

between states. And we are never short of issues. Right now we are inevitably preoccupied with one which, tragically, has been with us ever since the Secretariat began its work. It is the struggle against racism that persists so anachronistically in southern Africa - in Namibia, in South Africa itself and, above all, in Rhodesia. The illegal declaration of independence by a minority cabal in that country happened almost immediately after the establishment of the Secretariat, and ever since we have - I sincerely believe - been the focus for the solidarity of all our member countries, in condemnation of the dominance of 5 per cent of the population of Rhodesia over a suppressed majority. In particular, the Secretariat has been deeply engaged in the education and training of the skilled people that Zimbabwe will need when it attains independence: almost 3,000 Zimbabweans have been trained or found jobs outside the country since UDI in 1965, under schemes run by the Secretariat.

Heads of Government in 1975 in Jamaica put in hand a similar programme to train exiles from Namibia, which remains under illegal occupation by South Africa. In all these ways we assert by practical means the unity of the Commonwealth against racism and oppression in the part of the world where those evils still rage at their worst. And last year, within twenty-four hours of Mozambique closing her border with Rhodesia in the application of international sanctions, Commonwealth action began which has now put on the ground an effective programme of assistance to Mozambique. And this is additional to the direct involvement of Secretariat personnel in United Nations programmes at the UN Secretary-General's request.

And on the economic front too we promote the interest of all our members - and indeed of the whole world - in a less grossly inequitable world society. The Commonwealth was formally committed to this issue in 1971, at the Singapore meeting of Heads of Government. In Kingston the commitment was reaffirmed and strengthened. The group of ten experts established by the Kingston meeting has, I believe, made a real contribution to the world economic debate on the installation of a New International Economic Order: their recommendations made their mark at the UN General Assembly in 1975, at the UN Conference on Trade and Development in 1976, and in all sorts of world debates - let alone their impact on the international economic policies of all member states.

For the Commonwealth cannot be neutral or inactive on this great issue of our time. We have among our members, as you know, some of the world's richest nations. We also include 44 per cent of the population of the developing world - and (excluding the Socialist countries), a staggering 88 per cent of the world's poorest people, those living on less than \$200 a year.

The gap between the rich and the poor - between the richest and the poorest - is I am sure the great moral issue that now confronts the Commonwealth as part of our global society. And I am confident that we can face the challenge, and make progress for our members and for the world, both in the realm of ideas,