

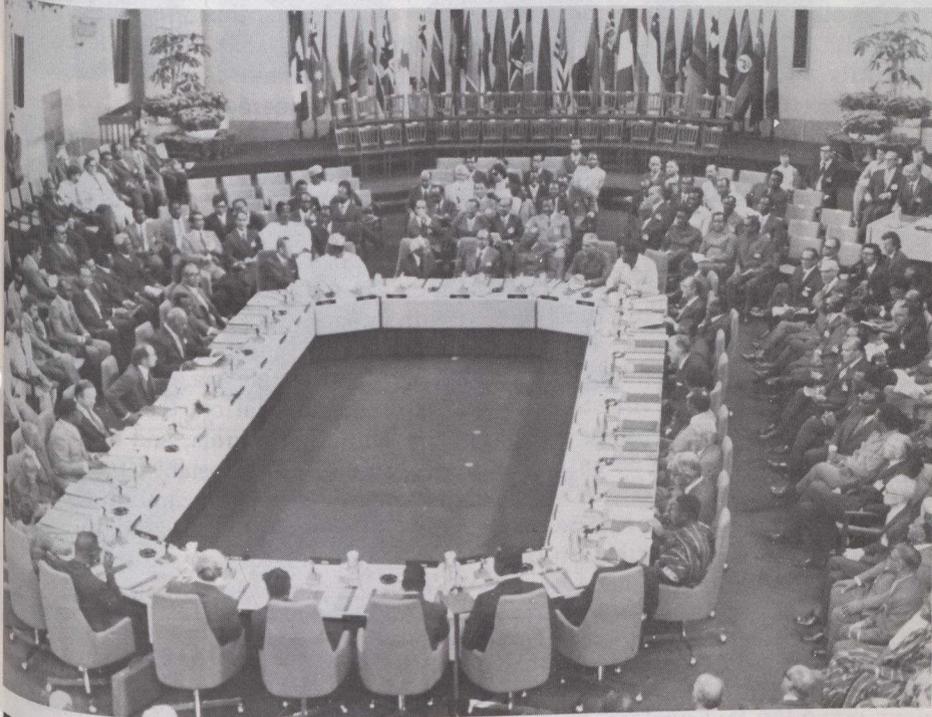
Canada Weekly

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Ottawa, Canada.



Ottawa meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government

From August 2 to 10 the leaders of 32 countries, whose populations comprise a quarter of the world's population, met in Ottawa for the first Commonwealth Meeting of Heads of Government ever held in Canada. All Commonwealth countries were represented, five by their Presidents or Heads of State, 18 by their Prime Ministers, three by their Vice-Presidents and six by senior Ministers.

Precise timing and tight security marked the opening of the nine-day conference. Among the first to be greeted by Prime Minister Trudeau, the host, was Britain's Prime Minister, Edward Heath. One of the newcomers to the organization is Bangladesh, whose Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman expressed the hope that "greater understanding would flow from the meeting".

The Malaysian delegation, led by Abdul Rasak, left hurriedly for home on August 3, their sudden departure prompted by the death in Kuala Lumpur of the Deputy Prime Minister. Prime Minister Trudeau told delegates that the meeting would not solve

any problems but might help to prevent crises. He described the Commonwealth as a "window on the world", and predicted that its importance would deepen, largely because the Commonwealth had no specific role, relying instead on human relationships.

On the second day delegates unanimously approved a statement calling for an end to all nuclear tests. The declaration gave "unfailing support" by all Commonwealth countries to the partial test-ban treaty signed ten years ago. Asked if he was satisfied with the outcome of this question, New Zealand's Prime Minister Norman Kirk, who had been pressing for strong condemnation of nuclear tests stated: "In view of the fact that it was a unanimously supported statement, there is very considerable satisfaction that we've had the co-operation and the support of our colleagues at the conference. I think there's a misunderstanding in that there seems to be an impression that what New Zealand has been doing in respect to nuclear tests is anti-France. It is anti-nuclear tests...."

Meetings continued until late Friday afternoon, August 3, when heads of delegation and their wives travelled to Mont Tremblant, Quebec, to spend the weekend as guests of the Prime Minister and Mrs. Trudeau. Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp invited Ministers who were members of delegations, and their wives, to join him for the weekend, also at Mont Tremblant. The sessions resumed August 6.

