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THE COMMONWEALTH

As the colonies within the British Empire assumed self-government and independence, similarities of language, habits, institutional traditions and working methods convinced many national leaders of the value of maintaining some form of association in its place. The fruit of that belief is the modern Commonwealth. The Commonwealth (or Commonwealth of Nations, as it is also called) is a voluntary association of 33 independent countries from six continents and five oceans(1). Grenada is the most recent member to join the association (February 7, 1974). One other country, Nauru, an independent republic, is a special member, which may take part in functional meetings and activities but does not participate in heads of government meetings.

The Commonwealth, which embraces a rich variety of races, languages, religions and cultures, is a unique association in which leaders in various fields may, on a level of informality and intimacy, meet to exchange views on a multitude of questions and attempt to determine what may be usefully done together. In a world that seems in danger of splitting into antagonistic groups based on sectoral interests such as ideology, race, region, economic level of development or religion, the Commonwealth is able to transcend these, and so bring a global perspective to bear on matters of concern to all members.

The principles of the association were most clearly expressed in the Commonwealth Declaration, issued at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Singapore in January 1971(2). This statement of common principles affirmed the belief of Commonwealth members in: the United Nations and its efforts to promote international peace and order; the liberty of the individual and each citizen's inalienable right to participate in creating the society in which he may live; the evil nature of racial prejudice and discrimination; the principles of human dignity, equality and the iniquity of colonial domination; the need for the progressive removal of disparities in wealth between different sections of mankind; and the value of the Commonwealth as a means to promote international co-operation. In pursuing these principles, the members of the Commonwealth believe that they can provide a constructive example of the multinational approach, which is vital to peace

- (1) A list of members appears in Appendix A.
- (2) The text of the Declaration appears as Appendix D.

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and progress in the modern world.

In its widest sense, the Commonwealth is understood to include: member states and self-governing states associated with a Commonwealth member for the purpose of foreign policy and defence; protected states; trust territories administered by a member on behalf of the United Nations; and territories still dependent on a member. Including dependencies, the Commonwealth covers one-fifth of the world's land surface and embraces well over 860 million people.

Of the 33 full members, 16 have retained a monarchical form of government. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is head of state of Canada and 11 other members. Malaysia has as head of state a monarch elected for a five-year term from among themselves by the nine hereditary Malay rulers of West Malaysia. On attaining independence, two members of the Commonwealth, Lesotho and Swaziland, had their paramount chiefs declared king and head of state. The Kingdom of Tonga remained a monarchy after Britain relinquished its responsibility for the external affairs of this country in 1970. The 1962 constitution of Western Samoa provides for the election of a head of state for a term of five years. It was decided, however, that two paramount chiefs should jointly hold the office of head of state for life (one died shortly thereafter). Seventeen members of the Commonwealth have adopted a republican form of government, but all members recognize Queen Elizabeth as the symbol of their free association and, as such, the Head of the Commonwealth.

Associated states Within the Commonwealth, the term "associated state" means a country that has attained full internal self-government while Britain retains ultimate responsibility for its external affairs and defence. The association is a free and voluntary one; an associated state may opt for independence at any time. In the Caribbean region, Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent are known as the West Indies Associated States (WIAS) and, by agreement with Britain, exercise delegated authority over a wide area of external relations. Britain is also responsible for the external affairs of Brunei, a sultanate on the northwest coast of Borneo, and co-operates in arrangements for its defence. Brunei has been protected by Britain since 1888. Southern Rhodesia, before its unilateral declaration of independence on November 11, 1965, was a self-governing colony of Britain. Following the illegal declaration of independence, the British Government passed the Southern Rhodesia Act 1965, which declares that Southern Rhodesia continues to be part of Her Majesty's dominions and that the Government and Parliament of Britain continue

to have responsibility and jurisdiction for and in respect of it. The Cook Islands in the South Pacific are a self-governing territory associated with New Zealand; on October 19, 1974, the island of Niue assumed a similar status. The inhabitants of both territories are New Zealand citizens(3).

Dependent territories In Commonwealth terminology, the phrase "dependent territories" includes some 30 remaining colonies, and trust territories exercising self-government to a greater or lesser degree. Most of these are dependencies of Britain; a few are dependencies of Australia and New Zealand. Papua New Guinea, a United Nations trust territory now administered by Australia, and the Seychelles Islands, a British dependency, have chosen to become independent shortly(4).

