

different problems to face and very different conditions to meet, we should not expect their governments always to come up with the same answers. It is not surprising, for example, that the point of view of India with regard to Far Eastern questions is different from that of Great Britain or of Canada. So one not infrequently finds that the representatives of Commonwealth governments at international meetings - at the United Nations for example - are arguing and voting on opposite sides. And the Queen of Canada, on the advice of her Canadian Ministers, may well reach decisions quite other than those to which the Queen of Britain is advised by her Ministers in the United Kingdom.

No, there is nothing monolithic about the Commonwealth of Nations. It is not even an alliance, much less a unit which speaks with one voice. If there is a term not wholly inconsistent with the modern facts, the Commonwealth of today can best be described as a new and peculiarly intimate form of entente.

I have been at some pains to tell you what the Commonwealth is not. But I must not conclude without putting to you, as I think most Canadians see it, the positive characteristics of this association which we cherish and which seems to us to work very well in practice.

Despite the great variety of race and language and religion which characterizes our nations, despite the wide disparity in the material and spiritual circumstances of our peoples, we do share, all of us, great common principles of government. These are usually described as democratic principles. But they are more than that. We have in common as well an attachment to the parliamentary system and the traditions of justice which we have inherited from the British Isles. Over the years, these institutions and practices have done much to create in our peoples a common attitude of mind toward the conduct of public affairs. It is true that local conditions have made necessary quite widely varying constitutional patterns. But the principles are the same and the practices very close in all our countries. This is an important element in our sense of community.

Broadly speaking, too, the aims of our peoples are the same. They were referred to in the final communique of the latest Prime Ministers' meetings as "peace, liberty, and progress". These fundamentals are shared by all our nations. We may not always agree on the policies best calculated to achieve these ends, but we will give each other credit for seeking them and, by and large, we will feel impelled to respect the right to differ on the means.

We should not omit as a unifying force the institution of the Crown. For Canadians and many others in the Commonwealth, allegiance to the same sovereign Queen contributes greatly to the strength of our partnership. Even those among us who may adopt a republican form of constitution accept the Crown as a "symbol" of our association and as the "head" of the Commonwealth. When to these somewhat abstruse constitutional concepts is added the charm and grace and devotion of a beautiful young Queen, the monarchy provides an important human as well as institutional link between us all.