

decided to find their nationhood in company with neighbouring territories outside the Commonwealth. South Africa withdrew in 1961 in the face of a widespread and deeply felt aversion to its policy on the racial problem.

The roll of membership is lengthening. Five nations in 1947; today, after 15 years, the number is 13, with other nations approaching the time when decisions on membership will be made.

Such radical changes in the Commonwealth family have made the old intimacy and comradeship no longer automatic, and much harder to achieve. The free institutions of the old Commonwealth have not everywhere survived unimpaired. It has become more vital that there must be the fullest measure of consultation.

What have we got to put in the place of that which has been lost? How can we take the fullest advantage of the attributes which remain?

In international as in national affairs, the successful practice of politics must rest on realism. If the Commonwealth is to fulfil its potential for good, its limitations as well as the benefits it holds must be understood and respected.

Reasons for Joining

The reasons which have led new nations to seek membership in recent years, and which cause the older members to contribute to the continuing strength of the Commonwealth tie, are many. There are material benefits in the field of trade, economic and technical assistance, scientific co-operation, and other specialized fields. Trade has been an important and essential link in the bonds of the Commonwealth throughout its successive transformations. Commonwealth trade has brought benefits to all members. Commonwealth countries have had many different kinds of trade connections with one another.

In recent years, preferential treatment has been widespread among Commonwealth countries. While the Commonwealth must always show flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances, it is of importance that the mutual benefits of this established trading association among Commonwealth countries shall not be lost.

Aid, as well as trade, must have a significant place in the modern Commonwealth. In the field of economic and technical assistance the newer, less-developed members have the most to gain at the present relative stages of development among Commonwealth countries. Wherever poverty and famine reign, the future of freedom is in jeopardy. Living standards must be raised.

As part of its aid programme, Canada's contribution to development assistance in the newer countries of the Commonwealth makes up the bulk of its \$50 million a year contribution to the Colombo Plan. Further substantial contributions in capital aid are made under our programmes of assistance to African Commonwealth countries and to The West Indies.