Evolution of the Commonwealth The Commonwealth evolved from the British Empire through a gradual process that began in the nineteenth century. Many important developments first occurred in relation to what is now Canada. While there are many possible starting-points, a convenient one is *Lord Durham's Report*, published in 1839 following an inquiry into the causes of the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada in 1836-37. One of Durham's key recommendations was that full self-government should be granted to the governments in the Canadian colonies in all matters of concern to them. Under the recommendations of the *Report*, authority was reserved to the Imperial Government only in those fields deemed necessary to maintain imperial unity; these included control of foreign relations, the regulation of commerce, the determination of the constitution and the disposal of public lands. All other powers and functions, including the expenditure of public funds, were to be transferred to the colonial governments, to be exercised by executive councils responsible to elected legislative assemblies, and exercised only so long as they retained the support of the majorities in these assemblies. Following the Union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1840, this recommendation was implemented by stages during the next decade, the testing-point being the acceptance by the Governor-General, Lord Elgin, and by the British Government of the Rebellion Losses Bill of 1849. This effectively established the practice of full responsible self-government over the very wide range of matters within the control of the colonial government. Subsequently, the notion of responsible government with a wide area of local autonomy was extensively applied throughout the British Empire and the changes flowing from the general application of this con-

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- (3) A list of associated states and self-governing territories is given in Appendix B.
 (4) A list of dependencies, showing their relations to a metropolitan power, appears as Appendix C.

ception have been immense. In 1867, Canada became, by the British North America Act, the first self-governing Dominion; Australia achieved Dominion status in 1901, New Zealand in 1907, and South Africa in 1909. The emergence of the British Commonwealth, as distinct from the British Empire, may be said to have begun with the Colonial Conference of 1897 in London, which was restricted to representatives from the colonies possessing responsible government and Britain. The Colonial Conference of 1907 decided that, in future, these meetings would be called Imperial Conferences, to reflect the new status of the Dominions(5).

Major developments occurred during the period 1914-1939 as Canada and the other self-governing Dominions assumed more and more responsibility for their relations with other countries. After the First World War, Canada, supported on occasion by the other Dominions, succeeded in asserting its independence from the Imperial power by a series of agreements and precedents that in turn became the basis for further political developments. Beginning with Versailles in 1919, the Dominions successfully asserted their claim to separate representation at international conferences and then, in the 1920s, to diplomatic representation in foreign countries. This new relationship was set out in a communiqué from the Imperial Conference of 1926. Drawing upon the recommendations of the *Balfour Report*, the communiqué defined Britain and the Dominions as "autonomous Communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations". The Statute of Westminster of 1931 gave legal effect to the substance of the decisions reached in 1926, and established the legislative equality of the Dominion parliaments with the British Parliament.

The decision of the Imperial Conference of 1926 also gave rise to another significant development in the character of relations between the Dominions. Even before the First World War, the Dominions had maintained high commissioners in London to deal directly with the British authorities(6). When the 1926 Conference decided that the governor-general in each of the Dominions should no longer be the representative of the British Government but rather of the Monarch, the British Government appointed high commissioners to the Dominions. High commissioners gradually assumed a diplomatic identity and functioned as the usual channel of communication between the Dominion and British governments; eventually, the Dominions exchanged high commissioners among themselves. A significant aspect of the high commissioner's function, which differentiates it from that of an ambassador, is that high commissioners are accredited

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- (5) Appendix E contains a list of conferences.
(6) Canada appointed the first high commissioner to London in 1880.

to the head of government rather than to the head of state. This practice has been maintained despite the decision of many Commonwealth countries not to retain the British monarch as their common head of state. It is today a valued reflection of the special relationship between members of the association. Most Commonwealth countries have now exchanged high commissioners among themselves as well as with Britain.

In part as a result of developments during the Second World War, the movement toward independence in the colonial areas of South and Southeast Asia became irresistible. On August 15, 1947, the Indian subcontinent was divided, to create the two sovereign countries of India and Pakistan. A year later, Ceylon (since 1972, Sri Lanka) achieved complete independence.

An important step in the evolution of the modern Commonwealth was taken soon after these countries attained independence. When India decided to become a republic yet wished to remain within the Commonwealth, it became clear that common allegiance to the Crown could no longer be a suitable criterion for membership in the association. The communiqué of the April 1949 prime ministers' meeting expressed the freshly-determined role for the British monarch within the Commonwealth -- that of symbol of the free association of its independent member nations and, as such, the Head of the Commonwealth. This new definition enabled countries to join or to continue as members of the Commonwealth without any strict uniformity of constitutions.

During the 1960s, membership in the Commonwealth increased tremendously as practically all Africa became independent, and all except three of the British African territories (Sudan, British Cameroons, Southern Togoland) decided to remain within the association. This development was crucial to the evolution of the Commonwealth, as it reinforced its multiracial character. This point was perhaps most significantly registered at the prime ministers' meeting in London in March 1961, when Commonwealth representatives discussed, with the assent of the South African leader, racial policies within that country. So great a number of representatives expressed their disapproval of the principles of *apartheid* contained in the new constitution of South Africa that the South African Prime Minister decided to reassess his Government's desire to remain within the Commonwealth, and later withdrew from the association.

