

and even-handed justice. We value Britain's wisdom and experience in international affairs.

This world-wide association of independent states, this valuable mechanism for international co-operation, which we call the Commonwealth of Nations, has been strengthened immeasurably by the inclusion of three Asian members, India, Pakistan and Ceylon. These permit it, among other things, to act as a bridge between Asia and the West, at a time when there are all too few bridges of this kind.

In this, and in other ways, the Commonwealth, which is utterly different from the Empire of yesteryear - a difference which was essential if it was to survive - can and does contribute much to international stability and co-operation. The world, in my view, would be the loser if it disappeared.

Nor has it any need for binding arrangements or formal machinery in order to endure. Indeed, I think most Canadians would say - and I'm sure most Indians would agree with them - that it is able to persist largely because of its almost casual and informal structure, which gives the freedom and flexibility necessary in the dynamic world of today. Despite the absence of machinery, consultation within the Commonwealth is close and continuous, and though it may seem strange to an outsider, it goes on even when strong differences of policy exist - as they do - between members.

Indians and Canadians are associated in two other international organizations. For over a year they have worked together, amicably and well, in the three International Supervisory Commissions in Indochina. Through the friendships established in this joint endeavour, another strong link has been forced between our two countries. As members of the Commissions, we have not always been in full agreement on all matters, but we have always tried to be in agreement and we have nearly always succeeded. I would like to pay my respects here to the devotion, ability, and sincerity of the Indian members, civil and military, of these three Commissions. They have earned the respect and friendship of their Canadian colleagues in the work for peace and security and freedom which they are together trying to do.

I come now to a third international organization - the United Nations - where so many distinguished Indians have played important roles, and where our two governments have worked closely together. I have personally many happy memories of my association with that very distinguished Indian jurist, that fine and modest man, the late Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, with whom I had the honour to serve on the three-man committee which sought in January 1951 a way to end the fighting in Korea.

I have also had years of happy association with Mrs. Pandit, in the work of the United Nations, over the Assembly of which she has presided with a grace, a distinction and skill that no mere male President has been able to achieve.

This is the first year I have missed a United Nations Assembly. One reason I regret this is that it means I won't be working with, arguing with, and drinking a lot of tea with