

2^e PARTIE/PART 2
 DÉSIGNATION ET TITRES ROYAUX
 ROYAL STYLE AND TITLES

2.

PCO

Note pour le premier ministre
Memorandum for Prime Minister

SECRET

Ottawa, November [24?], 1952

ROYAL STYLE AND TITLES

This question has been under consideration by the various Governments of the Commonwealth since the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II. On April 5, 1952, the Commonwealth Relations Office asked each of these Governments for their views on the wording of the new Royal Style and Titles. More recently the Commonwealth Relations Office suggested that, in view of the varying replies to this inquiry, the matter might be arranged by a "personal discussion"; and that the presence of the Prime Ministers or their representatives in London at the Commonwealth Financial and Economic Conference in November would offer a most convenient opportunity for such a discussion. The Commonwealth Relations Office expressed the hope that this proposal would be generally acceptable and that the proposed discussions in London would enable Commonwealth Governments to reach a final agreement on the new form of the Royal Style and Titles.

Prime Ministers' Conference in 1949

2. When this matter was raised in London in 1949, there was general agreement that the Royal Style and Titles was archaic and needed to be changed to bring it into conformity with the existing structure of the Commonwealth. Although at that time no precise understanding was reached on how it might be done, there was general agreement that each Commonwealth country would use for its own purpose a title in which the country concerned would be mentioned by name and the other parts of the Commonwealth would be described in a generic phrase. A further suggestion was that, since the phrases "By the Grace of God" and "Defender of the Faith" — although traditional in the United Kingdom — might not be considered appropriate in all the other Commonwealth countries, it would be for the government of each country to consider whether one or both of these phrases should be omitted from the title adopted for use in that country. Subject to these two considerations the Prime Ministers agreed in the 1949 Conference on the desirability for the maximum possible measure of uniformity for the form of the Royal Style and Titles to be used in each country of the Commonwealth.

Preferences of the Various Commonwealth Governments

3. The preferences for the wording of the Royal Style and Titles, as submitted by the Commonwealth Governments in reply to the C.R.O. inquiry