

The Commonwealth must stand for freedom. It is essential that these objectives should continue as standards of behaviour for all Commonwealth countries.

I come now to the question of Commonwealth consultation -- the constant flow of information and discussion at different levels between the several governments of the Commonwealth.

At the centre of this process of consultation are the meeting of Commonwealth prime ministers. They bring the leaders together. There is no other meeting or conference in the world that provides for such frank and wide-ranging discussion both inside and outside the conference room.

Consideration has recently been given to the future organization of these meetings. It has been estimated that, within the next ten years, the total number of full members may rise as high as 24 nations. How will it be possible in an enlarged Commonwealth to conduct deliberations as frankly and profitably as heretofore? Should the meetings of prime ministers be limited in size, and if so, by what formula? Should these meetings take place -- not in rotation, but from time to time -- elsewhere than in London?

It is important to find acceptable solutions to these problems because, in the absence of effective consultation and understanding among leaders, the essential spirit of the Commonwealth will not be sustained.

Within the past year a new and potentially serious problem has arisen among those who have the future of the Commonwealth at heart. Britain has entered negotiations to determine the conditions on which it could become a full member of the European Common Market. On every side people are asking: how would such a move on Britain's part affect the Commonwealth?

The European Economic Community results from the efforts to create a closer economic and political union in Europe, culminating in the Treaty of Rome of 1957. This treaty in itself represents a major achievement of its six member nations - France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

#### EEC Institutions

- (1) Council of Ministers - The Council is to be composed of six representatives, one from each member state. It is to be the policy-making body of the Community, with power to make decisions and issue rules and regulations, for the most part on the recommendations of the Commission. Except as otherwise provided, decisions are taken by a simple majority. In the first stage of the transitional period, however, which was concluded on December 31, 1961, most Council decisions required a unanimous vote.