Ceylon: (Independence 1948; Republican status pending)

Area: 25,332 square miles Population: 8.5 million.

Ghana: (Independence, 1957; formerly known as the Gold Coast)

Area: 91,843 square miles Population: 4.5 million.

Malaya: (Federation, independence achieved August 31, 1957)

Area: 50,690 square miles Population: 6,152,099

Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland:

(Established in September 1953. It holds a special position somewhat less than that of a Dominion. Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland remain protectorates; Southern Rhodesia is a self-governing colony with certain qualifications having to do with powers reserved to the United Kingdom. Under existing laws, the constitution cannot be revised until 1962).

Area: 478,010 square miles Population: 7,260,900

The colonies, protectorates and protected states range from Aden to Zanzibar. Most of them are under the protection of the United Kingdom but some are under that of Australia, of India and of New Zealand. Mandated and trust territories are administered by the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The New Hebrides is an Anglo-French condominium. Canton and Enderbury Islands are an Anglo-American condominium.

The Nature of the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth represents the results, in midtwentieth century, of the expansion of the Anglo-Saxon peoples which began towards the end of the 16th century. This expansion, particularly noteworthy during the 18th century, has continued, at least to the extent of mandated and trusteeship territories, almost to our own day.

The Commonwealth is not a trade or defence organization. It is not a federal union. It is not an institution. It is not a club. It is not a family. What then is it? It is a group of sovereign independent states linked in free association through a common inheritance of certain 19th century liberal political principles of Anglo-Saxon origin; through the use of the Common Law; and through the practice of tolerance, mutual respect and of a pragmatic, rather than a theoretical, approach to political and administrative problems.