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THE COMMONWEALTH

Constant consultation among members, the basis of Commonwealth relations, was maintained throughout the year. In January and February a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers took place in London under the chairmanship of Sir Winston Churchill. The Prime Ministers met during the crisis over Formosa and discussion of Formosan and other Far Eastern affairs, including the recognition of Communist China, took up almost half the plenary sessions. The Prime Ministers also accepted and recognized Pakistan's continuing membership in the Commonwealth after it becomes a republic.

In April and May, Mr. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce and of Defence Production, accompanied by Mr. W. F. Bull, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, carried out a good-will tour of Australia and New Zealand. In October and November, Mr. L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, paid visits to Malaya, India, and Pakistan at the conclusion of the Colombo Plan Conference in Singapore.

As in previous years Ottawa welcomed many prominent Commonwealth statesmen. The Prime Minister and the Ministers of External Affairs and of Air and Civil Aviation of Australia, the Minister of External Affairs of New Zealand, the Minister of Finance and External Affairs of the Union of South Africa, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations came to Ottawa to discuss problems of common interest with Canadian government leaders and officials.

The High Commissioner for Canada in the Union of South Africa paid official visits to the Gold Coast and to Nigeria in August, during which he had an opportunity to observe the progress towards complete self-government which is being made in these countries. This progress is part of the process of "creative abdication" which marks United Kingdom policy toward its non-self-governing territories.

Canada's first official link with the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was established in 1955 when the Department of Trade and Commerce opened a Trade Commissioner's Office at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Severe flooding occurred in several sections of India and Pakistan in October and to assist the flood victims Canada contributed \$50,000 in relief supplies to each country. Emergency assistance in the form of flour was also given to the victims of Hurricane "Janet" in the British West Indies.

At the tenth session of the United Nations General Assembly the Union of South Africa withdrew its delegation and its Permanent Representative when the United Nations decided to keep South Africa's racial policies under surveillance and to continue to press South Africa to accept