

Was it to be a multi-racial society to which the newly-independent nations of Asia and Africa could belong? Was it to be an association held together by a common allegiance to the Crown? These questions tested the conscience and the wisdom of all the members of the Commonwealth and the answers given pointed the way to the multi-racial association of today. It was decided and agreed that an independent republic could retain membership of the Commonwealth by recognizing the King or Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth rather than as a sovereign to whom other members owed a direct allegiance.

"Only six weeks ago the Commonwealth underwent the most deep-seated crisis in its history. No one who participated in the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting could have failed to have been deeply affected by the withdrawal of South Africa and regretful at the breaking of ties with an intimate friend and partner.

WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICA

"Nevertheless, I believe that South Africa's withdrawal was inevitable because of the fundamental difference between the Government of that country and the remaining members on the issue of racial policy, an issue basic to the relations between Commonwealth countries. There were some who felt that it might have been possible to devise a formula to keep South Africa in the Commonwealth. Having participated in the meetings I know that such a formula could not have been found. Every effort was made to find a compromise but this would have required concessions which the Prime Minister of South Africa was not prepared to make. In these circumstances, I do not believe that any paper formula for settlement would have been of more than a temporary expedience. Indeed there would have been grave potential dangers in such an outcome.

"We should have betrayed belief in democratic rights for all and respect for the dignity of the individual. Some present and potential members might well have decided to sever their connection with the Commonwealth. For many of its members the Commonwealth association would have lost its moral force and, in the eyes of countries outside the Commonwealth would have declined in influence and stature....

"A fundamental principle has been established. I believe that what was done constitutes a foundation for future growth rather than a signpost to disintegration. It opens the way to even more glorious chapters in Commonwealth history with a greater potential for good and peace than ever before.

"While attracted to the idea of a declaration of the principles which Commonwealth countries hold in common, I am convinced that such a declaration can be accomplished only over a period of years and only on the basis of formalizing principles which are already widely practised.

"In the principle of non-discrimination at the last Prime Ministers' meeting, we did not assert some-

thing that is new or unknown, as the Commonwealth had been moving in that direction for many years.

"It has an element of fragility which could be broken unless there is a collective will to give it new and growing strength.

MEMBERSHIP OF SMALL NATIONS

"The Commonwealth is changing. There are those who say that some of the new nations approaching the stage of maturity are too small to be admitted to the association, and their admission would detract from the prestige and importance of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meetings.

"By admitting Cyprus and Sierra Leone to membership, the process of admitting small states to full membership has begun. There will be additional applications - probably six - during the next few years - including Tanganyika, next December.

"I believe that it would be against the whole conception of the Commonwealth to make artificial distinctions among members whereby some would be designated as second-class for reasons of size, population, economic or military strength.

"I believe that the inclusion of these smaller countries will enable the Commonwealth to proceed further in attaining the values which it now possesses as a bridge between the continents, between nations of different colours, different religions and different backgrounds.

DEEPER AND LARGER VIEW

"There is a tendency to think of the future of the Commonwealth only in terms of the Commonwealth itself -- its membership, economic relations, and political atmosphere. May I suggest there is a deeper and larger view, and that view is one which must see the Commonwealth in its relation to broader world social and political relations. In that sense the Commonwealth appears as a dynamic and flexible agency for providing contact, unity, sentiment and co-operation in a world which sorely needs these healing qualities.

"For the Commonwealth to attain its destiny, it must serve to unite scattered nations of the world, which have been increasingly inter-dependent by the sweep of the technological and scientific revolution of our time."

CANADA AT SEATTLE EXHIBIT

Mr. George Hees, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced on April 21 that Canada would participate in the "Century 21" Exhibition, to be held in Seattle, Washington, from April 21 to October 21, 1962. "Man and Science in the Space Age" is the theme of this exhibition.

Canada has been allocated 11,900 square feet in the Commerce and Industry Pavilion, in which it is proposed to display its latest achievements in science and industry. For example, the electronic