

MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS, 1969

(London, 7-15 January)

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in London from 7-15 January. Botswana, Cyprus, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia were represented by their Presidents. Australia, Barbados, Britain, Canada, Ceylon, The Gambia, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Swaziland and Trinidad and Tobago were represented by their Prime Ministers. Ghana was represented by the Deputy Chairman of the National Liberation Council; Kenya by its Minister of Finance; Nigeria by the Vice-Chairman of the Federal Executive Council; and Pakistan by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister of Britain was in the Chair.

2. This was the largest meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government and one of the biggest consultative gatherings of Heads of Government from all parts of the world since the signature of the United Nations Charter. Heads of Government warmly greeted the President of Botswana, and the Prime Ministers of Barbados, Lesotho, Mauritius and Swaziland, whose countries had become new members of the Commonwealth since the previous Meeting.

3. The Republic of Nauru has become the Commonwealth's first 'special member', with the right to participate in all functional meetings and activities, and to be eligible for Commonwealth technical assistance. The Associated States of the West Indies, having reached a full measure of self-government although not fully independent, also take part in Commonwealth meetings and activities in fields within their constitutional competence. Heads of Government welcomed these arrangements which had been agreed since their last Meeting to enable very small States to participate in the work of the Commonwealth.

International Affairs

4. Heads of Government were aware that they were meeting at a time of some misgivings about the effectiveness of international organisations and associations. They were unanimous that effective international co-operation was more than ever important. Any weaknesses and failures of international machinery were a reason to improve that machinery, not to despair of it. They expressed their continued support for the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and their wish to contribute to efforts to strengthen the institutions and work of the United Nations, particularly its role in maintaining and promoting peace.

5. They noted with pleasure the part played by Commonwealth countries in the development of regional co-operation. At the same time they recognised that exchanges of view and consultation within a wider association such as the Commonwealth offered one means by which its members could form a better understanding of one another's problems and attitudes and of their growing interdependence.

6. With these considerations in mind, they reviewed some of the major issues and trends in the world political situation.
7. They were in agreement that the principles of non-interference by one State in the internal affairs of another and of scrupulous respect for the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and political independence of all States are the very cornerstone of the structure of world peace.
8. Heads of Government felt that events in Czechoslovakia, in violation of these principles and of the United Nations Charter, tended to undermine respect for the territorial integrity and sovereign independence of all States, particularly small States.
9. They considered that events in the Middle East in violation of the United Nations Charter and the Security Council resolutions emphasised the need for the establishment of a durable peace in the area as a matter of urgency. This could be achieved in accordance with the Security Council's Resolution of 22nd November 1967. The Heads of Government expressed support for the efforts of Dr Jarring, the special representative of the UN Secretary-General, and urged all concerned to give him their fullest co-operation. They were encouraged to note the round of consultation now in progress among four permanent members of the Security Council and urged these Governments to persist in their efforts to help bring about a settlement in accordance with the 22nd November Resolution of the Security Council. While the role of major Powers was important, other countries especially those who have an interest in the re-opening of the Suez Canal, including Commonwealth members, could contribute towards a settlement.
10. Recalling the views expressed at their Meetings in 1965 and 1966, Heads of Government welcomed the commencement of the Vietnam talks in Paris and expressed the hope that they would lead to discussions aimed at securing a just, lasting and genuine peace.
11. It was the view of the majority of Heads of Government that the People's Republic of China has a right and a duty to participate in full in all the world's efforts towards peace. Most Heads of Government expressed the hope that the People's Republic in China would be able to take its rightful place in the international community, although some of them also stressed that this should be achieved without prejudicing the rights of the people of Taiwan to an independent existence if they chose. However, certain Prime Ministers of countries whose Governments recognised the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) reiterated their support of that Government's right to membership of the United Nations.
12. Heads of Government, recalling the ending of Indonesia's policy of confrontation against Malaysia in 1966, were encouraged by developments towards stability in Indonesia since their last Meeting in 1966 and felt that this would contribute to the general stability and economic development of the region.
13. The Meeting observed that difficulties between Malaysia and the Philippines arising out of the Philippine claim to Sabah had hampered the progress of regional co-operation in South East Asia. It expressed the hope that these difficulties could be resolved by peaceful means, upholding the right of self-determination which has been exercised by the people of Sabah.