On August 7, the Commonwealth leaders talked about trade and monetary problems and the pros and cons of foreign investment. The less wealthy nations said they would rather have trade than aid and they urged the adoption of more unselfish forms of assistance. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Trudeau's office announced that Canada would adopt a new basis for its contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Development, which will be related to the amount of contributions from developing nations of the Commonwealth.

The Queen received Heads of Delegation in audience at Government House during the opening days of the meeting. On August 2 Her Majesty was hostess at a state dinner for heads of delegation and their wives at Government House.

On August 7 the Prime Minister was host at a gala evening at the National Arts Centre for a performance by Les Feux Follets.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat Mr. Arnold Smith, each gave receptions for heads of delegation and media representatives during the meetings.

Final communique

The following excerpts are from a communique issued at the close of the meeting on August 10:

* * * *

"In a frank and informal review of world trends Heads of Government examined changing power relationships and their political and economic consequences with particular reference to

Commonwealth countries. Views were exchanged on: changing relationships among the United States, the Soviet Union and China; problems of security in various regions; the emergence of new centres of economic power; the continued atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, and the need for a comprehensive test-ban treaty and for general and complete disarmament under effective international control; the situation in the Middle East and South-east Asia; the establishment of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean; and the situation in Southern Africa with particular reference to Rhodesia.

"While welcoming the general relaxation in international tension, they nevertheless noted those areas of tension which continue to threaten international peace and security as well as the widening gap between the rich and poor nations and recognized the need for the spirit of *détente* in all international relations. Acknowledging the potential for progressive change arising from shifting power relations Heads of Government recognized that economic and monetary instability continue to pose urgent problems for the world's community. As the search for solutions to these political and economic problems was pursued in the context of the changing power relationships new opportunities arose for states other than the major powers to influence world developments, to contribute to the achievement of peace and security, to ensure the avoidance of spheres of influence and to secure a regime of social justice, economic progress and racial harmony throughout an increasingly interdependent world.

"Consultation and co-operation in the Commonwealth, an informal world-wide association, which included no super power, could make a special contribution to greater international understanding as well as to the search for solutions to economic problems. Heads of Government, therefore, stressed the value of strengthening practical co-operation between member countries, both internationally and on a regional basis, and working within other international organizations and groupings in order to give the medium and small countries a more effective voice in international relations to raise living standards and to improve the quality of life for all their peoples.

"Heads of Government noted the

New basis for contribution to Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

Canada's contributions to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) will in future be related to the amount of contributions from developing countries of the Commonwealth. This will introduce greater flexibility into CFTC activities and should also induce developing countries to contribute more to the Fund.

Under the new formula, Canada will advance the CFTC 200 per cent of the pledges expected to be made by developing countries of the Commonwealth. This procedure will be carried forward each year with the Canadian contribution annually adjusted to account for fluctuations in funds actually received. For the first three years there would be a ceiling on the Canadian contribution of \$3 million a year. Should contributions of developing Commonwealth countries be such as to require a contribution in excess of this ceiling, Canada would

sympathetically consider an upward revision of its maximum contribution.

At present, Canada contributes 40 per cent of the budget of the CFTC. The contribution this year will amount to about \$1,300,000. Under the new arrangement, there is considerable scope for an increase.

The CFTC was established in 1971 to undertake technical assistance projects in developing countries of the Commonwealth. These are grouped into three programs: the General Technical Assistance Program, concerned with economic and social development projects, including planning, statistics, finance, tourism, transport and public administration; the Education and Training Program; and the Export Market Development Program, which provides for technical assistance geared to the extension of exports and underwrites market research and trade promotion studies.

progress made with regard to the proposal for a peace zone in the Indian Ocean since the last conference in Singapore, where they agreed on the desirability of ensuring that it remains an area of peace and stability. They noted that the proposal was under study by an *ad hoc* committee which had been established by the United Nations and they expressed the hope that its deliberations would receive the support and co-operation of all states concerned.

"The Heads of Government were greatly concerned about the deteriorating situation in the Middle East which now presents a most serious threat to world peace. This deterioration was directly attributable to the lack of progress in the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967. They considered that ways and means should now be urgently sought by all states to give substance to the Security Council Resolution.

"Heads of Government also noted that since the last conference in Singapore, the Foreign Ministers of the countries of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) have adopted a Declaration to make South-east Asia a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality. They regarded this

initiative as a positive contribution towards peace and stability in that region.

