

E. Canada and the Future of the Commonwealth Association:

The Commonwealth in many ways is a microcosm of the world at large, displaying the same diversity of peoples and conditions. It has achieved a unique degree of co-operation and sense of community, showing that peoples of different races, religions, governmental backgrounds and economic conditions can work together for the common good. The Commonwealth has proven that an association based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and friendship, containing neither superpower nor subordinate power, is not only possible in today's world but can flourish. As Arnold Smith stated in his report to Heads of Government in 1965:

"In the current situation, it is vital that the Commonwealth use its network of relationships, its ease of communication, its mutual confidence and respect built up over so many years of intimacy. These are distinctive Commonwealth characteristics: the things that give our community its special place in the emerging pattern of international relationships. Our member countries are as different as can be; but they are linked together by ties at every human level, from heads of government to competing sportsmen to young people on exchange visits. Our ties are strong. They are the reasons why, amid the gloomy forebodings of a rebirth of the old divisive political and economic nationalisms, the Commonwealth still gives grounds for hope".

Canada believes in and supports the constructive role that the Commonwealth plays in world affairs. The Commonwealth association also provides an opportunity to enrich and deepen our bilateral relations with member countries. Internationally, Canadian participation in the Commonwealth reinforces the thrust of Canadian foreign policy generally and provides Canada with the opportunity to reach its goals with the help and understanding of fellow members. For these reasons, membership in the association is an important aspect of Canada's international relations.

