ean states that lack access to North Sea sources and Japan — has been drastically reduced. The other is that the power of oil-sufficient industrial countries has been substantially increased — nowhere more so than in Canada, where oil is providentially found in conjunction with other sources of energy (notably coal).

Resource power

A second major change of the past five years is the declining capacity of technology to confer power and the growing capacity of resources to confer it. To a world where population continues an exponential rate of climb towards demographic disaster, ultra-modern processes for the transmission and manipulation of data are more and more irrelevant and in less and less demand. Such a world requires computers, photocopiers and satellite communication systems less than it needs raw materials, minerals and — above all — food. Power is shifting from those who control the former to those who control the latter. A recent discussion of *The*

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smaller group like the Commonwealth has grappled with the subject of the New Economic Order in detail. The resulting demonstration of the existence of the political will to reach solutions is, therefore, important. Whatever the long-term results, however, it would be a mistake to judge the Kingston heads of government meeting solely in terms of this item.

Another important achievement was the momentum given to intra-Commonwealth relations and functional co-operation. The heads of government initiated or approved further developments in the fields of science, youth, technical assistance and Secretariat affairs generally, Programs such as the Commonwealth Foundation and the proposed Commonwealth Investment Bank also received boosts. In these latter areas, the Canadian announcement of increased contributions was well received. The difficult items of disarmament, Cyprus, Middle East, Indian Ocean, Indochina, Southern Africa, Cuba and Belize also took up considerable time in both the executive sessions and concurrently in the meetings of the committee of the whole.

Two items that are reported to have produced particularly free and interesting discussion were the questions of the brain-drain and the role of women in public affairs. Considerable attention was also given to food production and rural development. On these questions, following on the London meeting, there was strong and positive interest in the establishment of the new Secretariat division to handle questions in this area and in the selection of the director of the division. A restricted session of heads of government without any advisers present discussed comparative techniques of government (a Canadian item first discussed by senior officials in 1972 and by heads of government in 1974 in Ottawa). Another Canadian proposal, calling for the establishment of a "Commonwealth Day", was well received. The proposal was agreed to in principle and, after a short discussion in executive session, was referred to the Secretariat to explore a suitable day.

Other Commonwealth meetings such as finance ministers meetings have already demonstrated the usefulness of the Commonwealth forum as a testing-ground for world issues. This is in many ways the first meetings at heads-of-government level that has been put to the test. Chairman Manley, who referred publicly at the close of the meeting to the doubts that had been expressed about the Commonwealth's ability to adjust to the modern world, dubbed the meeting the "Concord of Kingston" to balance the "Spirt of Ottawa". Whether or not these descriptions prove realistic and are matched by concrete results in trade, finance and development, remains to be seen. In the meantime, they sum up the atmosphere of the closing days of a meeting that achieved consensus on all items without wrenching disagreements.