

taking place, and the Commonwealth of today is a new Commonwealth different from that given statutory form in 1931 by the Statute of Westminster.

Many ask what is the Commonwealth role today. This is an age of struggle for the minds of men. This struggle is unique in history, because it is world wide. Because it is global in character, only a global response and a global defence can preserve those values we hold dear.

This is the challenge the Commonwealth faces, must meet, and can meet, for no other institution in the modern world has the same global unity in the things of the spirit, and the economic potential to preserve and defend the heritage of freedom. Free men everywhere must recognize, and are grateful for, the contribution of the United States of America, for without the great economic strength of this country the situation might well be desperate. But the United States cannot carry the burden alone, nor should she. The Commonwealth straddling the continents, has a crucial part to play in world affairs and a unique responsibility to aid in fostering the progress of humanity.

Its principles include: a belief in the state as a servant of the people, and in the rule of law with equal justice and opportunity for all; a burning desire for peace; a resolve to settle international disputes by negotiation and legal procedure and the renunciation of aggression. These principles are nowhere recorded in a written charter; they involve no constitutional commitments, but existing in the hearts of all the peoples of the Commonwealth of Nations they are powerful and effective. These are principles worth preserving, but to preserve them we must stand together.

The Communist world having changed its direction from open or concealed aggression to trade requires counter-action by the free world. Trade has become a major weapon in the Communist world offensive. The Communist drive is designed to undermine the economic strength of the free world by understanding and by undercutting.... I believe that expanding trade and economic cooperation among the free world nations is necessary if the Communist world trade threat is to be met.

I first saw London when, 42 years ago, I was on leave during the First World War. I saw something of the majesty of the British people and the significance of British traditions, not realizing the day would ever come when the privilege and responsibility would come to me to share in the shaping of the future of the family of nations.

In July 1957, I attended the Prime Minister's Conference in London. I had the conviction then, that what should be done, and what was needed to be done, was to formulate plans, while maintaining the independence of each of the member nations, to strengthen the Commonwealth concept. The biblical question,