

### Commonwealth Heads of Government to meet in Ottawa

The Ottawa meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government from August 2 to 10 will be the first time that this conference, which has been held 18 times since its inception in 1944, will take place in Canada and only the third time it has occurred outside Britain. Prime Minister Trudeau, as host to the conference, will act as chairman.

The manner in which these deliberations are conducted has been a subject under review since the Singapore HGM in 1971. At Singapore it was decided that senior officials of all Commonwealth countries should gather to examine ways and means of restoring greater intimacy and informality to future meetings. These senior officials, most of whom were Cabinet Secretaries or the equivalent, met in Ottawa in October 1972 and their recommendations will be dealt with as one of the first items on the agenda for the August conference.

#### New aspects

The Ottawa meeting will reflect a departure from earlier meetings in two important respects. One will be the inclusion on the agenda of an item entitled *Comparative Techniques of Government*. Prime Minister Trudeau proposed to the Singapore meeting that Heads of Government seize the opportunity of these meetings to discuss concrete items of interest to all. He suggested that discussion of this item, would allow Heads of Government to examine problems that were common to most and which could be categorized as part of the increasing complexity of governing in modern societies.

At the October 1972 meeting, officials examined Mr. Trudeau's proposal and were guided by his view that the discussion among Heads of Government could be useful if it were directed along practical, as distinct from theoretical lines.

The second departure from previous practices that will be introduced in Ottawa involves neither procedure nor substance so much as attitude. Prime Minister Trudeau has suggested that the unusual nature of the Heads of Government meeting can be employed most advantageously if more attention

is paid to future events. The aim would be to attempt to anticipate and understand these issues before they evolve into crisis proportions, in contrast to the past practice of emphasizing current problems which by their nature are often incapable of resolution within the Commonwealth format.

#### Commonwealth commemorative stamps

Two commemorative stamps will be issued on August 2 in recognition of the visit to Canada of Queen Elizabeth during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Ottawa.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will arrive in Ottawa July 31 and will be in the national capital until August 4.

Both stamps will bear the same basic design distinguished by different background colours. One will be an eight-cent denomination for use on first class domestic mail and the other a 15-cent denomination for overseas air mail. The stamps will be larger than any the Canada Post Office has issued before, each measuring 40 mm by 48 mm.

Queen Elizabeth, in her capacity as Head of the Commonwealth, will be in Ottawa during the first few days of the meeting and will meet Heads of Government and senior members of delegations as has been her custom at London meetings.

During the weekend of August 4-5, the venue of the meeting will shift to Mont Tremblant, Quebec, where, for two days of private discussions, Heads of Government will convene in the absence of Ministers and advisers.

### Toward increased sales of agricultural and food products

A new \$3-million federal program to promote improved marketing of Canadian agricultural products will complement existing efforts to increase the use of raw and processed agricultural products. "It is designed to extend the scope of private initiative by assisting projects that would not otherwise be undertaken or would be carried out on a reduced scale," said Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie.

Under the plan, the Market Development Assistance Program, assistance will be available to Canadian companies, agencies, associations, universities, institutes and the like for projects contributing to a sustained increase in sales of agricultural and food products. Grains and oilseeds are covered by a separate program.

"Our Canadian farmers know how to produce an abundance of top-quality food, and we need to explore the full potential in marketing," Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan said. "We have set three annual records in a row for export sales but the future success of family farming in Canada depends upon our ability to win and hold larger, long-term profitable markets for our products."

The program is designed to be adaptable to the many sectors of the Canadian agricultural and food industries. The nature and extent of financial assistance will depend upon requirements of a particular project but in general will consist of recoverable and non-recoverable contributions.

"The basic criterion which will be employed to establish whether any given project will receive support, is the contribution the project is expected to make to sustained growth of producers' net income, either regionally or nationally," Mr. Gillespie said.

#### Students off to India

Two McGill University students, Phillip Morris and Debrah White, have been chosen to attend the twenty-third Annual International Seminar organized by the World University Service of Canada being held in India this summer.