The issue of white minority rule in Rhodesia has also been prominent within the association. The Commonwealth Sanctions Committee was established by heads of government at their meeting in Lagos

in January 1966, *inter alia* to review regularly the working of United Nations sanctions against the Rhodesian Government and also the special needs that might, from time to time, arise in honouring the Commonwealth's undertaking to come to the support of Zambia when its economy was adversely affected as a result. The Committee usually meets once a year. The principle of racial equality was reaffirmed in numerous communiqués from the prime ministers' meetings, and it assumes a conspicuous place in the Commonwealth Declaration issued by heads of government in Singapore.

Throughout this metamorphosis of the Commonwealth, a number of countries have either withdrawn from the association or have chosen not to assume a place within it. The most recent member of the Commonwealth to withdraw is Pakistan, which severed its connection on January 30, 1972, because of the recognition of Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) by a number of Commonwealth countries. South Africa withdrew on May 31, 1961, after choosing to disassociate itself from the Commonwealth as it was then emerging. Ireland left the Commonwealth on April 18, 1949, owing to strained relations with Britain during the previous two decades. The Japanese conquest of Burma during the Second World War accelerated the growing desire within that country to attain complete independence from Britain. Unwilling to remain within the Commonwealth association as it then was under the terms of the *Balfour Report*, Burma chose to become an independent republic outside the association on January 4, 1948.

Nature of
Commonwealth association

The essential functions of the Commonwealth can be stated simply in two words: consultation and co-operation. As stated in the opening paragraph of the Commonwealth Declaration, Commonwealth governments consult and co-operate in the common interest of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace. Members have, however, complete freedom to belong to any grouping, association or alliance, or, of course, to remain non-aligned. Membership carries no obligation to come to the assistance of another member that may be attacked, though, naturally, Commonwealth countries would be seriously concerned about such a development. At an earlier stage, commerce was an important cohesive factor within the association. With the economic growth and the liberalization of trade on a multilateral basis following the Second World War, the Commonwealth preference system became relatively less significant as a unifying element. The value of the Commonwealth preference system with regard to trade with Britain was, of course, affected by Britain's entry into the

European Economic Community on January 1, 1973(7). On a broader scale, Commonwealth trade links remain important, particularly for the developing countries, and Britain has engaged in efforts to assist them in negotiating terms of association with the EEC that might well contribute to an increase in their economic prosperity.

The Commonwealth, it should be remembered, is an international association and not, like the United Nations or the Organization of American States, an international organization. It was not created at any particular time as a result of the desire of its members to pursue a particular policy or to work towards the resolution of specific problems. Instead, the Commonwealth has changed slowly and with time, in response to individual stimuli and initiatives, and has, at the request of member governments, undertaken a variety of activities and programs in many areas in its operations. Not being an international organization, the Commonwealth has no charter outlining jurisdictions and responsibilities, nor has it a structured hierarchy of councils and committees that reach decisions on political and other international issues by formal debate and majority vote. It does not have a continuing executive structure.

Commonwealth
Secretariat

However, in 1965, Commonwealth heads of government decided to establish the Commonwealth Secretariat to facilitate communication between member governments, and to administer different programs of co-operation. The Secretariat exemplifies "the spirit of co-operation which animates the Commonwealth", and is staffed by officers from over 20 Commonwealth countries. Its budget is financed by assessments from all member governments. The Secretariat, responsible to Commonwealth governments collectively, is headed by a Secretary-General who enjoys direct access to heads of government. It works to ensure conditions for the exchange of opinions in a friendly, informal, intimate atmosphere, and, since its establishment, has become the centre for multilateral communication between Commonwealth governments. The Secretariat also serves as the focal point and link for many of the Commonwealth's functional institutions. Its responsibilities include the following: to facilitate and promote consultation both bilaterally and multilaterally among members; to prepare and circulate factual papers on international questions of special concern to Commonwealth governments;

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- (7) While Britain's entry meant the termination of the Canada/United Kingdom Trade Agreement and the removal of Canadian preferential access to the British market, Canada still gives preferential access to the Canadian market to many goods from Commonwealth countries. Moreover, it has renegotiated trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand that retain the Commonwealth preference for goods not specifically covered by the agreements.

to act as a focal point and a link for various specialized Commonwealth institutions; to undertake studies on various subjects in the economic, social, administrative and cultural fields; and to organize and service the many Commonwealth governmental meetings.

