

provides a real theatre of action for an interested domestic constituency, such as the Royal Commonwealth Society, which wishes to participate in an identifiable and specific manner in international affairs. The Commonwealth is, in the words of Prime Minister Trudeau, "our window on the world". It provides one more forum for our active participation in world affairs. Membership in the Commonwealth also represents a reinforcement and further extension of the calculated policy of diversification of Canadian interests and engagements throughout the world to offset the pull of continentalism.

The Commonwealth is the oldest international association to which we belong. It may be viewed as parallel to our involvement in the Agency for Technical and Cultural Co-operation, the Agence, its *francophone* counterpart. Our policy towards it will necessarily be conditioned by its aims and purposes, its composition, and the policies of member governments towards it. The larger number of developing countries within the Commonwealth, and their requirements, understandably orient its activities in this direction. This is not, however, an exclusive orientation. All members participate with equal status, and contribute collectively to Commonwealth endeavours. All share the benefits. This sense of community is imperative to the continued welfare and existence of the association, and it is our intent to nourish and to cultivate this sense.

We shall continue to strengthen the association and preserve the candour and informality of its discussions, to encourage more active participation in it by members, and to support its development, and that of its non-governmental organizations, as instruments for greater practical co-operation. In particular we shall encourage greater involvement by members in Commonwealth endeavours to understand and correct the difficulties posed by the imperatives of continuing modernization. We view this as an essential element in maintaining the coherence of the association. In so doing we recognize the limits - both economic and political - to which the Commonwealth is subject, and the competing international priorities that vie vigorously for attention. These limits will not, however, restrict us in seeking the achievement of this triple objective.

The principles expressed in the Commonwealth Declaration are essential to the continued existence of the association in a form acceptable to Canada, and we shall persist in our support for them, and their application.

For Canada, Commonwealth activity has a direct, and distinct,