

relationship between the Ottawa and Cancun Summits. They were aware of the possible role of the Commonwealth in the North-South dialogue and the help it could give in establishing a new era of constructive economic relations between developed and developing countries, based on interdependence, mutual respect and a shared interest in change. The communiqué reflected their commitment to work for practical action in the spirit of the Melbourne Declaration, which was adopted at the meeting.

Deep concern was expressed at the lack of progress toward independence for Namibia; the communiqué called for intensified efforts for a settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435 as early as possible in 1982. The situation in Afghanistan, Angola, Kampuchea and Poland was reviewed and the right of people to determine their destiny without outside interference was reaffirmed. There was renewed support for Commonwealth countries with special problems which threaten to destabilize the social fabric, e.g., Belize, Cyprus and Guyana.

Heads of government also took a strong stand against protectionism and supported a meeting of the GATT at ministerial level in 1982. The contribution that multilateral institutions have made to economic development was recognized and it was stressed that these institutions should be sensitive to domestic political considerations when formulating their operational policies.

In the field of energy and food production, intensified efforts were required, both multilaterally and bilaterally, to achieve greater output and distribution. Canada's decision to establish an International Centre for Ocean Development and a training program for agricultural extension workers, which would reflect the important role of women in agricultural production, was welcomed.

Heads of government also agreed to establish a Human Rights Unit within the Commonwealth secretariat, a move which was strongly supported by Canada.

#### Ministerial meetings

Commonwealth finance ministers usually convene before the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF to examine world economic questions and those associated with Commonwealth functional co-operation. The meeting in July endorsed a three-year planning profile to provide a secure financial base for the CFTC and recommended that the profile go forward to heads of government at their meeting in October, where it was duly approved. Ministers also endorsed a proposal, later approved by heads of government, which would contribute to the financial stability of the CFTC and would promote a wider knowledge of the Commonwealth through a special stamp to mark Commonwealth Day issued every five years, commencing in 1983. In addition to propagating the Commonwealth, revenue from this stamp issue will go to the operational reserve of the CFTC.