

offers education and training opportunities, and performs economic feasibility studies in industrial and export market development.

**The Commonwealth Youth Program** seeks to involve young people in their local and national communities by providing them with training and advice. It also conducts programs dealing with literacy, employment, the environment and other issues that affect young people.

**The Commonwealth Immunization Program**, a Canadian initiative, complements member countries' existing immunization efforts. The expertise of Canadian NGOs is used to plan local immunization campaigns, supply vaccines and associated equipment, and provide expert assistance.

**The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan**, one of the best-known activities of the Commonwealth Secretariat, offers students academic exchange and research opportunities. More than 20 000 students from Canada and other Commonwealth countries have received awards since the Plan was established in 1960.

**The Unit for the Promotion of Human Rights** promotes respect for human rights through education, training and information.

**The Unit for the Improvement of the Role and Place of Women in Economic and Social Development** promotes women's equality and recommends measures to give women full and effective rights to land, finance and other resources. It also recommends ways to ensure a more equitable sharing not only of the costs but also of the rewards and benefits of economic adjustment measures.

The Commonwealth also undertakes major studies on such issues as **economic and trade relations** between rich and poor member countries; **sports**; and **human rights**.

### *Other examples of major Commonwealth activities*

**The Commonwealth Foundation** promotes and aids in the organization of the "unofficial"

Commonwealth: the links between professionals, volunteer organizations and cultural groups throughout the Commonwealth. The Foundation is assisted by **Commonwealth Liaison Units (CLUs)** in each country.

**The Commonwealth of Learning** has a mandate to create access to education by using new techniques that make educational opportunities more widely available. Established in 1988 and located in Vancouver, it is a Canadian-sponsored initiative and the first Commonwealth intergovernmental organization to be based outside Britain.

The Commonwealth has played a leading role in directing long-standing and concerted international pressure on **South Africa** to dismantle **apartheid** — or racial segregation — and bring about a peaceful transition to a multiracial, democratic system of government.

The Commonwealth promotes a greater commitment to **women's equality** through the regular meetings of the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers. At their meeting in Ottawa in 1990, the Ministers agreed to a **Declaration on Women and Structural Adjustment**, which called on all international organizations lending money to Third World countries to consider the impact of their proposals for economic reform on women.

**The XV Commonwealth Games** will be hosted by Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, from August 18 to 28, 1994. At this international athletic competition, some 10 000 volunteers will welcome more than 3 200 athletes and officials from 66 Commonwealth countries, along with 2 500 media representatives. One of the Games' legacies will be the participation of athletes with disabilities. This is the first time they will be integrated with able-bodied athletes in a major international sports event.

The 1994 Games will be the most important sporting event hosted by Canada in this decade. The Games will provide opportunities for human development while celebrating cross-cultural understanding, the tradition of good sportsmanship, and the triumph of personal achievement. It is estimated that the Games will be enjoyed by 300 million television viewers worldwide, more than any previous Games. They will provide an