

The Department of External Affairs announces that the group of Commonwealth experts who are to draw up a comprehensive plan directed at closing the gap between rich and poor nations will begin work in Ottawa on July 9.

The ten-member group was established at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Kingston, Jamaica, and will deal with questions related to a new international economic order. At Kingston, Prime Minister Trudeau invited the group to convene in Ottawa for its substantive working session, which is expected to last until July 23rd or 25th. A preliminary meeting was held in London from June 10th to June 13th. The group will prepare an interim report to be ready for consideration by Commonwealth Ministers who will be meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, in the last week of August.

The members of the group have been chosen for their knowledge of contemporary economic problems. The group was also selected to reflect a balance in the perspectives of different regions, national development strategies and expertise.

The members of the group, all of whom will serve in their personal capacities, are:

Mr. Alister McIntyre (Chairman), Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

Professor A.B. Brownlie, Chairman of the New Zealand Monetary and Economic Council and Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, and Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury.

Professor Nurul Islam, Deputy Chairman of the Bangladesh Planning Commission.

Mr. Amir Jamal, Minister for Commerce and Industries, Government of Tanzania.

Mr. P.S. Lai, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to United Nations Organizations in Geneva and current Chairman of the GATT Council of Representatives.

Mr. L.M. Lishomwa, Special Assistant (Economic) to the President of Zambia.

Sir Donald Maitland, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Britain.