

to the future of the smaller dependent territories. They agreed that a detailed study of this subject should be made for consideration by Commonwealth governments." Accordingly, a meeting of senior officials was held near London, beginning July 17. In response to a question concerning it, Prime Minister Diefenbaker made the following comments in the House of Commons on July 23, 1960:

The reason for this committee of experts on the problems of the Commonwealth being set up is to canvass all the possibilities and review the potentialities of the future, to the end that the Commonwealth may not find itself stifled by anything in the nature of rules or regulations; so there may be preserved that informality which is so necessary if we are to maintain the Commonwealth as we know it today. Without pacts, without agreements, without rules, we yet manage to bring about a general adherence to the maintenance of freedom everywhere in the world. To this end the committee now meeting near London has been set up. I do not think any of the nations represented there have made formal suggestions or recommendations. This whole field is being canvassed, and out of the general discussions of these officials representing various parts of the Commonwealth will come, we hope, something in the nature of particular suggestions which may form a basis for the determination of the future of the Commonwealth.

The transformation of the Commonwealth which will doubtless take place in the future as the trends established in 1960 and, of course, earlier, continue, will involve an extension of Commonwealth membership far beyond its present limits, opening corresponding possibilities for increased usefulness and value to the association. As the Governor-General of Nigeria, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, stated at his inauguration on November 16, 1960, ". . . the Commonwealth has evolved from an association of colonial territories settled mainly by persons of European descent to a multi-racial and multi-national community, which has no ties, no commitments, no obligations, no trace of imperial control or subordinate colonial status."

During 1960 it became clear that the process of constitutional development within the individual members of the Commonwealth involved a variety of governmental methods. Mr. Diefenbaker, commenting on this development, made the following statement to the Second Commonwealth and Empire Law Conference on September 19: "As the Commonwealth, we will have to adapt our institutions and our relationships; we will all have to be tolerant of differences. We will have to face the fact that the varied individual circumstances of the member nations of the Commonwealth may well mean that they will be compelled to adopt a variety of policies to deal with those circumstances." Elsewhere in this same address Mr. Diefenbaker commented that "a representative democracy cannot be applied in the same manner and degree in all Commonwealth countries." However, he noted further that "an overriding ideology is patent within the Commonwealth. It is inconceivable that any member of the Commonwealth could be fully totalitarian in spirit. Traditional and accepted value are too strong."

Multi-Racial Commonwealth

There was considerable discussion in 1960 of the position of the Union of South Africa in the Commonwealth. At the meeting of the Commonwealth prime ministers in May, the matter took on a special