

ences that could fragment mankind. The Commonwealth is not merely an association of friends, it is an association that can and does make friends.

During the transitional years under discussion, it has been important to get the Commonwealth's public image straight. Most of the statesmen who have created and shaped the Commonwealth have seen it essentially as an instrument to help shape the future; that is why they value it. Sections of their publics have sometimes

thought of it mainly in backward-looking terms, as a ghost of bygone empire — an understandable but inaccurate and unhelpful conception (non-Anglo-Saxons, and young Anglo-Saxons, are seldom nostalgic about an imperial past). The sentiment and attitudes that support the Commonwealth are teleological, deriving not from the past but from the future, from the realistic vision of the Commonwealth as one of the instruments that can help us build the brotherhood of man.

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