 million.

The Conference favoured an expansion of the resources and activities of the Commonwealth Development Finance and activities of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company, and a number of Delegations expressed the willingness of their Governments to contribute to the capital of the company.

The value of the Colombo Plan in promoting economic development was recognized by all.

Canada announced an increase from \$35 million to \$50 million in its annual contribution to the Colombo Plan over the next 3 years. For the Commonwealth areas in Africa, Canada stated it would provide an initial sum of \$500 thousand for technical assistance. In addition, Canada indicated that it will continue to provide substantial sums to less-developed countries in the form of loans and grants for Canadian wheat and flour. The Conference noted Canada's announcement of a \$10 million programme of assistance to The West Indies over the next 5 years including the provision of two ships for inter-island service.

The Conference agreed that all possible steps should be taken to encourage participation by private capital in the economic growth of under-developed countries.

#### EDUCATION

The Conference agreed that expansion of education and training within the Commonwealth is an essential condition of economic development.

It was agreed in principle that a new scheme - additional to existing programmes - of annual awards of scholarships and fellowships would be established. Under this scheme