14. The Meeting also noted with concern and sympathy the difficulties which Guyana was experiencing in connection with Venezuela's claim to more than one-half of Guyana's territory. Acknowledging that threats to the territorial integrity of the State make inevitable the diversion of resources and energies from the constructive tasks of development, many members shared the view advanced by Guyana's Prime Minister that there was an urgent need for an international effort to secure the territorial integrity of every State—and especially of the small developing countries of the world.

15. The Meeting expressed the hope that the recent achievement of independence by many small States would bring home to the international community the need to introduce special and effective measures to guarantee their territorial integrity.

16. The Meeting considered that major barriers to progress on negotiated agreements in critical areas and fields would be overcome by significant progress in achieving detente and in co-operation between the major Powers. It was therefore considered essential that efforts to reduce tension and extend areas of peace and co-operation should continue.

17. Heads of Government recalled that at their Meeting in September 1966 they had expressed the view that events were throwing into ever sharper relief the need for firm and far reaching agreements on disarmament. They considered that the need for such agreements was even more urgent now than it was then, and hoped that the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee would resume consideration of this matter.

18. The Meeting considered that the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee should, as a matter of priority, explore possibilities of reaching agreement on effective measures designed to bring about a cessation of the nuclear arms race at a very early date. With this end in view a universally binding comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty was an urgent necessity. In this connection, the British proposal to the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee for a phased approach to a comprehensive test ban treaty was deserving of further study. They considered that the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee should also seek to achieve a cut-off of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. Both these measures could be of great significance in halting the nuclear arms race. Mention was also made of the possibility that the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee might undertake the study of various proposals made for a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. The Meeting gave particularly strong support to one of the recommendations made by the Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States (whose distinguished President was present at this Meeting) and repeated by the General Assembly of the United Nations to the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, that they should at an early date begin their bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear weapon delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles.

19. The Meeting stressed again that effective disarmament must cover non-nuclear as well as nuclear weapons. In this connection the Heads of Government drew attention to the urgent need for action to deal with the threat presented by chemical and biological weapons and welcomed the British proposal to the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee for a new convention prohibiting micro-biological methods of warfare. They looked forward to

the report on chemical and biological weapons which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had been requested to prepare; they hoped that this would make a valuable contribution to the consideration of arms control measures to deal with these weapons.

20. Heads of Government recalled that at their Meeting in September 1966 they had stressed that while there was still time it was imperative to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. A step towards this goal was taken with the opening for signature of the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In so far as the Treaty achieved this objective, most Heads of Government welcomed it. However, some Heads of Government had reservations on certain aspects of the Treaty including its effectiveness and the reliability of security guarantees for non-nuclear weapon States. It was recognised that the Non-Proliferation Treaty would not fulfil all the hopes set upon it unless progress could also be made by the nuclear Powers towards effective measures of nuclear disarmament. It was also recognised that member States which were subjected to attack or threat of attack by either nuclear or non-nuclear weapons had the right to the protection afforded to them under the United Nations Charter.

21. The Meeting heard a statement by Britain on the progress of the remaining British dependencies towards self-government or independence. Twenty such dependencies were now left—many of them very small islands—and there had been recent constitutional advances in sixteen. It noted that in the case of British Honduras, the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar, the British Government stood ready to hold discussions with interested neighbouring countries, consonant with its basic principle, which was enshrined in the United Nations Charter, that the interests and wishes of the inhabitants must be paramount.

22. The Prime Minister of Malta drew the attention of other Heads of Government to the situation arising from the rapidly increasing technological capacity to exploit the immense resources of the sea bed, which constitutes nearly three-quarters of the surface of the earth. They considered that the area of the sea bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, for which a precise definition should be sought, should be accorded a special legal status as part of the common heritage of mankind, and as such should be reserved for peaceful purposes and for the orderly exploration and exploitation of its great resources, by such appropriate international machinery as is agreed acting for the common benefit of all States, irrespective of their geographical location, and taking into special consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries.

23. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of the Government of Malta which led to the appointment in December 1968 by the General Assembly of the United Nations of a committee on the peaceful uses of the sea bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and declared its support for the committee's work.

