

The Prime Ministers expressed their hope that the negotiations on the cessation of nuclear weapons tests, which were due to reopen at Geneva on March 21, would lead to the early conclusion of an agreement on this subject. Such an agreement, apart from its importance in itself, would provide a powerful impetus toward agreement on disarmament generally.

The Prime Ministers considered the various proposals which have recently been put forward for changes in the structure of the United Nations -- including, in particular, the structure of its councils, the position of the Secretary-General and the organization of the Secretariat. They recognized that such changes could only be made with general consent. They agreed that, whatever adjustments might be made, it remained vitally important to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to preserve the international and independent character of the Secretariat. They further agreed that members of the Commonwealth shared with all nations a fundamental common interest in maintaining the integrity of the United Nations as a force for orderly political, economic and social progress throughout the world.

The Prime Ministers also discussed certain constitutional questions relating to Commonwealth membership. The conclusions reached were announced in communiqués issued on March 13, 15 and 16 relating, respectively, to Cyprus, South Africa and Sierra Leone. The text of these communiqués is reproduced in Annex II.

Annex I to Final Communiqué

Aim

1. The aim must be to achieve total world-wide disarmament, subject to effective inspection and control.

2. In view of the slaughter and destruction experienced in so-called "conventional" wars and of the difficulty of preventing a conventional war, once started, from developing into a nuclear war, our aim must be nothing less than the complete abolition of the means of waging war of any kind.

Principles

3. An agreement for this purpose should be negotiated as soon as possible, on the basis of the following principles --

(a) All national armed forces and armaments must be reduced to the levels agreed to be necessary for internal security.

(b) Once started, the process of disarmament should be continued without interruption until it is completed, subject to verification at each stage that all parties are duly carrying out their undertakings.

(c) The elimination of nuclear and conventional armaments must be so phased that at no stage will any country or group of countries obtain a significant military advantage.

(d) In respect of each phase there should be established, by agreement, effective machinery of inspection, which should come into operation simultaneously with the phase of disarmament to which it relates.

(e) Disarmament should be carried out as rapidly as possible in progressive stages, within specified periods of time.