

- Q. Now, in another sphere, these events have had great strains on the Commonwealth, too. Do you feel that the Commonwealth can survive this sort of thing? I'm thinking of India-Pakistan, the Rhodesia settlement, all these things that seem to be tearing away at the membership.
- A. It depends on what you expect from the Commonwealth. For a long time Canada has not regarded this as economic grouping. We were a member of the dollar group rather than the sterling group, so we didn't have the same sort of interests as other members of the Commonwealth. So for us the economic side of the Commonwealth was not too important. Nor did we think that there could ever be common policies in the Commonwealth towards the rest of the world. You may recall that it was Canada that objected many, many years ago to any attempt to have a common foreign policy in the Commonwealth, and that has now become the accepted doctrine. Our view of the Commonwealth is that it is an excellent place to have discussions about world problems amongst a group of countries that are representative of the various elements in the world today: various colours, various approaches; we have aligned countries; we have non-aligned countries; we have black; we have yellow; we have white-faced people. In other words, the Commonwealth to us is a microcosm of the world. The advantage of the Commonwealth is that the representatives can sit down together and talk informally on the basis of having one common language, which is English, and having a set of institutions that enables us to meet together and to understand what the other was saying without elaborate explanations. And if our Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, has his way there will be much greater informality in the proceedings -- fewer set pieces, more exchange of views than we have seen in the recent past. And I do hope that this is the way that the Commonwealth operates in the future, but any idea that the Commonwealth has common policies or even common interests is really an idea of the past. The Commonwealth is now representative of the world and that is its great advantage: that we can have these informal meetings not in the setting of the United Nations but amongst a group of old friends.
- Q. There seems to have been some progress towards détente in Europe, between East and West Germany and so on. Do you see much hope for actual settlement of some of these problems?
- A. Yes, I really have been quite optimistic for some time and I think this optimism is being justified. We, in Canada, have been working for détente over a long period of years and our cause was, of course, greatly strengthened by the accession to office of Willy Brandt, as Chancellor of the Federal German Republic. He, too, has been interested in détente, and more progress has been made under his administration than for many years. We're now on the verge of a settlement of the Berlin question. This will be accompanied by, I hope,