Commonwealth meetings

The Commonwealth has become an increasingly useful vehicle for inter-governmental consultation at all levels. At the topmost level are the Commonwealth heads of government meetings, which are now held at two-year intervals. The last such meeting was in Ottawa in 1973; the next will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, from April 29 to May 6, 1975, at the invitation of Commonwealth Caribbean governments. It will be the fourth such meeting held outside London -- the others being in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1966, in Singapore in 1971, and in Ottawa in 1973. These are private and confidential meetings of individual government leaders (as opposed to delegations), and are intended primarily to give them an opportunity to discuss current international economic and political issues and other questions of interest to them, such as comparative techniques of government. The informal and intimate atmosphere of these discussions encourages a forthright exchange of views, without posturing or non-productive debate. For a time there were doubts that this frankness and intimacy would be maintained; the tremendous growth in membership, the reduced familiarity, the disparities in economic development, and the growing importance of regional and other groupings might, it was thought, lead to acrimonious debate, with few constructive results. However, the Ottawa Heads of Government Meeting in 1973 successfully restored any flexibility and informality that might have been lost.

This meeting was unique in one respect: it was the first time the Queen, as the symbol and Head of the Commonwealth, had attended a heads of government meeting outside Britain. Her presence did much to focus Canadian and international attention on the meeting and on her role in the decentralized Commonwealth.

As a follow-up on the work of heads of government, senior officials (usually cabinet secretaries or the equivalent) meet in the intervening year to consider proposals referred to them and to plan for the next heads of government meeting. At the first senior officials meeting, in Ottawa in 1972, delegates drafted a report to governments on procedures and agenda for heads of government meetings and had a first "run" at a new item suggested by the Canadian Prime Minister -- comparative techniques of government, a topic that engaged the attention of government leaders in their 1973 discussions in Ottawa. The senior officials, at their second meeting, in London in 1974, developed this topic further, discussed the

agenda outline for the 1975 Heads of Government Meeting and set up a mechanism for a review of Secretariat activities. A study on a proposed Commonwealth Centre for Applied Studies in Government, which had been referred to them by government leaders, was examined and a Program for Applied Studies in Government approved for administration by a new Division of the Secretariat. Heads of government also frequently refer projects to more specialized Commonwealth meetings. Discussion at Ottawa of a Commonwealth Development Bank resulted in finance ministers looking into the idea at their meeting in 1973 and, in 1974, in their authorizing the Secretary-General to investigate the feasibility of a Commonwealth Investment Bank.

At the ministerial level, there are a number of Commonwealth meetings held on a regular basis. Finance ministers, for example, confer every year, immediately before the meeting of the World Bank, in order to review and discuss recent developments in the international economy. In addition, there are regular meetings of ministers of law, health and education, as well as meetings of other ministers when circumstances warrant them, such as the 1973 meeting of youth ministers in Zambia to arrange for the implementation of a Commonwealth Youth Program. Officials of Commonwealth governments also confer regularly to consider technical matters.

Commonwealth functional co-operation

Co-operative ventures constitute an expanding area of Commonwealth activity. Economic assistance for developing members has long been a matter of concern -- the Colombo Plan was a Commonwealth initiative arising from consideration of the political and economic problems of South Asia by Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting at Colombo in January 1950. As the scheme for assistance emerged in the first few months of 1950, a decision was taken to invite non-Commonwealth countries in the area to participate in the Plan. This was done to ensure economic progress throughout the whole of South and Southeast Asia. A further step toward practical co-operation for development was taken by heads of government at Singapore in 1971, when they agreed to change the Commonwealth Program for Technical Co-operation into an expanded Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation. Developing as well as developed members make voluntary contributions to the CFTC to support its activities in the fields of technical assistance, export development, training and education. The CFTC, at the mid-point of its third year of operations, had undertaken or was examining requests for over 300 projects in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the South Pacific. The operation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan has made the Commonwealth very active in education. Since the Plan was launched, 16 countries

have granted over 5,000 awards throughout the Commonwealth. More recently, the 1973 Heads of Government Meeting in Ottawa approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Program. This program, administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat, provides for bursary and fellowship schemes, youth-service awards and an information centre, in addition to the establishment of regional training centres in Guyana, Zambia and India.

In 1965, the Commonwealth heads of government, meeting in London, approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Foundation to administer a fund for fostering and increasing exchanges between professional organizations and societies in Commonwealth countries. The Foundation, financed by Commonwealth governments and managed by a small staff in London, provides financial assistance to encourage representation at conferences, to facilitate the exchange of visits among professional people, and to assist in organizing professional conferences and centres. More recently, the Foundation has directed its attention to encouraging the development of non-governmental associations in a number of professional fields. Over its nine years of operation, it has been very successful in its activities; it has provided financial support to these and other such organizations; it has been instrumental in the creation of professional centres in a number of Commonwealth capitals; and it has provided funds for professional journals and bursaries. Professionals and associations in both developed and developing countries benefit from this fund.

