

democratic traditions, that we possess in common are enormously important. There is the fact that we feel at home with each other. I had a gentleman say to me not too long ago that even when he crossed the border into Canada from the United States he had a kind of different feeling as a Commonwealth member, and these things, while they cannot be measured in specific terms are enormously important.

Then, too, there is of course the fact that we do have a strong physical presence in some of the most dynamic parts of the world today, Africa being one, South East Asia being another, and in Africa in particular I believe that the Commonwealth presence and the Commonwealth influence is going to be crucial if we are going to solve the problems of Southern Africa.

I have had the opportunity over this past year in particular, in concert with my other colleagues on the Security Council from the West, of dealing at close range with the Namibian situation in particular but also, of course, peripherally but nonetheless importantly, with Rhodesia, and while I take nothing at all away from the five of us or indeed from Germany, the United States and France, I think they would be among the first to acknowledge that the United Kingdom's and Canada's presence in the Commonwealth has added a dimension to that effort which is identifiable and which will indeed, if we succeed, prove to have been probably pivotal in bringing about a solution. I believe, despite the conflicts that are in play among the various countries, that the same can be said of Rhodesia. Once again, it is not easy to be precise in defining what those elements are, but if I may use a Canadian example, I think that Prime Minister Trudeau's close personal association with the Commonwealth, the commitment that he has had to it over this past decade, the friendships and the relationships that he has built with various Commonwealth leaders, have on a number of occasions been of great importance in terms of influencing for example some of the leaders of the front line states who, in turn, have had a very profound effect upon some of the leaders of the various independence movements and the like. So in that sense alone the Commonwealth would justify its existence if we did nothing more than move that terribly troubled and perplexed part of the world, Southern Africa, toward a more stable and a more hopeful future. I am told that there is to be a question period and I will be more than happy to answer specific questions with regard to Southern Africa or indeed anything else at that time.

I think also that once again, although it is somewhat intangible, it is important to reaffirm the kind of moral strength that the Commonwealth brings to the world. In the past couple of decades at least, there has been a tendency for