

equivalent, met in Ottawa in October 1972 and made recommendations on procedures and agenda which resulted in a restoration of the informality which is the feature of Commonwealth relations generally. At subsequent regular meetings in 1974 and 1976, Senior Officials again reviewed procedures and agreed that the style and format of the 1973 Heads of Government Meeting in Ottawa should continue.

In London, the formal opening session will be open to the news media but government leaders will meet in closed executive sessions for the balance of the conference. An outline of their discussions will be given in the Final Communiqué and there will be daily news media briefings by the Secretary-General along with extensive facilities for press conferences and interviews for all government leaders.

The main preoccupations of Commonwealth Heads of Government during the Kingston meeting in 1975 were the reduction of continuing unacceptable economic disparities, the shifting balance of political and economic power, and colonialism and racialism in Southern Africa. The Heads of Government also reviewed political developments in the world which had occurred since their previous meeting in 1973. In acknowledging the contribution of the spirit of détente to a measure of relaxation in international tensions, they nevertheless noted there were some crisis areas in the world where peace and stability were not yet secured. They expressed their concern at the continued testing and proliferation of nuclear weapons, at the continuation of the Cyprus crisis, at the renewed danger of conflict in the Middle East, at the increase in naval activity in the Indian Ocean (which is a region of special interest to a significant number of Commonwealth countries) and reaffirmed their total support for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for independence on the basis of majority rule.

In 1975, Commonwealth Heads of Government also approved the establishment of a small Group of Experts, selected from the Commonwealth on the basis of their personal capacities and their knowledge of contemporary problems of international economic development. The Group was to address itself to the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the relevant principles of the Commonwealth Declaration adopted in Singapore in 1971.

Commonwealth Heads of Government also endorsed the establishment of a Food Production and Rural Development Division within the Commonwealth Secretariat.