

SOUTH AFRICA

(Communiqué issued March 15)

At their meeting this week the Commonwealth Prime Ministers have discussed questions affecting South Africa.

On March 13 the Prime Minister of South Africa informed the meeting that, following the plebiscite in October 1960, the appropriate constitutional steps were now being taken to introduce a republican form of constitution in the Union, and that it was the desire of the Union Government that South Africa should remain within the Commonwealth as a republic.

In connection with this application the meeting also discussed, with the consent of the Prime Minister of South Africa, the racial policy followed by the Union Government. The Prime Minister of South Africa informed the other Prime Ministers this evening that, in the light of the views expressed and the indications of their future intentions regarding the racial policy of the Union Government, he had decided to withdraw his application for South Africa's continuing membership in the Commonwealth as a republic.

SIERRA LEONE

(Communiqué issued March 16)

The Prime Ministers noted that Sierra Leone would attain independence on April 27.

They looked forward to welcoming Sierra Leone as a member of the Commonwealth on the conclusion of the necessary constitutional processes.



Annex II to Final Communiqué

GYRUS

(Communiqué issued March 13)

At their meeting this morning the Commonwealth Prime Ministers accepted a request from the Republic of Guyana for admission to Commonwealth membership. They invited the President of the Republic to join the meeting.