In addition to official Commonwealth institutions and the joint programs of member governments, there are more than 200 non-governmental Commonwealth organizations constructively active.(8)

Canadian commitment
to the Commonwealth

The Canadian commitment to multilateral Commonwealth programs and institutions is reflected in the Government's contribution to them of some \$4,750,000 in 1973-74. This includes Canada's contribution of 40 per cent of the budget for the Youth Program and up to \$3 million annually to the CFTC on a matching formula of \$2 for every \$1 contributed by developing countries. For the Commonwealth Foundation, the Canadian Government has offered to double its contribution (to 30 per cent) from 1976. In addition, Canada provides more than \$300 million in bilateral aid to Commonwealth countries as an area of concentration in its development assistance.

The Canadian Government has been host to a number of recent Commonwealth conferences: the senior officials meeting and the Ministerial Telecommunications Conference in 1972, the Heads of Government Meeting in 1973 and the finance ministers' meeting in 1974.

(8) A partial list of these is contained in Appendix G.

Canada was also the meeting-place in 1974 of a non-governmental conference, the Tenth Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Conference. The twenty-third Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is to be held in Ottawa in 1977 and in 1978 the eleventh Commonwealth Games will be held in Edmonton. The twelfth Congress of Commonwealth Universities will also meet in Canada in 1978.

In spite of fears voiced on numerous occasions that the Commonwealth was dead, or on the verge of collapse, the association has grown more meaningful and useful. It has grown in several respects: its membership has gone from a mere half-dozen independent countries to 33; its functional programs have multiplied at an impressive rate, covering a wide variety of activities; and, lastly, its orientation has changed from an "Anglocentric" one to a truly multilateral one, with no predominant member. If the recent past can serve as an indication, then the future will see the maintenance and expansion of those activities in which the Commonwealth has proven itself so useful -- consultation and functional co-operation. Government leaders looked ahead from the watershed of their 1973 meeting in this belief: "Heads of Government were convinced that the association had once again demonstrated its vitality and flexibility. They intend to make maximum use of the Commonwealth machinery to put the principles of the Commonwealth Declaration into practice and to accelerate the pace of social and economic development among the less affluent members".(9) As Prime Minister Trudeau said at the 1971 meeting in Ottawa:

"The Commonwealth is for many of us our window on the world.... To contemporary observers and, I am confident, to future historians, the word Commonwealth will be irrevocably associated with the desire of free men and women representing more than a quarter of the world's population to gather, to discuss and to understand...".

(9) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Ottawa, 1973: excerpt from the final communiqué.

Commonwealth Countries

Note: Members of the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth of Nations) include Britain and those independent countries formerly governed by Britain that have chosen to become members. Dependent territories such as colonies, protectorates and trust territories of Britain and other member countries may be described as within the Commonwealth in that they are territories of member countries, but they are not "members" of the Commonwealth, for only sovereign independent states are accepted as such. Nauru, which became independent in January 1968, is associated with the Commonwealth as a special member entitled to participate in all functional meetings and activities and is eligible for Commonwealth technical assistance, but does not take part in meetings of Commonwealth heads of government. The prefix "British" before "Commonwealth" is no longer used. (* Denotes the date on which dominion status was acquired).

<u>Member countries</u>	<u>Area (sq. miles)</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Date of membership</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Constitutional status</u> (Monarchy or republic)	<u>Accredited Canadian post</u> (H.C. - High commission) (Emb. - Embassy)
Australia	2,967,909	12,881,100	1 January 1901*	Canberra	M (Br.)	H.C. - Canberra
Bahamas	5,380	168,812	10 July 1973	Nassau	M (Br.)	H.C. - Kingston
Bangladesh	55,126	75,000,000	18 April 1972	Dacca	R	H.C. - Dacca
Barbados	166	238,000	30 November 1966	Bridgetown	M (Br.)	H.C. - Bridgetown
Botswana	220,000	625,900	30 September 1966	Gaborone	R	Emb. - Pretoria
Britain	94,215	55,534,000		London	M (Br.)	H.C. - London
Canada	3,851,809	22,000,000	1 July 1867*	Ottawa	M (Br.)	H.C. - Kingston
Cyprus	3,572	640,000	13 March 1961	Nicosia	R	Emb. - Tel Aviv
Fiji	7,055	524,500	10 October 1970	Suva	M (Br.)	H.C. - Canberra
The Gambia	4,003	320,000	18 February 1965	Banjul (Bathurst)	R	Emb. - Dakar
Ghana	91,843	8,500,000	6 March 1957	Accra	R	H.C. - Accra
Grenada	120	100,000	7 February 1974	St. George's	M (Br.)	H.C. - Bridgetown
Guyana	83,000	714,000	26 May 1966	Georgetown	R	H.C. - Georgetown
India	1,262,547	546,955,900	15 August 1947	New Delhi	R	H.C. - New Delhi
Jamaica	4,411	1,861,300	6 August 1962	Kingston	M (Br.)	H.C. - Kingston
Kenya	224,960	11,247,000	12 December 1963	Nairobi	R	H.C. - Nairobi
Lesotho	11,716	1,000,000	4 October 1966	Maseru	M (Nat'l)	Emb. - Pretoria

