

Canada's representative in a position to speak to Mr. Low in a way that did not arouse his antagonism. What happened here is well set out in the London Financial Times:

"If the South African Government carries through its plan for making the country into a republic ... "

Important constitutional matters will arise.
It goes on to say:

"More important even than these constitutional considerations is the simple truth expressed by Mr. Diefenbaker last week that a Commonwealth in which the majority of the population is coloured must unequivocally accept racial equality.

"The seriousness of racial problems varies widely from member country to member country. Not all of them have an untarnished record. Yet the position today is that the truth of Mr. Diefenbaker's proposition is accepted in theory at least everywhere in the Western world except in South Africa.. Refusal to accept it would mean losing the struggle against Communism by default."

And so I might go on in that regard. This was an important step forward, and in that connection it is important internationally. We reviewed the international political situation. As to our views on the summit conference, I shall not now refer to them in view of what has taken place today.

There was universal agreement on the importance of developing a general détente in international relations, the urgent need of concluding a broad agreement to end the testing of nuclear weapons, and the desirability of finding avenues of progress in the field of general disarmament. There was an awareness of the growing importance of China in world affairs; and in particular, in order to ensure the implementation of any international agreement on disarmament, the participation of China was recognized as being of first importance.

The meeting was notable also for the growing recognition it gave to the development of the economic needs of the newly independent countries of Africa. I have mentioned already the fact that Nigeria will become a member. I have also referred to the second constitutional decision which arose from the intention of Ghana to introduce a republican form of constitution by July 1. In connection with the decision regarding Ghana's relation to the Commonwealth, the Government of Ghana applied to continue as a member, thus again illustrating the flexible nature of the Commonwealth relationship which permits member countries to remain in free association despite the differences in their forms of government.