

## APPENDIX

## MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS, 1964—FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

The meeting of commonwealth prime ministers ended today. Pakistan, Ghana and Tanganyika and Zanzibar were represented by their presidents. Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Kenya and Malawi were represented by their prime ministers. India was represented by the minister of finance; Cyprus by the minister of foreign affairs; and Jamaica by the deputy prime minister and minister of finance.

This was the first meeting at which Uganda and Kenya were represented as independent members; and the other commonwealth heads of government were glad to greet their prime ministers. They expressed their satisfaction at the establishment of Malaysia which they had welcomed at their last meeting in 1962 and they greeted Tunku Abdul Rahman as prime minister of Malaysia. They also welcomed the attainment of independence by Malawi on 6th July, 1964 and agreed that Malawi should be admitted to membership of the commonwealth. They invited the prime minister of Malawi, Dr. Banda, to join their meeting; and Dr. Banda took his seat on 9th July. They noted that Northern Rhodesia would become independent on 24th October, 1964 as the Republic of Zambia; and they looked forward to welcoming Zambia as a member of the commonwealth on the completion of the necessary constitutional processes.

In the course of their discussion, the presidents and prime ministers reviewed the major issues of the day.

They agreed that one of the most important of these is race relations. It was agreed that the commonwealth has a particular role to play in the search for solutions to the inter-racial problems which are threatening the orderly development of mankind in general and of many particular areas in the world today. As a community of many different races, the commonwealth is itself an almost unique experiment in international co-operation among peoples of several races and continents. Within their own borders many of its members have faced and are facing issues raised by the co-existence of differing cul-

tures within a democratic society. The prime ministers affirmed their belief that, for all commonwealth governments, it should be an objective of policy to build in each country a structure of society which offers equal opportunity and non-discrimination for all its people, irrespective of race, colour or creed. The commonwealth should be able to exercise constructive leadership in the application of democratic principles in a manner which will enable the people of each country of different racial and cultural groups to exist and develop as free and equal citizens.

The prime ministers recalled the critical international situation which had developed shortly after their last meeting in the autumn of 1962 and the grave threat to peace which it had implied. They believed that the fact that it was successfully resolved may have been in some sense a turning point in the relations between the major powers and may have marked the beginning of a new period in international affairs in which the world may hope for a gradual relaxation of tension. This will not be a short or simple process; but the prime ministers noted with satisfaction the further steps which had already been taken to reduce the causes of friction, particularly the conclusion of the tests ban treaty and the subsequent agreements between the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet union not to place nuclear weapons in outer space. They also welcomed the reductions in the output of fissile material for military purposes which these governments have made.

Against this background, the prime ministers expressed their hope that these steps would lead progressively to general and complete disarmament. They reaffirmed their support for the work of the Geneva disarmament conference and their determination to seek to extend the scope of disarmament in accordance with the principles expressed in their statement of 17th March, 1961, particularly by endeavouring to promote an agreement to prohibit the further dissemination of nuclear weapons and of knowledge relating to their manufacture and use. They will maintain their efforts to reduce the areas of