<u>Member countries</u>	<u>Area (sq. miles)</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Date of membership</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Constitutional status</u> (Monarchy or republic)	<u>Accredited Canadian post</u> (H.C. - High commission) (Emb. - Embassy)
Malawi	45,411	4,312,400	6 July 1964	Lilongwe	R	H.C. - Lusaka
Malaysia	128,308	10,434,000	31 August 1957	Kuala Lumpur	M (Nat'l)	H.C. - Kuala Lumpur
Malta	121.4	322,300	21 September 1964	Valetta	M (Br.)	Emb. - Rome
Mauritius	760	854,000	12 March 1968	Port Louis	M (Br.)	H.C. - Dar-es-Salaam
New Zealand	103,736	2,860,500	26 September 1907*	Wellington	M (Br.)	H.C. - Wellington
Nigeria	356,669	60,000,000	1 October 1960	Lagos	R	H.C. - Lagos
Sierra Leone	27,927	2,183,000	27 April 1961	Freetown	R	H.C. - Lagos
Singapore	224.5	2,110,400	15 October 1965	Singapore	R	H.C. - Singapore
Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	25,332	12,747,800	4 February 1948	Colombo	R	H.C. - Colombo
Swaziland	2,000	420,000	6 September 1968	Mbabane	M (Nat'l)	Emb. - Pretoria
Tanzania	363,708	12,231,300	9 December 1961	Dar-es-Salaam	R	H.C. - Dar-es-Salaam
Tonga	270	89,900	4 June 1970	Nuku'alofa	M (Nat'l)	H.C. - Wellington
Trinidad and Tobago	1,980	1,128,800	31 August 1962	Port of Spain	M (Br.)	H.C. - Port of Spain
Uganda	91,076	9,548,800	9 October 1962	Kampala	R	H.C. - Nairobi
Western Samoa	1,097	143,500	28 August 1970	Apia	R	H.C. - Wellington
Zambia	290,600	4,057,000	24 October 1964	Lusaka	R	H.C. - Lusaka
Nauru (special member)	8	6,600	31 January 1968	Nauru	R	
Total	10,327,059.9	861,761,000				

Associated States and Self-governing Territories

<u>Associated states</u>	<u>Area (sq. miles)</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Date of status</u>
Antigua	108	65,000	1967
Dominica	290	74,000	1967
St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla	136	57,000	1967
St. Lucia	238	110,000	1967
St. Vincent	150	92,000	1969
<u>British protected state</u>			
Brunei	2,226	130,000	1888
<u>New Zealand self-governing territories</u>			
Cook Islands	89	21,000	1965
Niue	100	5,183	1974
Total	3,337	554,183	
		Total	6,880,400

Associated States and Self-governing Territories

Associated State	Area (sq. miles)	Population	Date of Status	Form of Government
Antigua	108	85,000	1981	Constitutional Monarchy
Bahamas	290	24,000	1973	Constitutional Monarchy
St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla	196	57,000	1985	Constitutional Monarchy
St. Lucia	298	110,000	1979	Constitutional Monarchy
St. Vincent	150	92,000	1979	Constitutional Monarchy
<u>British protected states</u>				
Brunei	5,766	130,000	1984	Constitutional Monarchy
<u>New Zealand self-governing territories</u>				
Cook Islands	238	23,000	1985	Constitutional Monarchy
Niue	100	2,100	1970	Constitutional Monarchy
Total	8,337	654,183		