Trade

"Heads of Government had a wide-ranging and substantive discussion on economic issues against the background of widespread inflation. Particular attention was devoted to problems of international trade. Heads of Government considered the prospects for the implementation of the Generalized System of Preferences by all the developed countries, and for improvements where schemes had already been introduced or were due to be harmonized. They hoped that the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of GATT would secure world-wide expansion of trade and take particular account of the needs of developing countries.

"Heads of Government exchanged views on the prospects for the forthcoming negotiations between the enlarged European Economic Community and the developing countries of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, and expressed the hope that they would lead to the conclusion of just, enlightened, and effective arrangements. The developing Commonwealth countries reiterated their previously ex-



Commonwealth Heads of Government

(left to right)

- AUSTRALIA – P.M. Whitlam
- BAHAMAS – P.M. Pindling
- BANGLADESH – P.M. Mujibur Rahman
- BARBADOS – P.M. Barrow
- BOTSWANA – Pres. Seretse Khama
- BRITAIN – P.M. Heath
- CANADA – P.M. Trudeau
- CYPRUS – Pres. Makarios *
- FIJI – P.M. Mara
- THE GAMBIA – Pres. Jawara *
- GHANA – Chairman Acheampong *
- GUYANA – P.M. Burnham
- INDIA – P.M. Gandhi *
- JAMAICA – P.M. Manley
- KENYA – Pres. Kenyatta *
- LESOTHO – P.M. Jonathan

- MALAWI – Pres. Kamuzu Banda *
- MALAYSIA – P.M. Tun Razak
- MALTA – P.M. Mintoff
- MAURITIUS – P.M. Ramgoolam
- NEW ZEALAND – P.M. Kirk
- NIGERIA – Head of Govt., Gen. Gowon
- SIERRA LEONE – Pres. Stevens
- SINGAPORE – P.M. Lee
- SRI LANKA – P.M. Bandaranaike
- SWAZILAND – P.M. Dlamini
- TANZANIA – Pres. Nyerere
- TONGA – P.M. Fatafehi Tu'ipelehake
- TRINIDAD and TOBAGO – P.M. Williams *
- UGANDA – Pres. Gen. Amin *
- WESTERN SAMOA – P.M. Mata'afa
- ZAMBIA – Pres. Kaunda *

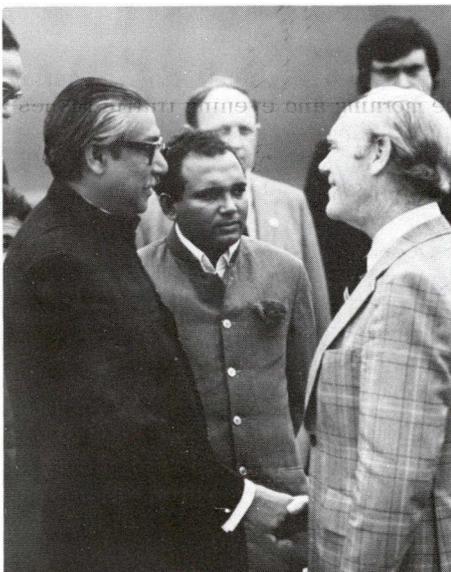
* Sent representative to Ottawa meeting.



pressed views that the notion of reciprocity could not be a basis for equitable and enduring relations between them and the EEC. In the case of the countries to which the Joint Declaration of Intent in the Treaty of Enlargement applies, it was urged that the Community should take a positive attitude to approaches that have already been made or might be made, and work out suitable arrangements taking their trade interests into account before the Common External Tariff is applied to British imports from them in accordance with that Treaty.

"It was recognized that the system of Commonwealth preferences has provided and continues to provide important advantages for Commonwealth countries, and the hope was expressed that the existing favourable arrangements for developing Commonwealth countries in markets of developed Commonwealth countries other than Britain should wherever possible be maintained.

