

of Commonwealth developing countries. Heads of Government will consider this report at their meeting in 1975 in Jamaica. Each of these activities has been oriented to the encouragement and intensification of cooperation.

These programmes mounted by the Commonwealth enjoy economies not available to multilateral programmes elsewhere. Overhead is low; costs of Secretariat programmes are less than 15%, liberating the bulk of the funds available for programme activity. The return for money invested is good value, and the programmes worthwhile. Response is rapid, and there is precision in meeting needs. In the case of smaller members, whose needs are not met by other multilateral programmes, Commonwealth assistance is often of critical value. The Commonwealth is thus an effective and efficient multilateral channel for aid.

Canada actively supports each of these programmes to which I have referred. We also contribute to Commonwealth development in the Secretariat, where Canadians fill positions at various levels. A former Torontonion, Arnold Smith, has been Secretary-General for ten years, and has rendered outstanding service to the Commonwealth.

But Canadian support rests on a variety of other considerations as well. The lines of communication, established over time, and the conventions which govern its activities are tried and tested instruments for diplomatic concourse. The association provides, through its evolution, a unique forum, where members discuss and exchange views in complete candour and informality, on a basis of full equality. The practice of understanding differences and resolving problems, of seeking constructive solutions by agreement rather than by voting brings members together, rather than dividing them; this cohesion reinforces Commonwealth endeavour and makes cooperation easier. The Commonwealth allows us considerable latitude for action in a body where no superpower is a member. We understand the way it works. It is worth our while.

The Commonwealth provides access to, and makes us beneficiary of, ideas and experience, and a formidable repository of collective knowledge. The association facilitates relationships with member countries, and gives an added dimension to our bilateral relations. It acts as an antidote and counterweight to continental drift. The Commonwealth remains useful as a sounding board for our ideas, for gauging the response of members, and for calculating the likely response in larger forums. It is as well a source of