

of all continents, and races, in all stages of economic development. The division of humanity between the white and the other races, which coincides not completely, but too closely for comfort, with the division between the affluent industrialized peoples and the poor underdeveloped peoples, is I think the most difficult and potentially dangerous problem in the world. Our Commonwealth cuts across the associations based on geography, and race, and religion, or on ideology or on economic similarity. It is not exclusive. If most of the African members had to choose between their Commonwealth association and their membership in the Organization of African Unity, they might doubtless choose the latter. If India had to choose between its Commonwealth membership and its non-aligned policies, it might choose the latter. If Canada had to choose between its links with this or that African country and its regional association with the United States, few Canadians would give priority to our African ties, greatly though we value these. But we do not have to make these choices. The great feature about the Commonwealth association is precisely that it is not exclusive, that it complements and transcends rather than attempts to supersede these other more limited groupings. In this way it helps us all blur the edges of division, reconcile some differences, and increase understanding between these various regional and racial and ideological blocs. It thus promises to help humanity forward towards that global community which we must before too long develop, if we are to survive this age of proliferating atoms.

In stressing the great value which I, and my government, attach to the multi-racial aspect of our Commonwealth, let no-one find implied any diminution of the values we place on links with Britain and the other old Commonwealth members, Australia and New Zealand. The contrary is the case. Nothing would be stupider than to weaken --- by taking them