

trated its ability to assist in promoting international co-operation and world peace.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government reviewed the world economic situation and recognized the need for new initiatives in this area. A North-South Commonwealth team for the study of constraints to (economic) growth was established to assist individual governments in their preparations for the 1980 Special Session of the UN General Assembly. The problems of progress on the Common Fund, food security, energy and protectionism were also discussed. Commonwealth leaders reviewed the various ongoing programs of Commonwealth co-operation, recognizing both their value and their need for growth.

Lastly, the leaders elected Secretary-General Ramphal for a second five-year term.

Following a long-established tradition, the Commonwealth finance ministers met prior to the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Valletta, Malta, September 26 and 27. Views were exchanged on the problems arising from slow growth, protectionism, international monetary instability, slower prospects in the world economy, inflation, and the problems affecting developing countries.

In their discussions, the ministers emphasized the importance of adequate financing for developing countries, sound domestic economic policies and the reduction of protectionism, as well as their concern at continuing balance-of-payments problems. They stressed the growing interdependence in the world economy and expressed concern with the slow growth and difficulties affecting international economic co-operation. The meeting reaffirmed the view that structural change and sustained world economic development were closely linked. Ministers looked forward to the completion of the report of experts, requested by the Commonwealth leaders at Lusaka, which would identify measures to reduce or eliminate constraints to structural change and lead to a sustained improvement in economic growth.

The ministers also took this opportunity to review ongoing Commonwealth programs, including the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and welcomed the decision to establish an industrial development unit within the Fund during 1979-1980, if finances permitted. They also expressed satisfaction with the development of a Commonwealth program on capital markets and with the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators.

### **Commonwealth secretariat**

Throughout 1979, the Commonwealth Secretariat in London continued to administer its widespread programs in the fields of developmental assistance and related economic areas, science and technology, health, youth, education and law.

Industrial co-operation was a major area of Commonwealth activity in 1979. The final report of the Commonwealth Team of Industrial Specialists chaired by L.K. Jha, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, India, was submitted to the meeting of Commonwealth Ministers held in Bangalore, India from March 5 to 7. With the report as a guide, the meeting made a number of important recommendations, including: the establishment of an industrial development unit within the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation; the initiation by the Secretariat of an "exposure" visits program for small-scale entrepreneurs; a catalytic role for the Secretariat in the development and growth of bilateral and multilateral co-operation programs; the need for additional Fund financing of £5 million for three years specifically for industrial co-operation; and the convening of a working group to examine the possible need for the establishment of a Commonwealth Venture Capital Company. The ministers agreed that their conclusions should be brought to the attention of the Commonwealth leaders in Lusaka, resulting in approval for the establishment of the proposed industrial unit.

Considerable activity was focused on the problems faced by small states and areas needing assistance and Commonwealth co-operation. The Heads of Government, recognizing the special needs of these member countries, requested governments and the Secretary-General to pursue mutually reinforcing programs of assistance in response to requests from the small states.

### **The unofficial, non-governmental Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth gains much of its strength from the over 200 non-governmental organizations active throughout its many member countries, covering parliamentary, professional, educational, and many other areas of activity. Two examples of the many organizations active in Canada are the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Royal Commonwealth Society, which maintain a program of year-round activities.

The twenty-fifth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held from November 17 to December 2 in Wellington, New Zealand. The Canadian delegation was headed by the Chairman of the Canadian Branch of the Association. Delegates were afforded the opportunity to discuss a broad variety of global issues with their Commonwealth colleagues from around the world, and subjects ranged from current international economics to world peace.

The Royal Commonwealth Society in Canada continued its work in the promotion of public knowledge of the Commonwealth through a wide variety of activities, including the celebration of Commonwealth Day (March 10) with special interfaith services and related events. In 1979, the Society sponsored the seventh Student Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa during April with the assistance of the Department of External Affairs; over 100 students from across Canada took part.