

Kingdom the right to maintain in the Federation the forces necessary to meet its international obligations in the area. Full facilities would be extended by the Federation to the United Kingdom, Australian and New Zealand forces forming the strategic reserve now in Malaya, and in return the United Kingdom would undertake to assist in Malayan external defence. The agreement became effective as planned, on August 31, 1957.

Within the next ten years, that is by the time when Canada will celebrate its first century of self-government, the following colonial dependencies will probably have emerged into the world community of free and independent nations as members of the Commonwealth: the Federation of Nigeria, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and the West Indies. Their independence and admission to Commonwealth membership will add four nations, with a total population of about 38 millions (the great majority of them Africans) to the present list of independent members. The policy whereby the United Kingdom prepared these territories for self-government has been described as a policy of "creative abdication". It is a policy to be admired, particularly since it brings into the community of free nations new members of an association which, while it may defy definition, has proved of lasting benefit to its associates.

Meanwhile, the colony of Mauritius is attaining a ministerial form of government which is normally the first step towards self-government. In the next decade, important decisions will also have to be taken regarding the future of such colonies or trust territories as Kenya, Tanganyika, the British Cameroons, Malta, Cyprus and Gibraltar.

RP/C

September 1957.