

The governments and peoples of the Commonwealth are united in their desire for peace. They seek friendly relations with all the peoples of the world and have no aggressive intent or design. War would bring disaster for many; world war could mean destruction for all. The policies of all Commonwealth countries will at all times be devoted to preserving and consolidating world peace. The Prime Ministers emphasized the importance they attach to the search for a comprehensive disarmament agreement.

The Commonwealth governments will strive for a progressive improvement in the standards of life of their own peoples and will assist in similar efforts in other parts of the world. Since the end of the war, in addition to furthering their own economic development, they have done much to assist the development of other countries, through the United Nations and such organisations as the Colombo Plan, the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara and by other means. They will continue in their efforts to secure prosperity as well as peace for all the peoples of the world.

In the course of the meeting the Prime Ministers reviewed the significant developments in the Soviet Union in the context of international relations and world affairs. In this assessment they were helped by the reports made by those Ministers who have recently visited the Soviet Union or have held elsewhere personal discussions with the new Soviet leaders. The Prime Ministers considered the recent decisions of the Soviet Government to reduce the numbers of their armed forces, their willingness to facilitate increased contacts between the Soviet Union and other countries, and their expressed desire for improved relations with other governments. They welcomed these developments. A progressive improvement in the relations between the Soviet Union and the other great powers would help to remove the fear of war and serve the interests of world peace. They believe, however, that the removal of the causes of tension and the creation of mutual confidence and goodwill are essential if peace is to rest on secure foundations. The governments of the Commonwealth countries will persevere in the search for just and lasting settlements of outstanding international problems. Unless such settlements can be reached, resources which might otherwise be used to improve the lot of man will continue to be devoted to armaments; and the fears which impel the peoples of the world to accept the burdens of defence will continue to distract and weaken mankind.

The Prime Ministers noted with regret that, since their last meeting, no progress had been made towards German unity. They were informed of current proposals regarding the political and economic activities of the North Atlantic Alliance and the development of closer economic co-operation in Europe.

The Prime Ministers considered the situation in the Middle East. They reaffirmed their interest in the peace and stability of this area. They welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure observance of the terms of the armistice agreements between Israel and the neighbouring Arab states. They agreed that all practicable steps should be urgently taken to consolidate the progress thus made and to seek a lasting settlement of this dispute.