

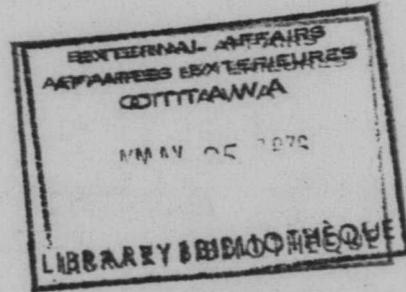
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THE FOURTH STUDENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE
APRIL 26-28, 1976
L. B. PEARSON BUILDING CONFERENCE CENTRE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Fourth Annual Student Commonwealth Conference will take place in the L.B. Pearson Building Conference Centre, Monday, April 26 to Wednesday, April 28. The Conference, organized by the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society and supported by the Department of External Affairs, the High Commissioners resident in Ottawa, and the Ottawa, Carleton, Renfrew and Frontenac school boards, will bring together over 100 students from secondary schools in the national capital region and from the Renfrew and Kingston areas. The students will be divided into two to three member delegations representing each of the 34 member countries of the Commonwealth. The student delegates will participate in a series of simulation exercises and regional workshops, as well as listening to addresses, all revolving around the Conference's theme: "A role for the Commonwealth in a Changing World".

The two theme addresses will be given by Mr. Arnold Smith, former Commonwealth Secretary-General and currently holder of the Lester B. Pearson Chair of International Affairs at the Carleton University School of International Relations (2000 hrs. April 26) and His Excellency, Dr. H.W. Tambiah, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka (1345 hrs. April 27). The students will be host to a reception-buffet at the L.B. Pearson Building on April 27 from 1830 to 2100 hours, with High Commissioners, representatives of the Canadian government, members of the Royal Commonwealth Society Ottawa Branch Council and other distinguished guests in attendance.

A high point of the Conference will be the opening session of the Model Heads of Government Meeting (April 28, 0845-0830) at which Miss Monique Bégin will be present to make some remarks on the Commonwealth and to meet informally with the participating students. The Model Heads of Government Meeting will occupy the rest of the last day of the Conference, and will be presided over by the head of delegation of the host country, Nigeria, in the person of Miss Colleen Mayo of Merivale High School. The delegates will discuss the following four agenda items and will agree on statements regarding them which will be published in the Final Communiqué:

1. The New International Economic Order

The 1975 Heads of Government Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica agreed to establish a small Group of Experts who would prepare a report on a programme of practical measures designed to close the gap between rich and poor countries. The ensuing report, entitled "Towards a New International Economic Order" received the general endorsement of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers, meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, August 25-28, 1975 and they agreed that "the early implementation of these proposals would constitute a first step towards achieving the progressive removal of the wide disparities of wealth now existing between different sections of mankind". The report also received

favourable recognition at the Seventh Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly where it was tabled as a document of particular relevance to the proceedings. Heads of Government will now wish to give more detailed consideration to the specific steps to be taken in order to realize the endorsed proposals contained within the report. They may wish to examine in this context the issues of commodity agreements, industrial co-operation, transfer of resources and institutional reform.

2. Belize (British Honduras)

The Commonwealth Group at the United Nations have recently crowned their efforts on the part of Belize by having that body's General Assembly pass a resolution in the face of Guatemalan intransigence expressing the right of the Belizean people to self-determination and territorial integrity. Heads of Government may now wish to discuss further means by which the security of Belize may be maximized and the attainment of its independence facilitated. Such a discussion will examine the requirements of that country in order that it be placed on a strong and secure footing with respect to its neighbours upon attaining independence. It has been suggested that a temporary Commonwealth peace-keeping force might prove a useful mechanism to ensure that Belize enjoys a normal and secure development in the years to come.

3. Southern Africa

The internal conflict in Angola and the splintering of the African National Council are two unfortunate developments in the Southern African sphere. The Commonwealth has a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of this region particularly as they affect the political condition of Rhodesia. Heads of Government will wish to exchange views on current developments in the area and examine possible new avenues for appropriate Commonwealth action.

