

potentialities of its membership. The Committee's primary concern, therefore, is to help scientific agencies in the developing countries of the Commonwealth to plan their research and development activities, and also to advise aid authorities in the developed countries on the assistance these agencies require.

Non-governmental Commonwealth organizations were as active as the governmental organizations during 1972, a year that witnessed the Conference of the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers in London in February, the twenty-first Parliamentary Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, held in Westminster in May, the annual general meeting of Commonwealth Countries' League in London in June, the sixth Commonwealth Meeting of the Commonwealth Medical Association at Accra in September, and the annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Association of Architects in Nicosia in October.

Canada was host to a number of Commonwealth meetings and conferences during the same period, including the meeting of the Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Resources and Geology at Montreal in August and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Conference in Ottawa in November. Both were successful and the latter made advances in promoting the modernization of telecommunications systems in many developing countries of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, established in 1965 and based in London, provides a focus for many Commonwealth activities. Its task is to assist Commonwealth governments in ensuring conditions for the frank exchange of opinions on matters of common interest in a friendly, informal and intimate atmosphere. The Department of External Affairs is the link between Canada and the Commonwealth Secretariat. This role takes on added significance when a Commonwealth meeting is held in Canada, since the function of serving Commonwealth meetings, one of the more important duties delegated to the Secretariat, is carried out with the assistance of host governments.

As a result of decisions taken at the last Heads of Government Meeting held in Singapore in 1971, a meeting of Commonwealth senior officials on heads

of government meeting procedures and comparative techniques of government was held in Ottawa in October, 1972. The officials were instructed to make recommendations on the means to ensure informality and intimacy at future Heads of Government meetings and on future agendas, and to carry out a preliminary examination of comparative techniques of government. This meeting was an extremely important one for the Commonwealth and Canada's offer to host these deliberations testified to the Government's commitment to the Commonwealth association. Indeed, the thrust behind both topics was largely Canadian and therefore our responsibility to lay the groundwork for fruitful discussion was definite. With the cooperation of the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister's Office, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Department of External Affairs made extensive preparations for the senior officials' meeting, thus ensuring that the scene was set for successful talks.

It was during these preparations for the senior officials' meeting that Prime Minister Trudeau announced the Canadian Government's offer of Ottawa as the site for the next Heads of Government meeting. This suggestion was welcomed by all Commonwealth governments and, with the recommendations of senior officials in hand, the Department began making preparations for the 1973 conference, scheduled for August 2-10.

In collaboration with CIDA, the Department contributed a significant amount of money to Commonwealth activities in 1972. Canada's assessment for contribution to the Commonwealth Secretariat was \$275,699, which represented 17.87 percent of the total budget for the financial year 1971-72. Canada's annual contribution to the Commonwealth Foundation which provides funds for increasing interchanges between Commonwealth organizations in professional fields throughout the Commonwealth, was £51,625 (approximately \$129,062). Canada also contributes to the Commonwealth Air Transport Council, established in 1945 to review the progress and development of Commonwealth air transport and to advise on civil aviation matters referred to it by Commonwealth governments. The Council also serves as a medium for the