"Heads of Government considered the special problems of countries highly dependent on exports of agricultural products in primary, semi-processed, and processed forms, and noted the desirability of achieving substantial liberalization of trade in these products in the course of the forthcoming GATT multilateral negotiations. They underlined the urgent need for deliberate measures to be



One of the newcomers to the Commonwealth is Bangladesh, whose Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (left) is welcomed to Ottawa by External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp.

taken by the international community to secure equitable and remunerative returns for such products. To this end, they considered it essential that new international commodity arrangements be devised which would deal with this serious problem and protect the foreign-exchange earnings of developing countries against excessive price fluctuations and inroads from synthetics, thereby increasing their capacity to buy needed imports. There was need also to increase the export earnings of developing countries from primary products, especially agricultural products, as prices of industrial goods continue to rise; and to study methods

Looking to future conferences

At a news conference immediately following adjournment of the Commonwealth leaders' meeting on August 10, Prime Minister Trudeau stated that although "little of startling news had emerged" from the nine-day meeting, the best measure of its success was that "32 heads of delegation had felt it was a success" and had agreed to hold another conference probably in two years' time.

Mr. Trudeau said that the Ottawa conference had marked a turning point in Commonwealth history. In the past, delegates had "read long speeches at one another", whereas delegates at this conference had proposed that future conferences would deal with specific problems that had been thoroughly researched by designated countries. The Commonwealth Secretariat, would, it was proposed, coordinate the studies and circulate them to participants before the next summit meeting.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Arnold Smith stated that invitations for the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting had been received from three countries - Kenya, Uganda and Jamaica.

to introduce a realistic relationship between the prices of the two categories of goods. Commonwealth countries should play an active role in the search for new international commodity arrangements. It was felt that it was equally necessary to explore measures to minimize fluctuations in the prices of mineral products.

* * * *

Development assistance

"The meeting examined various aspects of development assistance, including the disadvantages of tied aid, the need for a more flexible approach by aid donors and the importance of achieving mutually satisfactory relationships between the donors and recipients of aid, as well as measures for reducing the onerous debt burdens of developing countries.

Private foreign investment

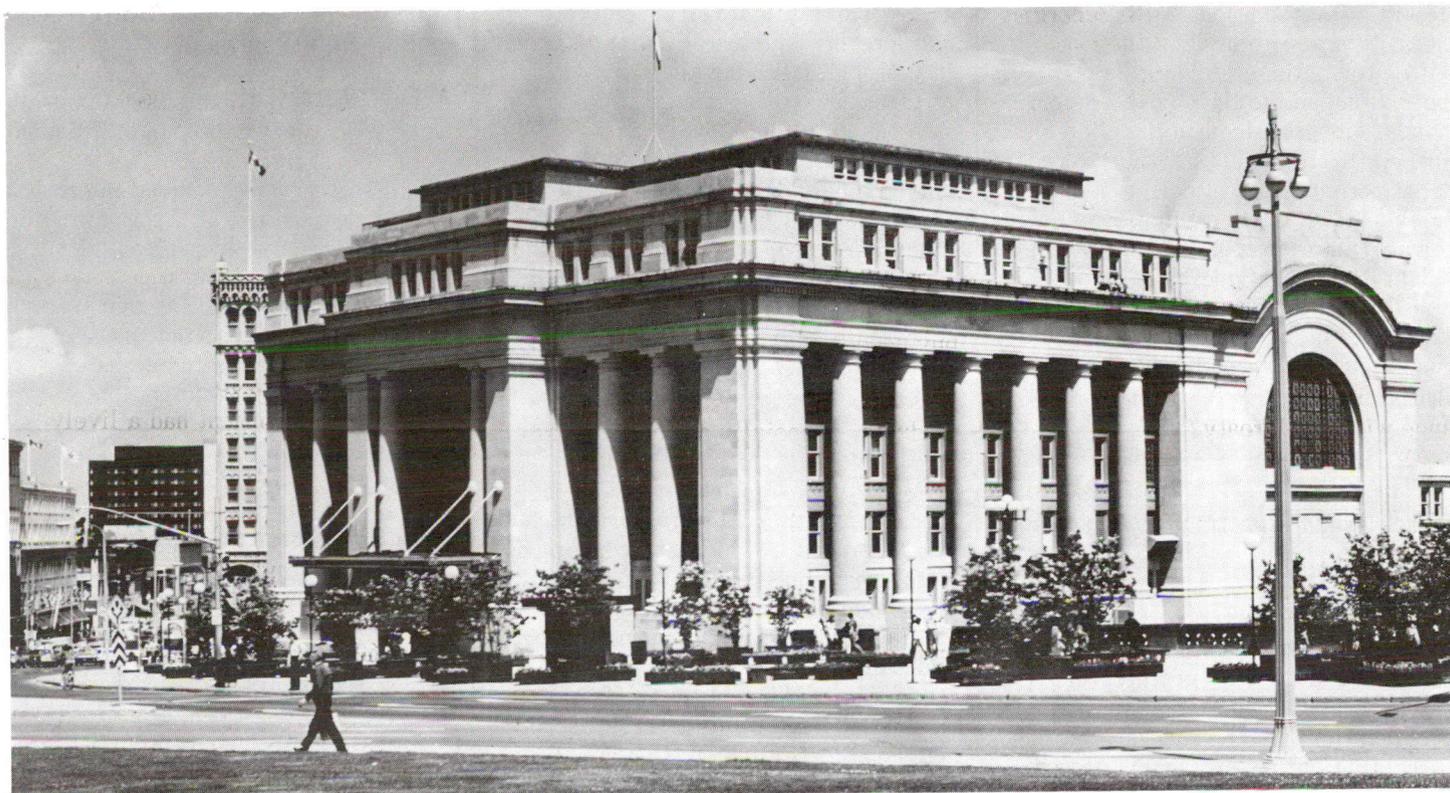
"Heads of Government had a lively discussion of the problems and opportunities involved in private foreign investment. Special reference was made to the role of multinational corporations in a number of Commonwealth countries. Views were exchanged on possible techniques for ensuring that the operations of investing companies are compatible with the national goals of host countries, on the possibility of promoting the exchange of information on this subject among Commonwealth countries, and on the desirability of drawing up a code of conduct for international corporations.