4. Limits to Decolonization: The case of the Micro-States

Concern has been voiced over whether the general trend to granting independence to colonies and territories is, with respect to some cases, in the future best interests of the states so created. Doubts as to the viability of the so-called micro-states in carrying out the functions of sovereign nations, raises the question of whether full independence should indeed be the only end goal of the decolonization process. Perhaps in the Commonwealth context, additional mechanisms can be found that would have the effect of removing the unsuitable status of colonial subordination without imposing the equally burdensome tasks of full nationhood. The notion of Commonwealth trusteeship suggests itself and the Heads of Government may wish to give their thought to this matter.

To obtain additional information one can contact the Chairman of the Conferences' organizing Committee, Mr. F.J. Neal, Head of the History Department of Sir Robert Borden High School (829-5320) or, Commonwealth Institutions Division at the Department of External Affairs (992-6356, 992-0440).
--- A copy of the Conferences' programme is attached.

FOURTH STUDENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

Monday - Wednesday

26 - 28 April, 1976

in the

Conference Centre,

Lester B. Pearson Building,

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME

"A Role for the Commonwealth in our Changing World"

Monday, April 26

7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Registration

7:30 - 7:45

Opening Session - Conference Room

8:00 - 9:00

Keynote Address: Mr. Arnold Smith, first Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and present holder of the Lester B. Pearson Chair in International Affairs, Carleton University.

(Members of the Ottawa Branch, Royal Commonwealth Society, will be invited to hear this address).

9:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Coffee and soft drinks available in the Crush Lounge

Tuesday, April 27

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.

Film: "Counting on the Future"

9:00 - 10:30

Regional Workshops: Students will share information about the countries they represent and will suggest national and regional responses to problems in developing a New International Economic Order.

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee and soft drinks available in the Crush Lounge

10:45 - 11:30

Commonwealth Practices and Procedures:

Mr. Ivan Head, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister

11:30 - 12:45 p.m.

A Consensus-Seeking Exercise: "Arctic Survival"

12:45 - 1:30

Luncheon

1:45 - 2:30

Address: His Excellency Dr. H.W. Tambiah, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka

2:45 - 4:00

Simulation Game: "Trade and Development"
Students attempt to achieve development for the country they represent. Problems of scarce resources and colonial exploitation are examined.

4:00 - 4:15

Coffee and soft drinks available in Crush Lounge

4:15 - 6:00

Completion of Simulation Game and Summarizing of Experiences

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Reception and Buffet
High Commissioners of Commonwealth Countries,
Representatives of the Department of External
Affairs, Workshop Leaders, and Members of the
Council, Ottawa Branch, Royal Commonwealth
Society will be invited to dine with the
Conference delegates.

Wednesday, April 28

8:45 - 9:15 a.m.

Model Meeting of Heads of Government
Opening Ceremonies

9:15 - 9:30

Caucus Meetings - Coffee and soft drinks available

9:30 - 10:45

Model Meeting of Heads of Government
Discussion of Agenda Item #1: "Towards a New
International Economic Order"

10:45 - 11:15

Caucus Period - Coffee and soft drinks available

11:15 - 12:30 p.m.

Model Meeting of Heads of Government
Discussion of Agenda Item #2: "The Future of
Belize (British Honduras)"

12:45 - 1:30

Luncheon

1:45 - 3:00

Model Meeting of Heads of Government
Discussion of Agenda Item #3: "The Future of
Southern Africa"

3:00 - 3:30

Caucus Period - Coffee and soft drinks available

3:30 - 4:45

Model Meeting of Heads of Government
Discussion of Agenda Item #4: "Decolonization and
the Micro-States"

4:45 - 5:00

Model Meeting of Heads of Government
Final Communique and Closing Session

5:00

Close of the Conference