

Nyerere of Tanzania, their aim being a document which they could use to help persuade their peoples that the Commonwealth was not British colonialism in another form but a voluntary association of sovereign independent nations operating on certain accepted principles and with certain common objectives.

Yet a third accomplishment in further broadening the scope and extent of effective functional co-operation within the Commonwealth was the agreement to establish on a multilateral basis the existing Commonwealth Program for Technical Co-operation. This will be financed by a multilateral fund to be administered by the Secretariat on behalf of Commonwealth members. Canada announced that it would contribute the lesser of 40 per cent of the total or \$350,000 each year for three years to the expanded technical co-operation program. Depending on the program's success and the support given by other members, we should be prepared to contribute additional funds on condition that the Canadian share of the total program did not exceed 40 per cent. Substantial pledges were also announced by Britain and by Singapore and by a number of other members. During the final day, heads of government also agreed to a modest information program, and approved reasonable expansion of the activities of the Commonwealth Foundation established five years ago to promote contacts and exchanges between professional and technical associations of member countries at the non-governmental level. Modest progress was also registered in the area of education and youth exchanges.

The Singapore conference provided clear evidence that members still find it in their mutual interest to continue the Commonwealth association. In his report to Parliament following the 1969 Commonwealth conference, Prime Minister Trudeau pointed out that the greatest strength of the Commonwealth is the opportunity it provides on a regular basis for men of goodwill to sit down together and to discuss with one another the problems which affect them and the 850 million people whom they represent. Both in plenary session and in the many bilateral meetings, Commonwealth leaders can talk about their problems and their hopes for the future and can learn from the wisdom and experience of others. The heads-of-government conference is a forum for men who are as different as God has made them. It is a meeting-place where people are able to demonstrate the advantages of dissimilarity, the richness of diversity, and the excitement of variety. It provides a means for meeting the aspirations of men in the twentieth century to live in societies where tolerance and equality are realities. Human inequality is a political fact of great potency. The most effective means of reducing the explosive potential of discrimination is to meet other persons as political equals, and to assist them toward economic equality.

On his return from the Singapore conference, the Prime Minister stated in Parliament that: "Canada could get along without the Commonwealth, but it could not get along nearly so well.... The Commonwealth benefits all members and harms none. It is my firm expectation that, with the help of the important Commonwealth Declaration, the association will prove a major contributor to the enrichment of human relations."