

changes of general application in Commonwealth relationships, U.K. Ministers have been examining in a preliminary way a number of proposals. In this connection, Brook gave us the opportunity of looking at two papers prepared in London by a committee of officials for consideration by Ministers. These had been discussed but not approved and Brook had not been authorized to give them to us. (For that reason, the fact that they have been shown to us should be kept particularly confidential.)

These papers, while they contain nothing of importance that Brook did not mention, either in conversation with you and Mr. St. Laurent or with the officials whom he met here, confirm our principal impression indicated in paragraph 2 above, namely that the U.K. government are anxious, if at all possible, to avoid at this time any formal redefinition of the nature of the Commonwealth.

4. In the event that it does not prove possible to avoid a general discussion in London on the nature of the Commonwealth, the various suggestions which are being considered by U.K. authorities are of great interest. Some of these are the same or similar to proposals which have been discussed in Ottawa at various times; most of them, I think, are in line with developments which Canadian government representatives have favoured in recent years.

5. Of the suggestions mentioned by Brook (and apparently considered but not decided upon by the U.K. Ministers), the following are among the more significant:

(a) The change, as a matter of practice, from the expression "British Commonwealth of Nations" to "The Commonwealth of Nations".