

EXPO 86 AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Time and the ocean, it has been said, have placed their mark on the Commonwealth of Nations. As the oldest international grouping of peoples still in existence, it has been forging transportation and communications links since the days of the sailing ship.

The 48 members of the Commonwealth share a tradition of keeping in touch over time and in spite of such obstacles as oceans. Telecommunications and airways now stand out as areas of activity in which Commonwealth members have been able to cooperate to mutual advantage. The effect on developing nations, in particular, is far reaching. The changing face of the Commonwealth is due as much, perhaps, to changes in transportation and communications as to any other single factor.

The Commonwealth of Nations of today is a microcosm of a world now made small by technology. This is a world in which every individual, community and nation feels the profound impact of transportation and communications innovation. This is the world of "Man in Motion" that is the subject of Expo 86, the World Exposition to be held in Vancouver in 1986.

Expo 86 will not only provide opportunities to explore the technological future of transportation and communications but will be a forum where countries at varying stages of development can demonstrate the innovations that are useful and adaptable, the durability of certain traditional systems, and the social and other priorities that are important. There will be conferences and seminars to supplement the exposition, and these will be developed in close collaboration with participating nations.

Among the 15 million visitors expected at Expo 86, there will be a major and receptive market for the promotion of tourism and even for the sale of national products, such as handicrafts.

The 1986 World Exposition has been receiving an early and enthusiastic response from the international community. Twenty-one countries have announced their participation to date; these include Britain, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Kuwait, Kenya, Canada, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Peru, Indonesia, Australia, France, Ivory Coast, Spain and Thailand, as well as the United Nations.