

mental leaders at a meeting designed for their personal participation. It also meant that all those concerned arrived well prepared for the exchange of views and the decisions to be taken. Since this was the first meeting of Commonwealth government leaders in Canada, there was great determination to make it the best. There was a desire on the part of the Canadian Government, supported by other Commonwealth member governments and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to have the proceedings take place in an atmosphere as informal and intimate as possible in order to enhance the opportunity for these leaders to hold discussions that would be both frank and constructive. It was generally agreed that the meeting succeeded on both counts.

Queen Elizabeth, as Head of the Commonwealth, and Prince Philip attended the opening week of the meeting. It was the first time that the Queen had attended a Commonwealth heads of government meeting outside Britain, a fact that focused additional national and international attention on the event and on the new and decentralized character of the Commonwealth.

All 32 member countries were represented at the Ottawa meeting; those few government leaders who were unable to attend were represented by senior ministers. The two newest members of the association — Bangladesh and Bahamas — were represented by their leaders, Prime Ministers Sheik Mujibur Rahman and Lynden O. Pindling.

#### Discussion topics

Discussions ranged over a variety of topics of common interest, including political developments on the international scene, trade and monetary issues, development assistance, intra-Commonwealth relations, nuclear testing and the situations in Rhodesia and South Africa:

(1) The Commonwealth leaders agreed to provide humanitarian assistance to the indigenous peoples of the territories in southern Africa engaged in the effort to achieve self-determination and independence.

(2) The delegates undertook to discuss comparative techniques of government, drawing on their practical experience.

(3) The meeting reviewed the arrangements for functional co-operation in the Commonwealth.

(4) Approval was given for the implementation of the Commonwealth Youth Program and for an increase in the budget of the Commonwealth Foundation.

(5) Proposals for a Commonwealth Development Bank or a Commonwealth Investment Corporation and for a Commonwealth Centre for Applied Studies in Government were referred to study groups for detailed examination of their feasibility.

(6) Prime Minister Trudeau announced to the meeting that Canada's contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation would be revised upwards to 200 per cent of the pledges made by the less-developed members of the association (up to \$3 million *per annum* for the first three years).

(7) Canada offered to more than double its contribution to the Commonwealth Foundation in 1976.

(8) Canada's continuing commitment to the Commonwealth was further emphasized by its offer to serve as host to the annual meetings of the finance ministers in 1974 and of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1977.

Participants were unanimous that the meeting had been a striking success. No one personality or country had dominated the proceedings; there had been a notable absence of prepared speeches and posturing, and problems had been dealt with by emphasizing the common elements in various positions and then moving forward from an accepted position. Government leaders were acutely aware that the Commonwealth was a growing concern and that it held the potential for even further reinforcement and extension of functional co-operation between member countries. As one prime minister put it, the heads of government, by exchanging views, had influenced each other and, thereby, the policies of their governments.