* * * *

Southern Africa

"Heads of Government had a full and frank exchange of views on changes and developments in Southern Africa. The meeting also gave special consideration to the problems faced by countries in Southern Africa which border on territories and countries still under minority rule. While recognizing that there were complex and difficult problems involved, Heads of Government were agreed in their opposition to *apartheid* and minority rule in Southern Africa. They therefore recognized the legitimacy of the struggle to win full human rights and self-determination.

"In discussing conditions in South Africa, Namibia and the Portuguese colonies, it was agreed that Commonwealth members in a position to do so should seek to use their influence to persuade Portugal to grant a negotiated independence to its African colonies. The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and Security Council Resolutions on Namibia were recalled and emphasis placed on international responsibility for that territory. There was discussion on how Commonwealth countries, especially



Conference centre in Ottawa, formerly the old Union Station, where the 1973 Commonwealth meeting took place.

Canada's capital as the site of an international meeting place

The choice of Ottawa as the site of the Commonwealth meeting in itself suggests the organization's continuing change. The regular meetings were first held only in London, for London was the heart of the body. London is still a heart – and Britain is the eldest member – but the Commonwealth now has as many hearts as it has members.

Ottawa has about 500,000 people and is both English- and French-speaking. The river that flows below it represents a picture of Canadian industrial wealth – swirling booms of logs on their way to pulp and paper mills. It is a rela-

tively new city and one of its most distinctive buildings, the nineteenth century Parliamentary Library on Parliament Hill, links it to an older age and the culture of its founding nations.

Commonwealth visitors missed the winter skaters on the old Rideau Canal and the spring display of 600,000 daffodils, half a million crocuses and two million tulips, but they did catch the Changing of the Guard on lawns of the Parliament Buildings, with the scarlet and black of the Governor General's Foot Guards, the Canadian Grenadier

Guards and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police contrasting sharply with bright green grass.

The American writer Edith Iglauer noted in an article in *The Atlantic Monthly*, that the people of Ottawa move "easily through the clean streets, purposeful but not pushed. Even during the morning and evening traffic rushes Ottawa seems to remain sane". Visitors are surrounded by nature – flowers and trees and lakes and the splendour of the Gatineau Hills. Ottawa is chilly in December but it is fresh, lovely and certainly warm on a summer day.

those with economic interests in South Africa and Namibia, might best bring influence to bear to promote change. Heads of Government reviewed the efforts of the indigenous people of the territories in Southern Africa to achieve self-determination and independence and agreed on the need to give every humanitarian assistance to all those engaged in such efforts. The British Government reserved its position in relation to the last proposal in circumstances in which assistance

might be converted into military purposes.

