

the developing Commonwealth in world affairs at present is not so difficult to assess. We must ask ourselves whether what is now being done or sought for in the name of the Commonwealth is worth while. I believe that, by any standard of national or international interest, the answer is affirmative.

I do not know how, in the more distant future, the Commonwealth may develop. What I do know is that, in recent years, since the multi-racial Commonwealth we now know has come into existence, the Commonwealth idea has been a beneficial one in the world. The decisions of the nations which achieved independence to retain important parts of an association they valued were taken in the light of a far-sighted estimate of their national interests. Britain was equally far-sighted in granting independence under conditions of responsibility and goodwill.

We have every reason in Canada to support relations born out of political sanity and commonsense. That is why we are developing relations with West Indian neighbours. That is why the Prime Minister went to Lagos to help achieve fruitful results in consultation, results in which his own efforts played an important part. That is why we are co-operating with others to bring to an end a situation in Rhodesia which threatens racial understanding in this great association of nations.

I am proud as a member of the Canadian Government to assist in the growth of an association of nations guided by generous political ideals. I am confident that the Canadian people share my pride.

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