



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 71/6

THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING, SINGAPORE - II

Communiqué and Declaration Tabled in the
House of Commons on February 2, 1971.

A. Final Communiqué

Commonwealth heads of government met in Singapore from 14 to 22 January. All Commonwealth countries were represented, seven by their presidents, seventeen by their prime ministers, one by the vice-president, and six by senior ministers. The Prime Minister of Singapore was in the chair.

2. This was the first heads of government meeting to be held in Asia. Heads of government welcomed this and expressed gratitude to the Government of Singapore for the hospitality it had provided.

3. The meeting expressed a warm greeting to the Prime Ministers of Tonga, Western Samoa and Fiji whose countries had become members of the Commonwealth during 1970, and particularly welcomed their membership as it brought to Commonwealth consultations additional views of the peoples of the Southwest Pacific.

Commonwealth Declaration

4. Heads of government approved unanimously and issued a Commonwealth Declaration.

International Affairs

5. Heads of government reviewed the world political situation and trends. Views were exchanged on: East-West relations; Chinese representation in the United Nations; the steps required to end the conflict in Indochina; the neutralisation of Southeast Asia; the conditions necessary for achieving a durable settlement in the Middle East; the violation of the security and sovereignty of the Republic of Guinea by the military and naval forces of Portugal in conjunction with other elements; the need for general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the cessation of the nuclear-arms race