

39. Heads of Government welcomed the valuable support which the Secretariat is giving to Commonwealth countries in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

#### Food Production and Rural Development

40. Heads of Government discussed the Report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Food Production and Rural Development, held in London in March 1975. They welcomed the opportunity it had provided to consider in a Commonwealth setting the problems of the three quarters of the population of Commonwealth developing countries who live in rural areas. Heads of Government endorsed the view that the problems of rural development and food production should be attacked in an integrated manner and should receive high priority from individual governments and aid agencies. They stressed the need for aid-providing agencies to adapt their practices and programmes to meet the special needs of food production and rural development, and endorsed the proposal to establish a Food Production and Rural Development Division within the Secretariat. The new Division would enhance the effectiveness of the Secretariat's already significant contribution to this sector and should be essentially action-oriented.

41. Heads of Government emphasised the setback to agricultural production which has resulted from scarcity and high prices of fertilizer, and welcomed efforts, in