Appendix C

Dependent Territories

<u>Dependent territories</u>	<u>Dependency of</u>	<u>Area (Sq. miles)</u>	<u>Population</u>
Ascension	Britain	34	1,232
Australian Antarctic Territory	Australia	2,333,624	
Belize (British Honduras)	Britain	8,866	119,863
Bermuda	Britain	20.59	53,000
British Antarctic Territory	Britain	(approx) 500,000	100
British Indian Ocean Territory	Britain	21,000	550
British Solomon Islands Protectorate	Britain	11,500	160,998
British Virgin Islands	Britain	59	10,484
Cayman Islands	Britain	100	10,249
Christmas Island	Australia	52	3,524
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Australia	5.5	622
Falkland Islands and Dependencies	Britain	4,700	2,066
Gibraltar	Britain	2.25	26,833
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Britain	283	53,517
Hong Kong	Britain	398.5	3,950,802
Montserrat	Britain	39.5	12,300
New Hebrides	Administered as Anglo-French Condominium	5,700	81,000
Norfolk Island	Australia	13.35	1,509
Papua New Guinea	UN Trust Administered by Australia	178,260	2,298,268
Pitcairn Island	Britain	1.75	100
Ross Dependency (Antarctic)	New Zealand	160,000	
Seychelles	Britain	107	52,811
St. Helena	Britain	47	4,952
Tokelau Islands	New Zealand	3.9	1,687
Tristan da Cunha	Britain	38	280
Turks and Caicos Islands	Britain	166	5,675
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	Total	3,225,021.34	6,852,422

Dependent Territories

Population	Area (sq. miles)	Dependency of	Dependent Territories
1,232	34	Britain	Ascension
119,863	2,333,624	Australia	Australian Antarctic Territory
53,000	8,866	Britain	Belize (British Honduras)
100	20.28	Britain	Bermuda
260	500,000 (approx)	Britain	British Antarctic Territory
160,988	21,000	Britain	British Indian Ocean Territory
10,484	11,500	Britain	British Solomon Islands Protectorate
10,249	59	Britain	British Virgin Islands
3,224	100	Britain	Cayman Islands
622	52	Australia	Christmas Island
2,066	2.5	Australia	Cook (Kingman Reef) Islands
26,833	4,700	Britain	Falkland Islands and Dependencies
53,517	2.28	Britain	Gibraltar
3,980,802	288	Britain	Gloucester and Ellice Islands
12,300	388.2	Britain	Hong Kong
81,000	38.8	Britain	Montserrat
1,209	2,700	Administered as Anglo-French Condominium	New Hebrides
2,298,268	13.38	Australia	Norfolk Island
100	178,260	US Trust Administered by Australia	Papua New Guinea
22,811	1.78	Britain	Pitcairn Island
4,382	160,000	New Zealand	Ross Dependency (Antarctic)
1,687	107	Britain	Sandwich Islands
280	47	Britain	St. Helena
2,428	3.9	New Zealand	Tokelau Islands
	38	Britain	Tristan da Cunha
	166	Britain	Turks and Caicos Islands
6,852,422	3,225,021.34	Total	

Commonwealth Declaration

The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of independent sovereign states, each responsible for its own policies, consulting and co-operating in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace.

Members of the Commonwealth come from territories in the six continents and five oceans, include peoples of different races, languages and religions, and display every stage of economic development from poor developing nations to wealthy industrialized nations. They encompass a rich variety of cultures, traditions and institutions. Membership of the Commonwealth is compatible with the freedom of member governments to be non-aligned or to belong to any other grouping, association or alliance.

Within this diversity all members of the Commonwealth hold certain principles in common. It is by pursuing these principles that the Commonwealth can continue to influence international society for the benefit of mankind.

WE BELIEVE that international peace and order are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind; we therefore support the United Nations and seek to strengthen its influence for peace in the world, and its efforts to remove the causes of tension between nations.

WE BELIEVE in the liberty of the individual, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, creed or political belief, and in their inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which they live. We therefore strive to promote in each of our countries those representative institutions and guarantees for personal freedom under the law that are our common heritage.

WE RECOGNIZE racial prejudice as a dangerous sickness threatening the healthy development of the human race and racial discrimination as an unmitigated evil of society. Each of us will vigorously combat this evil within our own nation. No country will afford to regimes which practise racial discrimination assistance which in its own judgment directly contributes to the pursuit or consolidation of this evil policy. We oppose all forms of colonial domination and racial oppression and are committed to the principles of human dignity and equality. We will therefore use all our efforts to foster human equality and dignity everywhere and to further the principles of self-determination and non-racialism.

WE BELIEVE that the wide disparities in wealth now existing between different sections of mankind are too great to be tolerated; they also create world tensions; our aim is their progressive removal; we therefore seek to use our efforts to overcome poverty, ignorance and disease, in raising standards of life and achieving a more equitable international society.

To this end our aim is to achieve the freest possible flow of international trade on terms fair and equitable to all, taking into account the special requirements of the developing countries, and to encourage the flow of adequate resources, including governmental and private resources, to the developing countries, bearing in mind the importance of doing this in a true spirit of partnership and of establishing for this purpose in the developing countries conditions which are conducive to sustained investment and growth.

WE BELIEVE that international co-operation is essential to remove the causes of war, promote tolerance, combat injustice and secure development amongst the peoples of the world; we are convinced that the Commonwealth is one of the most fruitful associations for these purposes.

