

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference met, and all of its representatives - of various colours and races - unanimously agreed that this was the proper and only course to take.

Dignified Restraint.

Mr. Nehru, President Ayub Khan of Pakistan, Tunku Rahman of Malaya, the Minister of Justice of Ceylon and Dr. Nkrumah of Ghana discussed this matter informally with the representative of South Africa with dignity and restraint, and out of the Conference came a unanimous -- and I emphasize unanimous -- expression of view by all the countries that the Commonwealth, being multi-racial, requires "the need to ensure good relations between all member states and people of the Commonwealth".

In an informal meeting, I told Mr. Louw, that Canadians repudiated the South African policy as a denial of the principle that human dignity and the worth of the individual, whatever his race or colour, must be respected.

The Government of South Africa indicated that a referendum later this year will be held as to whether South Africa should be a republic, and if having so decided it wishes to remain a member of the Commonwealth it will then have to ask and will require the consent of all Commonwealth Governments.

I believe that the unanimous acceptance of the terms of the official communiqué is convincing evidence of the fact that the day is not far distant when the acceptance by members of the Commonwealth of certain norms or basic principles of equality of all races, colours and creeds will be generally accepted.

The course I followed is what I believed to be right in spite of honest and well-intentioned criticism with which it was met and that course was unanimously upheld at the Conference by all the countries, whatever their colour.

In recent years Asian countries have been receiving aid and assistance under the Colombo Plan to raise their standards. Africa is the most underdeveloped region of the world and I feel that it is urgent and compelling that action be taken to provide assistance to the new countries of Africa as they become free and independent.

The Conference showed that each of the members, in a spirit of understanding, was conscious of, and concerned with, the welfare of all members....