

In particular we will encourage greater involvement by members in Commonwealth endeavours to understand and correct the difficulties posed by the imperatives of continuing modernization. We view this as an essential element in maintaining the coherence of the association. In so doing we recognize the limits - both economic and political - to which the Commonwealth is subject, and the competing international priorities which vie vigorously for attention. These limits will not, however, restrict us in seeking the achievement of this triple objective.

The principles expressed in the Commonwealth Declaration are essential to the continued existence of the association in a form acceptable to Canada, and we shall persist in our support for them, and their application.

For Canada, Commonwealth activity has a direct, and distinct, impact on three separate levels. Nationally, it satisfies the aims and aspirations of Canadians; it meets a very real need, whether conscious or unconscious, to find expression for a wider range of contacts; it provides satisfaction for an altruistic wish to do something about the problems of the world. Within the Commonwealth itself, it reinforces the association; it helps to strengthen Commonwealth identity and character; it assists continuity of Commonwealth activities. Internationally, it reinforces the thrust of foreign policy generally, and helps us to do a job that must be done with Commonwealth colleagues. At all these levels, the association will continue to figure prominently in our calculations.

It is against this background that we are now preparing for the Heads of Government Meeting next April. The dynamic of international events will require us to add new questions to those with which Heads of Government are already familiar. The guideline must be to anticipate and analyse problems before they assume crisis proportions. We will, with other governments, rededicate ourselves to the value and continuity of Commonwealth achievement.