

Accordingly, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon hereby declare that they remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress."

These constitutional questions have been the sole subject of discussion at the full meetings of Prime Ministers.

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II. Text of broadcast, delivered by shortwave from London, over the CBC by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, on April 27, 1949.

I am grateful for the privilege of saying a few words over the air about the Commonwealth meeting which concluded its discussions today in London, when, just before lunch, we went to Buckingham Palace and presented our report to His Majesty The King.

That report has now been made public. It is, I think, a document of historic significance. It is short and without frills; just as our meeting was short and without frills. Commonwealth meetings usually are because we can get down to business in these talks without formality or preliminary palaver. The report represents, as all agreements between a number of Governments are bound to represent, compromises and concessions to differing points of view. Also the discussions which preceded agreement were, I can assure you, characterized by that complete frankness which should exist between friends; by a healthy respect for each other's opinions; and above all by a genuine and strong desire to reach an agreement which would keep us working together in the future.

The problem facing us was a simple one to state, but not an easy one to solve. In a word it was this. Was our Commonwealth of Nations adaptable and elastic enough to include one nation, India, which was anxious to retain its full membership in our group? Our report shows that this can be done without altering the connection with the Crown as the course of our allegiance which the rest of us cherish and which has not been changed by anything that we have done in London. To Canada the Crown means no impairment of our freedom, but on the contrary symbolizes the continuity of our historical development and the depth and strength of our democratic roots. The King however, stands for something more than this. He is the symbol of the free association of the members of this Commonwealth of Nations. India joins with the rest of us in accepting The King as such a symbol and as the head of our Commonwealth.

Thus we all remain together at a time when, as never before, it is good for us and for the world that this should be so. No one who attended this meeting in London wished it to be otherwise, because this Commonwealth has proven that it is a strong agency for fruitful co-operation. We wish to keep it so.

Around the table at our meetings in historic 10 Downing Street and around the table when we dined together, sat the Prime Ministers from Australia and New Zealand, proud of their British stock and British traditions; sat also representatives of the new Asiatic countries of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, differing from the rest of us in race, steeped in another tradition, not all of whom were friendly in the past to the Commonwealth association when it did not seem to mean freedom for their countries. All three worked with us at this Conference in comradeship and goodwill. There was also the Afrikaner Prime Minister of South Africa whose wise counsel was of great assistance in reaching our conclusions. Under the