

There was considerable discussion of trade and economic questions, but I do not propose to go into those in any detail. They are referred to at some length in the communiqué, and the substance of the matters dealt with in our discussions has been covered in reports to the House by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce at various times during this session. The developing countries attach the very greatest importance, according to their statements and according to their policies, to the United Nations Trade Conference which has been meeting in Geneva. They called attention to the fact that, along with race relations, one of the serious problems and dangers in the world today is the division of nations into the "haves" and "have-nots". We all know that. We have been aware of this for a good many years. However, it was pointed out that this division now sees the "haves" almost entirely synonymous in their view with the whites, and the "have-nots" clearly synonymous with the other races of the world.

This lends sharpness to racial as well as economic tensions. The developing countries were at pains to emphasize that, while they appreciate the technical and financial help, what they appreciate even more, and I think we can sympathize with them in this, is improved terms on trade for their primary products exports and increased access to the major markets by the developing countries for such manufactures as they are able to produce and will presumably increasingly produce in the future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are in the communiqué a number of proposals for increasing co-operation in the technical and economic fields inside the Commonwealth. There is the proposal, for instance, for working out a scheme of Commonwealth development projects. We have already some of these under the Colombo Plan. There is, I believe, one project in Pakistan now which has been organized and worked out by three Commonwealth governments. It was thought perhaps we could extend that. A proposal was made by the British Government to that effect.

There was also a proposal for helping new countries by giving administration training to those who will be responsible for administering their governments at a time when there are very few natives who have that experience. At the same time, we realized that a good deal of this is being done now by separate Commonwealth governments. To set up some new, large Commonwealth administration in London might be confusing rather than helpful in this regard.

Then there was a proposal for establishing a Commonwealth foundation to administer a fund for an increasing flow of information and contacts in professional fields. There was a proposal to increase the resources available to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and give it an opportunity to do even better work than it has done in the past. There was a proposal put forward by Canada to establish consultation and to help the developing countries in the field of satellite communications. That was received with great interest and is going to be examined.

There was one other proposal, which appears at the end of the communiqué, which in some respects is the most interesting of all the concrete proposals made. It became quite clear from the beginning of the Conference that there was a strong desire on the part of the newer countries of the Commonwealth, the new African countries, to have some kind of Commonwealth machinery, some kind of Commonwealth institution, a Commonwealth secretariat, established for the service of the Commonwealth as a whole.