In pursuing these principles the members of the Commonwealth believe that they can provide a constructive example of the multi-national approach which is vital to peace and progress in the modern world. The association is based on consultation, discussion and co-operation. In rejecting coercion as an instrument of policy they recognise that the security of each member state from external aggression is a matter of concern to all members. It provides many channels for continuing exchanges of knowledge and views on professional, cultural, economic, legal and political issues among member states. These relationships we intend to foster and extend for we believe that our multinational association can expand human understanding and understanding among nations, assist in the elimination of discrimination based on differences of race, colour or creed, maintain and strengthen personal liberty, contribute to the enrichment of life for all, and provide a powerful influence for peace among nations.

Commonwealth ConferencesColonial conferences

1887	London	April 4 - May 9
1894	Ottawa	June 28 - July 9
1897	London	June 24 - July 31
1902	London	June 30 - August 11
1907	London	April 15 - May 14

Imperial conferences

1911	London	May 23 - June 20
1915		did not take place
1917	London	April 21 - April 27
1921	London	June 20 - August 5
1923	London	October 1 - November 8
1926	London	October 19 - November 23
1930	London	October 1 - November 14
1932	Ottawa	July 21 - August 20 (Imperial Economic Conference)
1937	London	May 14 - June 15

Prime ministers' meetings

1944	London	May 1 - May 17
1946	London	May 1 - May 23
1948	London	October 10 - October 22
1949	London	April 21 - April 27
1951	London	January 4 - January 12
1953	London	June 3 - June 9
1955	London	January 31 - February 8
1956	London	June 27 - July 6
1957	London	June 26 - July 5
1960	London	May 3 - May 13
1961	London	March 8 - March 17
1962	London	September 10 - September 19
1964	London	July 8 - July 15
1965	London	June 17 - June 21
1966	Lagos	January 11 - January 12
1966	London	September 6 - September 15
1969	London	January 7 - January 15

Heads of government meetings

1971	Singapore	January 14 - January 22
1973	Ottawa	August 2 - August 10

Some Commonwealth consultative and co-operative mechanisms

Commonwealth heads of government meeting
Commonwealth finance ministers meeting
Commonwealth law ministers meeting
Commonwealth conference of education ministers
Commonwealth Medical Conference
Senior officials meeting
Commonwealth Forestry Conference
Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrations
Commonwealth Educational Liaison Committee
Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference
Commonwealth Consultative Space Research Committee
Commonwealth Liaison Committee

Some government-funded institutions (etc.)

Commonwealth Advisory Aeronautical Research Council
Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux
Commonwealth Air Transport Council
Commonwealth Book Development Program
Commonwealth Defence Science Organization
Commonwealth Forestry Institute
Commonwealth Foundation
Commonwealth Institute
Commonwealth Legal Advisory Service
Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Processing
Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Resources and Geology
Commonwealth Program for Assisting in the Education of Rhodesian Africans
Canadian Trust Fund for the Training of Rhodesian Refugees
Commonwealth Secretariat
Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan
Commonwealth Scientific Council
Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation
Commonwealth Telecommunications Council
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Commonwealth Youth Program

Some Commonwealth consultative and co-operative mechanisms


- Commonwealth heads of government meeting
- Commonwealth finance ministers meeting
- Commonwealth law ministers meeting
- Commonwealth conference of education ministers
- Commonwealth medical conference
- Senior officials meeting
- Commonwealth forestry conference
- Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators
- Commonwealth Educational Liaison Committee
- Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference
- Commonwealth Consultative Space Research Committee
- Commonwealth Liaison Committee

Some government-funded institutions (etc.)

- Commonwealth Advisory Aeronautical Research Council
- Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau

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Some non-governmental associations and organizations

Association of Commonwealth Architects
Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies
Association of Commonwealth Students
Association of Commonwealth Universities
Commonwealth Association of Museums
Commonwealth Association of Planners
Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy
Commonwealth Society for the Deaf
Commonwealth Council of Education Administration
Commonwealth Engineering Conference
Commonwealth Federation of Nurses
Commonwealth Geographic Bureau
Commonwealth Legal Bureau
Commonwealth Library Association
Commonwealth Magistrates Association
Commonwealth Medical Association
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association
Commonwealth Press Union
Commonwealth Veterinary Association
Council of Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Institutions
English Speaking Union of the Commonwealth
Federation of Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce
Royal Commonwealth Society
Royal Overseas League

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- Commonwealth Magistrates Association
- Commonwealth Medical Association
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association
- Commonwealth Press Union
- Commonwealth Veterinary Association
- Council of Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Institutions
- East African Speaking Union of the Commonwealth
- Federation of Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Overseas League