

leaders looked ahead from the watershed of their 1973 meeting in this belief: "Heads of Government were convinced that the association had once again demonstrated its vitality and flexibility. They intend to make maximum use of the Commonwealth machinery to put the principles of the Commonwealth Declaration in practice and to accelerate the pace of social and economic development among the less affluent members."⁹ As Prime Minister Trudeau said at the 1973 meeting in Ottawa:

"The Commonwealth is for many of us our window on the world To contemporary observers and, I am confident, to future historians, the word Commonwealth will be irrevocably associated with the desire of free men and women representing more than a quarter of the world's population to gather, to discuss and to understand".

This "Spirit of Ottawa" was reaffirmed at the 1975 meeting in Jamaica, described by the host prime minister as the "Concord of Kingston". The initiatives of both meetings are currently being carried forward in an outward-looking way, apart from political consultation among themselves and practical programs of mutual assistance. As Arnold Smith told the heads of government at their meeting in 1975, "the Commonwealth has changed greatly over the years and has become increasingly relevant to the problems of World politics . . .". "We have not been growing old: we have been growing up," he declared.

⁹Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Ottawa, 1973: excerpts from the final communique.