"Heads of Government expressed their intense concern for the situation in Rhodesia and the damaging consequences of a continued absence of a settlement. They appreciated the efforts made by the British Government with whom the responsibility lay and were united in their willingness to contribute towards a solution. All were agreed on seeking a peaceful settlement and that the objective was ma-

jority rule. They took note of the meeting between Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa and associated themselves with the British Government's wish for the discussions to be broadened and the necessary steps taken to remove restrictions so as to enable all groups representative of Rhodesian opinion to take part. The British Prime Minister welcomed the constructive suggestions made and undertook to take them into account as the situation developed. "Heads of Government considered the

Report of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee and authorized the Committee to continue its work. It was agreed that in the light of the recommendations contained in that Report further efforts should be made to render sanctions more effective pending an acceptable settlement. Heads of Government also took note of the development of the Special Commonwealth Program for Assisting the Education of Rhodesian Africans and supported its continuation. The Zambian Foreign Minister expressed his Government's appreciation of Commonwealth assistance to Zambia.

* * * *

Commonwealth functional co-operation

"Heads of Government agreed that functional co-operation was an important and dynamic aspect of the Commonwealth. They expressed warm appreciation of the way in which the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) was developing in meeting the priority needs of member countries, and commented favourably on its flexibility and speedy response. They agreed that activities undertaken through the Fund should be intensified and commended for further study various proposals for their extension.

"Heads of Government noted with appreciation the generous contributions being made by several governments, and especially by Canada, and hoped that further contributions on a voluntary basis would be provided by other participating countries.

"Heads of Government noted the Secretary-General's proposal for a target of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent of total Commonwealth aid flows through Commonwealth multilateral channels. They agreed that further consideration should be given at the next Finance Minister's meeting to the means by which an increased flow could be brought about.

"Heads of Government agreed to refer the proposal for the establishment of

a Commonwealth development bank and a report on export credit financing in Commonwealth developing countries to Commonwealth Finance Ministers for consideration.

"Heads of Government gave preliminary consideration to a proposal for a Commonwealth Centre for Applied Studies in Government and agreed that the detailed requirements for such a Centre should be studied and a report prepared for consideration, if possible, by senior Commonwealth officials in 1974.

Commonwealth Youth Program

"Heads of Government endorsed the Commonwealth Youth Program which was approved by Ministers concerned with youth matters. They agreed that the scope of the program should take into account the particular needs of individual countries and expressed warm appreciation of the pledges which had been made towards the agreed target of one million pounds over three years. Heads of Government instructed the Secretary-General to proceed with the immediate implementation of the agreed program."

* * * *

The Commonwealth and the world

The United Nations and the Commonwealth are the only two world-wide organizations of nations in existence. The Commonwealth is complementary to the UN and the two bodies work together. Member countries of the Commonwealth are free to belong to any other international organization.

If a country wants to join the Commonwealth it must apply to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who then asks all member countries if they will accept the newcomer. This happened in the case of Bangladesh. If a country wants to leave the Commonwealth it simply notifies the other members through the Secretary-General. This happened in the case of Pakistan.

The Commonwealth's aid-giving countries are Britain, Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore. Most of their aid goes to Commonwealth countries. In Britain's case the figure is 90 per cent. But now the Commonwealth has its own multi-lateral aid scheme - the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

Canadian contribution to Commonwealth Youth Program

Canada will contribute \$930,000 to the new Commonwealth Youth Program over the next three years.

The Program was approved in principle at the meeting of Commonwealth Ministers concerned with Youth Matters held in Lusaka, Zambia from January 29 to February 3, 1973. At that time, the conference agreed that its secretariat should examine the areas of leadership training, information exchange, technical assistance, and exchanges of youth workers and instructors.

It was agreed in principle that the Commonwealth Youth Program would be supported by contributions from member nations. The total proposed cost over three years is \$2.8 million. Canada will pay 30 per cent but would be prepared to go to 40 per cent (about \$1,239,000) in the event that other Commonwealth Governments were unable to make up the requirements of the Program.

The new Program will consist of the following six parts:

A Commonwealth youth services awards scheme for teams of young people engaged in projects of benefit to their communities in furthering social, educational and economic development.

Commonwealth centres for advanced studies in youth work to train professional workers.

Commonwealth fellowships for applied research to assist researchers to meet for interchange of experience, critical discussion, and co-ordination of activities.

Commonwealth bursaries for youth personnel to enable youth workers to attend courses of training in the field of youth.

Commonwealth study fellowships to assist individuals involved in youth work to visit other Commonwealth countries to obtain first-hand knowledge and experience of innovations and developments.

A Commonwealth youth information service to assemble and disseminate information on significant aspects of youth and developments.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.