

remainder only two territories had a population of more than 100,000. Several had less than 10,000. The smallest, Pitcairn, in the Pacific had only 90 inhabitants. It was clear that no uniform pattern would fit all these very different territories. Some might feel strong enough to proceed to independence on their own. Some might join with others to form larger and more viable units. Some might wish to couple independence with a treaty of friendship such as western Samoa concluded with New Zealand. Some would for the present prefer to remain as they were.

The prime ministers of the other commonwealth countries welcomed the progress of British territories to independent membership of the commonwealth. They recognized that the authority and responsibility for leading her remaining colonies to independence must continue to rest with Britain.

At the same time, prime ministers of other commonwealth countries expressed their views to the Prime Minister of Britain on the question of the progress of Southern Rhodesia toward independence within the commonwealth. They welcomed the decision already announced by the British government that, as in the case of other territories, the existence of sufficiently representative institutions would be a condition of the grant of independence to Southern Rhodesia. They also noted with approval the statement already made by the British government that they would not recognize any unilateral declaration of independence; and the other prime ministers made it clear that they would be unable to recognize any such declaration. The view was also expressed that an independence conference should be convened which the leaders of all parties in Southern Rhodesia should be free to attend. The object would be to seek agreement on the steps by which Southern Rhodesia might proceed to independence within the commonwealth at the earliest practicable time on the basis of majority rule. With a view to diminishing tensions and preparing the way for such a conference, an appeal was made for the release of all the detained African leaders. The prime ministers called upon all leaders and their supporters to exercise moderation and to abstain from violence; and they affirmed their belief that the best interest of all sections of the population lay in developing confidence and co-operation, on the basis of tolerance, mutual understanding and justice. In this connection they recognized the necessity for giving confidence to the minority community in South-

ern Rhodesia that their interests would be protected.

The Prime Minister of Britain said that he would give careful consideration to all the views expressed by other commonwealth prime ministers. At the same time he emphasized that the government of Southern Rhodesia was constitutionally responsible for the internal affairs of that territory and that the question of the granting of independence was a matter for decision by the British parliament.

The meeting expressed concern at the political rivalries in British Guiana which had led to disorder and interracial strife and had prejudiced the attainment of independence. While several different views were expressed on the methods to be employed, a number of prime ministers expressed the hope that the political leaders of British Guiana would seek urgently a basis for collaboration in the interest of their fellow countrymen of all races in order to restore mutual confidence among the races and to strengthen a spirit of national purpose and unity. Only in these circumstances could British Guiana hope to sustain true independence.

The question of the progress of the smaller dependent territories in the Caribbean to independence was raised. It was emphasized that the problem for the territories was mainly one of viability; and the hope was expressed that every practicable effort would be made to help them to strengthen their economies and so enable them to sustain the obligations of independence whether in a federation or in some other form of association.

The prime ministers reaffirmed their condemnation of the policy of apartheid practised by the government of the Republic of South Africa. Some commonwealth prime ministers felt very strongly that the only effective means of dealing with the problem of apartheid was the application of economic sanctions and an arms embargo. It was recognized, however, that there was a difference of opinion among commonwealth countries as to the effectiveness of economic sanctions and as to the extent to which they regarded it as right or practicable to seek to secure the abandonment of apartheid by coercive action, of whatever kind. But the prime ministers were unanimous in calling upon South Africa to bring to an end the practice of apartheid, which had been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations and was deplored by public opinion throughout the world.

The prime ministers expressed their regret that Portugal had not so far given recognition