

I do not minimize the risks inherent in the emerging trends. The task before the Commonwealth is to reduce the risks by building firmly on new foundations. What has happened might be epitomized thus. We have declared that non-discrimination on the basis of race and colour is the foundation stone of a multi-racial association composed of representatives from all parts of the world. No foundation could be broader or more solidly based than the fundamental principle which, though unwritten, has emerged from this meeting.

I have advocated in the past and I continue to advocate a declaration of principles. When I spoke in the House on May 16 last, I referred to the possibility that the time might not be far distant when acceptance by custom rather than by the declaration of certain basic principles, including the equality of all mankind irrespective of race, colour and creed, would be assured. No document was signed on this occasion, but that does not diminish the importance of what happened. I reiterate that we accepted the basic principle and established it as a Commonwealth custom for the future. This is the bedrock of the modern Commonwealth, the assurance as I see it of a stronger Commonwealth in the future.

#### Mood of Africans

You will have noted that shortly before the meeting began the Chief Minister of Tanganyika, Mr. Julius Nyerere, published an arresting statement in which it was said that in so far as Tanganyika was concerned there would be no question of applying for membership in the Commonwealth if discrimination were condoned. That statement and others by African leaders in territories shortly to achieve independence foreshadowed the course and the promise of the future.

There will be some who will say, and they will speak with great energy, that we should have pressed for the expulsion of South Africa. I remind those who speak in that vein that Ghana, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Malaya and Ceylon did not follow that course. I think the fact that this break had to come and that South Africa should have withdrawn its application was the best course that could be followed. It provided a clearer opportunity of registering the principle of non-discrimination; for the Prime Ministers would not have been satisfied with less.

As the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom said yesterday in the British House of Commons, I regret that South Africa made this choice instead of adopting the attitude of a reasonable acceptance of a primary fact in the world in which we live.