



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 19 No. 31

July 29, 1964

## CONTENTS

Some Aspects of the Commonwealth Association.....	1
Canada Survey Near Completion.....	2
Immigration in 1963.....	3
Junior U.K. Marksmen to Visit.....	3

Record Profit for COTC.....	3
New Envoy to Yugoslavia.....	3
Alberta Telephone Modernized.....	4
Iron Ore.....	4
Canada Builds Ceylon Airport.....	4

## SOME ASPECTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION

*The following are passages from an address by Prime Minister L.B. Pearson to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, London, England, on July 14, during the recent conference of Commonwealth prime ministers held in that city:*

...During the 1930s, as I recall so well, debate about the Commonwealth was largely concerned with status and the relationship of individual members to the mother country. After the Second World War, the emphasis changed completely and we came to think of the Commonwealth as a bridge between peoples of many races in all continents of the world. I think this conception has now been fully accepted.

Around the table today at Marlborough House one can see the Commonwealth in action as a living organism and a medium of political communication between the presidents and prime ministers of member countries. We are also beginning to think of the Commonwealth in still another context, as a broadly-based group contributing to efforts now being made on a global basis to promote trade and economic development, with special concern for those countries which have recently achieved political independence.

We often describe these newly-sovereign countries as having "emerged" to independence, almost as though a beautiful tropical butterfly had emerged in full and final splendour from its chrysalis. The achievement of political independence, however, is only the first stage in the evolution of a new nation in today's world. It is thus more accurate to describe these countries as "emerging", not just to political independence but beyond it, to "independence plus" - to that freedom which includes the responsibility and ability to provide for their peoples at least that minimum standard of living which we regard as tolerable

in this second half of the twentieth century. There are very few people who will now accept less without a struggle.

In many of these new countries, however, in the Commonwealth and outside it, the bulk of the population is still far from achieving minimum standards in health, education and general welfare. To remedy this situation is a more difficult and, in many ways, a more challenging task than the achievement of political independence. The Commonwealth must face and help to overcome this challenge if it is to be a meaningful association in the modern world.

### COMMONWEALTH NO ANACHRONISM

We are all aware of how much the Commonwealth has changed. Its continuing and creative evolution is one of the most fascinating developments of contemporary history. For this reason, I disagree with those who consider the Commonwealth an anachronism in today's world or a mere residue of Empire, destined to fade away at an early date. Were the Commonwealth based on no more than nostalgia for an imperial past, it certainly would have disappeared by now - if indeed it had even been born. Instead, as old bonds altered, new ones developed among a far wider group, covering every continent, of every creed and colour and in every stage of economic and social development. The Commonwealth has become a vital medium of communication and co-operation among all these varied peoples, states and regions. To the extent that we come to understand one another's problems and lend one another a helping hand wherever possible, we shall truly strengthen the ties of Commonwealth and make it a more valuable and viable association.

(Over)