

33. The members of the Group should be appointed by the Secretary-General after consultation with Member Governments.
34. The Group should aim at submitting to Governments an interim report on the results of its work indicating measures which are amenable to early and effective implementation in time to permit discussion of this report at the next meeting of Commonwealth Ministers and to enable Governments to take this report into account before the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly.
35. It is expected that the Group will endeavour to hold its first meeting by the end of May or early in June.
36. It would be desirable that the Secretary-General-elect should be associated at as early a stage as possible with the work of the Group.
37. Heads of Government appointed Mr. Alister McIntyre, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, Chairman of the Expert Group.

#### Lomé Convention

38. Heads of Government welcomed the conclusion of the Lomé Convention drawn up by the European Economic Community and forty-six countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. They welcomed the increased co-operation within the Convention between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries in these areas. They expressed the hope that the principles underlying the Lomé Convention could usefully contribute to the further development of relations between the EEC and other industrialised countries, on the one hand, and developing countries, including the Asian and other Commonwealth countries, on the other.
39. Heads of Government welcomed the valuable support which the Secretariat is giving to Commonwealth countries in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

#### Food Production and Rural Development

40. Heads of Government discussed the Report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Food Production and Rural Development, held in London in March 1975. They welcomed the opportunity it had provided to consider in a Commonwealth setting the problems of the three quarters of the population of Commonwealth developing countries who live in rural areas. Heads of Government endorsed the view that the problems of rural development and food production should be attacked in an integrated manner and should receive high priority from individual governments and aid agencies. They stressed the need for aid-providing agencies to adapt their practices and programmes to meet the special needs of food production and rural development, and endorsed the proposal to establish a Food Production and Rural Development Division within the Secretariat. The new Division would enhance the effectiveness of the Secretariat's already significant contribution to this sector and should be essentially action-oriented.
41. Heads of Government emphasised the setback to agricultural production which has resulted from scarcity and high prices of fertilizer, and welcomed efforts, in the Commonwealth and elsewhere, to secure