

meeting we have assisted in the process of change. The matter was not on the agenda but it was discussed with clarity and frankness; and above all, by those from whom you would have expected the expression of violent opinions, with a dignity, a restraint and a recognition of the tremendous issues at stake that must give heart to all of us as to the meaning of the Commonwealth as such.

International concern has been demonstrated in the United Nations. In the last few days the Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold, has been holding talks in London with Mr. Louw. Whatever the results may be, I am sure they will be aided in their talks by what took place at the Conference. I hope the people of South Africa can work their way out of the dreadful impasse to which they have been brought. I hope their isolation on the continent of Africa will give them thought and a realization of the situation. It was a great South African, Field Marshal Smuts as he subsequently was, who as long ago as December, 1918, reminded us of this fact:

"There is no doubt that mankind is once more on the move. The very foundations have been shaken and loosened and things are again fluid. The tents have been struck and the great caravan of humanity is once more on the march."

He was pointing to the need of new institutions, new ways of thought, new kinds of international behaviour if the world was to avoid the catastrophe of another war. His words were of prophetic application to his own continent.

It was made very clear in the communiqué that racial equality was of the essence. The communiqué had this to say:

"Whilst reaffirming the traditional practice that Commonwealth Conferences do not discuss the internal affairs of member countries, Ministers availed themselves of Mr. Louw's presence in London to have informal discussions with him about the racial situation in South Africa. During the informal discussions Mr. Louw gave information and answered questions on the Union's policies, and the other Ministers conveyed to him their views on the South African problem. The Ministers emphasized that the Commonwealth itself is a multiracial association and expressed the need to ensure good relations between all member states and people of the Commonwealth."

We know the results of the assertion of racial superiority only a few years ago and the effects that followed from it. It is my hope that the South African Government will heed and heed quickly the appeal that was made to it, not only in the communiqué but in personal conversations.