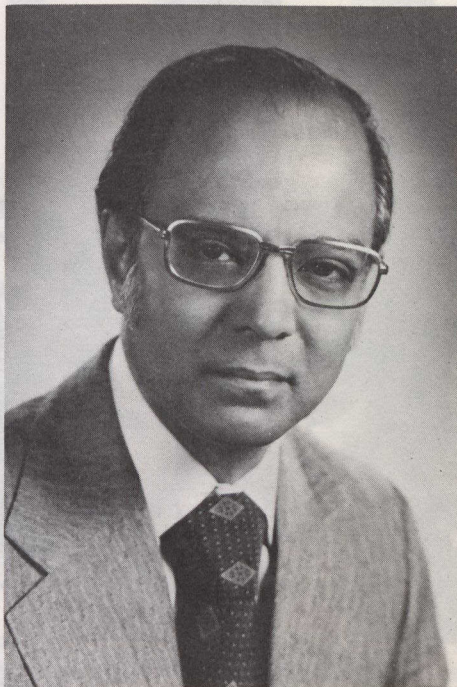


Canada at Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Co-operation

Canada was among 27 Commonwealth nations at the first Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Co-operation in Bangalore, India, March 5 to 7. The meeting grew out of an initiative taken by Prime Minister Trudeau and President Nyerere of Tanzania at the 1975 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica. They considered that industrialization in the developing countries through co-operation could be an important way of creating employment, building economic stability and developing self-reliance, and was essential for sustained development. This type of co-operation would demonstrate the practical value of the Commonwealth by enabling its members to assist each other.

A group of industrial specialists was established by the Commonwealth Secretary-General to prepare proposals for a Commonwealth program of industrial co-operation. The Canadian member was Ray Pillman, Chairman of ACRES (International) Ltd. of Vancouver, British



Lewis Perinbam, (above) led Canada's delegation at the Bangalore Conference.

John Evans

created in the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC);
 (2) initiatives to assist small-scale entrepreneurs from Commonwealth developing countries to learn from their counterparts in other countries; and
 (3) a catalytic role for the Commonwealth Secretariat in promoting, supplementing and linking bilateral and multilateral programs of co-operation in industry to enable developing countries to make the best use of them.

The ministers considered a proposal to establish a Commonwealth-venture capital company. They requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to convene a working group to examine it further and to report on it to the Heads of Government in August. The working group will also examine alternative arrangements to meet the need for equity capital for industrial enterprises in developing countries, the type of institution required, possible sources of finance, operational methods and management.

The main thrust of the ministers' recommendations was the industrial development unit, which will be subject to the control of the CFTC board of representatives and committee of management. Canada is represented on both. It was agreed that the requisite additional resources of £5 million (approximately \$11 million) should be sought from Commonwealth governments to implement this program for its first three years.

Student Commonwealth conference

Nationalism and internationalism was the theme of the seventh Student Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa, April 24-27.

Every year, since 1973 the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society, with the co-operation and support of the Department of External Affairs and Commonwealth High Commissioners resident in Ottawa, has organized such a conference to provide an opportunity for young Canadians to increase their understanding of the modern Commonwealth and its role in seeking solutions to current international problems.

Students from across Canada comprising 38 delegations met on this occasion. Each delegation represented a Commonwealth country throughout the course of the conference.

A model heads of government meeting was held on the last two days, during which each delegation presented its country's viewpoint. For this meeting, delegates follow the same procedures used at Commonwealth heads of government meetings.

Columbia. The purpose of the Bangalore meeting was to consider the report of, and recommendations made by, this group.

The Bangalore meeting was opened by Prime Minister Morarji Desai of India, and chaired by India's Minister of Industry, George Fernandes. Twenty-seven countries were represented by ministers and six including Canada, sent senior officials. Leading the Canadian delegation was Lewis Perinbam, Vice-President of Special Programs, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The other members were Peter Anderson, Deputy Director, Industrial Investment and Competition Policy Division, Department of External Affairs, and Claire E. Marshall, First Secretary (Commercial), at the Canadian High Commission, New Delhi; Michael Lubbock a former consultant to CIDA, a Visiting Fellow at Ottawa's Carleton University, served as adviser.

Preparation for Lusaka

The ministers agreed to submit to the next Commonwealth heads of government meeting to be held in Lusaka, Zambia, this August, a "framework for a Commonwealth action program on industrial co-operation". It will include:
 (1) an industrial development unit to be

OECD ranks Canada high for improved trade balance

Canada was third out of 24 major non-Communist industrial nations in improving its balance of payments since 1960, announced the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on April 23.

The Paris-based agency's study showed that Canada had improved from a balance of payments of \$54 million in 1960 to a current surplus of \$3 billion.

Japan, whose growth of trade is reflected in an increase to \$17 billion from its level of \$268 million in 1960, headed the list of countries for most improved balance of payments. The OECD said, however, that while Japan was the most improved, West Germany currently headed the list of countries with the most favourable rate of exports over imports on figures available to November 1, 1978.