

been influenced by those distinctively British contributions to modern culture, the Beatles and "mod" styles. It is refreshing in a way to have British patterns invading North America. We continue to share a wide range of common interests in international affairs, a range of interests that becomes ever broader as the world grows more complex and interdependent.

In these changing circumstances it will, I believe, be most important for both Canada and Britain to make a special effort to understand the factors shaping each other's foreign policy. Only in this way can we maintain and enhance our traditional, intimate relations, which we value so highly.

We have just concluded the first meeting of the newly-established Canada-United Kingdom Ministerial Committee. The desirability of a forum of this nature was felt as a result of the increasingly complex and broad range of essentially bilateral matters of concern to the British and Canadian Governments. Far from supplanting our traditional Commonwealth channels, I regard meetings of this sort as a valuable means of supplementing and extending our relations.

The enormous changes taking place in the Commonwealth have affected the very nature of the association. Without wishing to underestimate the more traditional values of the Commonwealth, it is, I think, in the search for a practicable formula for building confidence among the various races of the human family that the modern Commonwealth has its greatest relevance to us today. The fact that the Commonwealth embraces so many differing races, in countries which nevertheless share, at least to some extent, a common language and elements of a common culture, gives it a great potential for contributing to international peace and understanding. It affords, perhaps, the most important political institution today for communication between the white "have" countries and the non-white "have-nots", and it has a major role to play in overcoming the division between the less-developed countries and the industrialized countries.

We see the Commonwealth Secretariat as one means of strengthening the Commonwealth in its role as an important link between countries with differing backgrounds and racial composition. By providing machinery to facilitate a broad range of contacts between Commonwealth countries, the Secretariat is making a contribution towards increasing the value of the Commonwealth association. The Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, and the various organizations of a specialized sort which bring together men with common interests have a similar, valuable function. The Canadian Economic Aid Programme is oriented to a considerable extent towards the Commonwealth Colombo Plan, the special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme and our Caribbean Programme -- and our programmes of assistance in military training are addressed to the Commonwealth. Such endeavours on our part, and the various large ways in which Britain assists Commonwealth countries, afford concrete attractions to the less-developed members to maintain the political association. It would appear desirable to continue and extend such measures. Canada, as befits its cultural heritage, is now making a comparable effort in the aid field towards the French-speaking states of Africa and elsewhere.