

Canada was also the meeting-place in 1974 of a non-governmental conference, the Tenth Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Conference. The twenty-third Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is to be held in Ottawa in 1977 and in 1978 the eleventh Commonwealth Games will be held in Edmonton. The twelfth Congress of Commonwealth Universities will also meet in Canada in 1978.

In spite of fears voiced on numerous occasions that the Commonwealth was dead, or on the verge of collapse, the association has grown more meaningful and useful. It has grown in several respects: its membership has gone from a mere half-dozen independent countries to 33; its functional programs have multiplied at an impressive rate, covering a wide variety of activities; and, lastly, its orientation has changed from an "Anglocentric" one to a truly multilateral one, with no predominant member. If the recent past can serve as an indication, then the future will see the maintenance and expansion of those activities in which the Commonwealth has proven itself so useful -- consultation and functional co-operation. Government leaders looked ahead from the watershed of their 1973 meeting in this belief: "Heads of Government were convinced that the association had once again demonstrated its vitality and flexibility. They intend to make maximum use of the Commonwealth machinery to put the principles of the Commonwealth Declaration into practice and to accelerate the pace of social and economic development among the less affluent members". (9) As Prime Minister Trudeau said at the 1971 meeting in Ottawa:

"The Commonwealth is for many of us our window on the world.... To contemporary observers and, I am confident, to future historians, the word Commonwealth will be irrevocably associated with the desire of free men and women representing more than a quarter of the world's population to gather, to discuss and to understand..."

(9) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Ottawa, 1973: excerpt from the final communiqué.