

The enormous changes taking place in the Commonwealth have affected the very nature of the Association. Without wishing to underestimate the more traditional values of the Commonwealth, it is, I think, in the search for a practicable formula for building confidence among the various races of the human family that the modern Commonwealth has its greatest relevance to us today. The fact that the Commonwealth embraces so many differing races, in countries which nevertheless share, at least to some extent, a common language and elements of a common culture, gives it a great potential for contributing to international peace and understanding. It affords perhaps the most important political institution today for communication between the white "have" countries and the non-white "have-nots" and it has a major role to play in overcoming the division between the less-developed countries and the industrialized countries.

We see the Commonwealth Secretariat as one means of strengthening the Commonwealth in its role as an important link between countries with differing backgrounds and racial composition. By providing machinery to facilitate a broad range of contacts between Commonwealth countries, the Secretariat is making a contribution towards increasing the value of the Commonwealth association. The Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, and the various organizations of a specialized sort which bring together men with common interests have a similar, valuable function. The Canadian Economic Aid Programme is oriented to a considerable extent towards the Commonwealth Colombo Plan, the special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme and our Caribbean Programme -- and our programmes of