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THEY NOTED THAT THE TREATY WOULD RECEIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION

IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. UK MINISTERS REPORTED ON THE PROGRESS MADE FOLLOWING THE UK INITIATIVE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE TRADE AREA IN EUROPE. THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OUTWARD-LOOKING FREE TRADE AREA IN EUROPE WOULD BROADEN THE ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN EUROPE, NOT ONLY BY THE UK BUT BY ALL THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THIS WAS REGARDED AS IMPORTANT AS IT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO AGREED COMMONWEALTH POLICIES OF EXPANDING WORLD TRADE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THERE IS NEED FOR EFFECTIVE MACHINERY FOR CONTINUOUS CONSULTATION AMONG COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE PROPOSED FREE TRADE AREA. UK MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THE UNDERTAKINGS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN BY THEIR GOVT ABOUT THE SAFEGUARDING OF COMMONWEALTH INTERESTS IN THE UK MARKET FOR FOODSTUFFS, DRINK AND TOBACCO.

### 3. COMMONWEALTH TRADE AND ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

THE MINISTERS APPROVED THE PROPOSAL OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THAT A COMMONWEALTH TRADE AND ECONOMIC CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD AT A CONVENIENT PLACE AND TIME IN 1958 AND AGREED TO RECOMMEND THIS PROPOSAL TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THE CHANGING PATTERN IN TRADE, PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD PRESENTS ALL COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WITH NEW PROBLEMS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES. THEY CONSIDERED THAT THE TIME IS MOST OPPORTUNE TO ASSESS THESE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES JOINTLY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO:

- (A) THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES OF CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN WORLD TRADE;
- (B) MEASURES TO EXPAND TRADE BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES;
- (C) PROGRESS TOWARDS THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF FREER TRADE AND PAYMENTS;