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FIFTH STUDENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE: APRIL 25-27, 1977

The Department of External Affairs is pleased to announce that the Fifth Student Commonwealth Conference will take place in Ottawa from April 25-27, 1977.

Each year since 1973 the Ottawa branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society, with the co-operation and support of the Department of External Affairs and Commonwealth High Commissioners resident in Ottawa, has sponsored a Student Commonwealth Conference. The purpose of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for Canadian young people to acquaint themselves with the nature of the modern Commonwealth and its role in seeking solutions to current international problems.

The first three of these Conferences drew students from Ottawa area schools only. The 1976 Conference expanded to include schools from Kingston, Cornwall, Arnprior and Renfrew. This year students will be coming from across Canada. There will be 105 delegates comprising 35 delegations and each delegation will represent a particular Commonwealth country in the course of the Conference. The Conference will be held in the L. B. Pearson Building.

In order to give the Conference a heightened realism, many of the out-of-town students will be staying during the Conference with the High Commissioners whose countries they are representing.

The theme of this year's Conference is "The Role of the Commonwealth in our Changing World".

The keynote address for the opening session on Monday evening, April 25, will be given by Mr. Arnold Smith, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, who is now L. B. Pearson Professor of International Affairs at Carleton University. Mr. Smith's address will begin at 8:00 p.m.

His Excellency Mr. Paulias Matane, High Commissioner for Papua-New Guinea, one of the youngest member states of the Commonwealth, will deliver the theme address on Tuesday at 12:00 noon in the main conference room.

On Tuesday the students will also participate in a simulation game, "Trade and Develop", in which they will attempt to develop the economic capabilities of their country in a setting in which problems of unequal resource distribution and world trade patterns and practices are examined. Tuesday afternoon the students will break up into regional workshops to discuss world problems from a regional point of view. There will be a reception and buffet dinner Tuesday evening which will bring together the student delegates, High Commissioners, and distinguished guests.

On the third day, there will be a simulated Heads of Government Meeting during which each delegation will present its country's viewpoint on the agenda items. The agenda items are: debt repayment -- a threat to development; youth and employment in the Commonwealth; and Rhodesia and the Commonwealth. During this meeting the delegates will follow the procedures which will be used at the forthcoming Heads of Government Meeting in London in June.

The Conference ends on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. with the reading of a communiqué which will embody the consensus of the meeting.