

“On the other hand there are objections to making any reference in the final communiqué which will be issued after our present meetings to any discussion of Gold Coast affairs. However vague the reference may be, it could be regarded as an attempt to influence the forthcoming elections in the Gold Coast. If, however, we are to be faced before our next meeting with the question of Commonwealth membership for the Gold Coast, then it will be very convenient if something could be placed on record now as to the views of existing members.

“My colleagues and I in the United Kingdom Government are convinced that the Gold Coast should on attaining full self-government be admitted to Commonwealth membership. I trust that you will share this view.

“I am therefore writing to you, and concurrently in similar terms to the other prime ministers of member countries, in the hope that in reply to this letter you will be able to record your agreement in principle to acceptance of an application for Commonwealth membership from the Gold Coast on the assumption that self-government is reached. In that event and assuming that the other prime ministers also agree to what is proposed, I should hope it would only be necessary for me to send you and them a message by telegram when the question of membership had been raised and had become actual. This would invite formal concurrence to inform the Gold Coast Government that, with the coming into effect of full self-government, the Gold Coast would also be accepted as a member of the Commonwealth.” Letter ends.

2. The Prime Minister proposes to ask Cabinet to approve the following reply to the letter but before doing so would be glad to have your views. It would be helpful also to show the proposed reply informally to the C.R.O. in case they wish to make any comments. We expect to clear the reply next week and forward it immediately. Letter begins:

“I am grateful to you for your letter of July 3rd and welcome this report of the progress which is being made toward full self government in the Gold Coast. I thank you also for sending me a copy of the letter to you of July 5th from the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa and of your answer of July 11th.

“I have discussed with my colleagues here the conditions you specify and the further steps you propose in your letter to me and they find them satisfactory. Of course, it is difficult to give specific commitments in regard to a situation which is unlikely to occur for some time but I feel quite certain that, when I receive your message that the appropriate stage has been reached for a formal decision about the admission of the Gold Coast to Commonwealth membership, the Government of Canada will be prepared to agree.” Letter ends.

L.B. PEARSON