

Important constitutional matters will arise. It goes on to say:

More important even than these constitutional considerations is the simple truth expressed by Mr. Diefenbaker last week that a Commonwealth in which the majority of the population is coloured must unequivocally accept racial equality.

The seriousness of racial problems varies widely from member country to member country. Not all of them have an untarnished record. Yet the position today is that the truth of Mr. Diefenbaker's proposition is accepted in theory at least everywhere in the Western world except in South Africa. Refusal to accept it would mean losing the struggle against Communism by default.

And so I might go on in that regard. This was an important step forward, and in that connection it is important internationally. We reviewed the international political situation. As to our views on the summit conference, I shall not now refer to them in view of what has taken place today.

There was universal agreement on the importance of developing a general *détente* in international relations, the urgent need of concluding a broad agreement to end the testing of nuclear weapons, and the desirability of finding avenues of progress in the field of general disarmament. There was an awareness of the growing importance of China in world affairs; and in particular, in order to ensure the implementation of any international agreement on disarmament, the participation of China was recognized as being of first importance.

The meeting was notable also for the growing recognition it gave to the development of the economic needs of the newly independent countries of Africa. I have mentioned already the fact that Nigeria will become a member. I have also referred to the second constitutional decision which arose from the intention of Ghana to introduce a republican form of constitution by July 1. In connection with the decision regarding Ghana's relation to the Commonwealth, the Government of Ghana applied to continue as a member, thus again illustrating the flexible nature of the Commonwealth relationship which permits member countries to remain in free association despite the differences in their forms of government.

#### Help for Awakening Africa

As to the economic needs of the emerging nations of Africa, there was a unanimous recognition that a substantial expansion of economic assistance was necessary in order to assist these countries to achieve self-sustaining growth. The greatest remaining under-developed region of the world is Africa, where no special international economic assistance programme has been established and where the flow of investment and aid funds, in comparison with that to other under-developed countries, is disproportionately small. The Prime Minister of Ghana is seriously concerned about this situation. It was agreed that unless measures are quickly taken in this crucial formative period in the history of these new African nations there may very well develop in those nations doubts as to the goodwill of the developed countries of the West, and they may be tempted to look for sympathy and assistance in other directions.

Mention was made of what the Colombo Plan had done. There is no such type of international assistance as yet available in Africa. Consideration is