

## Canada and the future of the Commonwealth Association:

*we have a good thing going here*

Considering the state of the world at present, one is struck by the fact that there is a great deal of talk about the pressing need to establish an international community and global co-operation. Yet little real evidence of them is found.

The Commonwealth in many ways is a microcosm of the world at large, displaying the same diversity of peoples and conditions. This association, however, has made great strides in achieving a co-operation and sense of community that, talked about elsewhere, is mere rhetoric. The Commonwealth has, in the past, played a pathfinding role, and it will continue to act as an example and as a catalyst for the strengthening of international bonds throughout the world. The Commonwealth has quietly but consistently shown that peoples of different races, religions, colours and economic conditions can unite and work together for the common good. The Commonwealth has proved that an association based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and friendship, containing neither a super-power nor a subordinate power, is still possible in today's world. As Arnold Smith stated in his last report to governments:

In the current world 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 fully believes in the constructive role that the Commonwealth plays and will continue to play in world affairs. The Commonwealth asso-