

In the title which I gave to this address, I posed the question whether there was within the Commonwealth a will to face the future. It is a question that every association of states, as of people, needs to ask itself from time to time, for such a will is essential if the future itself is to be real. I am certain that that will exists; that Commonwealth Governments, mindful of the character of the modern Commonwealth, value the association and are ready to ensure its capacity to respond to the needs of the future.

But Governments alone do not bear the burden of sustained commitment. The people of the Commonwealth are, in the last resort, the custodians of its future. Without their understanding of its contemporary reality, and their support for its dynamic character, the capacity of Governments to sustain that reality and to develop the potential of its dynamic will be severely diminished. This Society, and the innumerable counterpart organs of the unofficial Commonwealth, have an immensely important contribution to make in enlarging the reservoir of public awareness of the realities of the contemporary Commonwealth and of commitment to its future.

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