

Advantages of Aid Programme

We have much to gain from participation in this world-wide enterprise. Those who question the value of expenditure on external aid should not overlook the commercial dividends inherent in the creation of expanding markets. In material terms, aid today can mean increased trade tomorrow. Through generous co-operation we can help ourselves as well as others.

Educational exchanges illustrate the fact that the benefits of co-operation move in more than one direction. Under the Commonwealth Education Programme, which was initiated by the Canadian Government in 1958 at the Montreal Trade and Economic Conference, nearly 200 scholars from other lands in the Commonwealth are this year pursuing courses at Canadian universities. At the same time, 61 Canadian scholars have accepted awards to study in other Commonwealth countries under the plan.

There are in Canada at present a further 152 students and trainees from other Commonwealth countries under the education programme of the Colombo Plan and 69 under the Special Commonwealth African Aid Programme. Furthermore, 50 Canadian teachers, doctors, scientists, administrators, engineers and other experts are spread throughout the Commonwealth in the work of technical assistance, also under the Colombo Plan. An additional 40 Canadian advisers in various fields of activity are serving in Africa under the Special Commonwealth African Aid Programme, seven under a separate Canadian programme of assistance to that area, and six in other Commonwealth countries.

There is, as well, an even larger, but undetermined, number of students from all parts of the Commonwealth studying at Canadian universities under non-governmental auspices and a substantial number of Canadians in the same category studying in Commonwealth countries abroad.

The contribution to international and inter-racial understanding made by these exchanges cannot be measured in dollars or statistics. To continue in unity and strength, the Commonwealth must exemplify the best in those intangible human relationships that determine the motivations and the policies of nations.

The urge that impels every nation today to find its natural affiliations in the world is another cause for the attraction of new members to the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Flexibility

The Commonwealth is flexible. It does not prevent its members from forming other affiliations. Indeed, Commonwealth countries have developed their ties with non-Commonwealth nations. All members can and do enjoy the advantages of Commonwealth membership without foregoing affiliation with non-Commonwealth neighbours and allies.