Rhodesia

24. The Meeting had a full discussion on the problem of Rhodesia. Heads of Government agreed that there were several reasons why Rhodesia was so important in Commonwealth consultations. The legal authority and the responsibility for the terms on which it would be brought to independence

rested with Britain, a Commonwealth member. The attempts of Commonwealth countries adjacent to Rhodesia to establish non-racial societies and prosperous economies were jeopardised by the growing threat of race conflict within the region. But the overriding reason was that problems such as this involved principles of racial justice and equality and the right of all peoples to self-determination which are embodied in the United Nations Charter and in the Declaration of Human Rights. These matters went to the heart of the Commonwealth relationship and were therefore of deep concern to all Commonwealth members.

25. The Meeting recalled that, for these reasons, Rhodesia had been an important subject of discussion at recent Commonwealth Conferences, and Heads of Government reiterated the principles and objectives affirmed at their four previous Meetings.

26. They also reviewed developments since their last Meeting, noting that the illegal régime had continued acts of political repression against the African majority population, and that there were increasing trends towards an apartheid system in Rhodesia.

27. The constitutional proposals drawn up on board H.M.S. Fearless were discussed. Most Heads of Government emphasised their view that these proposals were unacceptable as the constitution of an independent Rhodesia, and should therefore be withdrawn. They considered that to transfer sovereignty to a racial minority as the result of an agreement reached with that minority would settle nothing, if the settlement was not freely accepted by the people of Rhodesia as a whole including the four million African Rhodesians and seen by the international community, especially the independent African countries to be so accepted. Otherwise internal strife, and outside support for guerilla activities would increase, with the inevitable risk of increasing instability and eventual race war. They stated that historical experience suggested that once independence was achieved, a minority in power could not be prevented from changing a constitution in whatever way they might wish. The only effective guarantees of political and civil rights lay in vesting those rights in the people as a whole.

28. The Meeting recalled the pledge given by the British Prime Minister, following discussion at the Commonwealth Meeting in September 1966 that independence would not be granted before majority rule was achieved (N.I.B.M.R.). The British Prime Minister stated that although the Fearless Proposals remained on the table, there had been no change in the British Government's policy on N.I.B.M.R. The Meeting welcomed the statement that the British Government's policy on N.I.B.M.R. remained unchanged, but most Heads of Government reiterated their position that the Fearless Proposals should be withdrawn.

29. Some Heads of Government reiterated their call on the British Government to use force to quell the rebellion in Rhodesia. The British Prime Minister explained the reasons why the British Government regarded the use of force as wrong and impracticable.

30. The British Prime Minister said that he had taken careful note of the view expressed by most other Heads of Government that the Fearless Proposals ought to be withdrawn. But he could not himself accept this view since he

considered that it would be right, if it proved possible, to give the people of Rhodesia as a whole an opportunity to decide for themselves whether or not they wished for a settlement which would be fully consistent with the Six Principles laid down by successive British Governments. Any such settlement would need to be clearly shown to be the wish of the Rhodesian people as a whole. If that took place, he would consult his Commonwealth colleagues about the N.I.B.M.R. commitments. He emphasised, however, that a settlement based on the Six Principles would not be possible if it were shown that there could be no genuine test of its acceptability in present circumstances in Rhodesia.

31. It was agreed that any settlement must depend for its validity upon the democratically ascertained wishes of the people of Rhodesia as a whole. The process for ascertaining their views was the British Government's responsibility, but the test of the acceptability of any proposed settlement would need to be made in a manner which would carry conviction in the Commonwealth and in the international community generally, so that its results would be accepted as truly reflecting the wishes of the people of Rhodesia. Many Heads of Government urged that this could only be carried out through the normal democratic process of election or referendum, and doubted whether adequate safeguards for free political expression and verification of the results could be provided so long as the rebel government remained in power. The Meeting noted the British Prime Minister's statement that it would be open to the proposed Royal Commission to say that in the circumstances prevailing in Rhodesia, no genuine assessment was possible of the acceptability of the proposed settlement to the people of Rhodesia as a whole and that, further, if the Royal Commission felt themselves unable to adjudicate on the acceptability or otherwise of the proposals to the people of Rhodesia as a whole, they would be free to recommend any alternative method, including a referendum, which in their view would adequately test Rhodesian opinion.

32. The Meeting had before it a review of the working of economic sanctions prepared for it by the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee. The Meeting agreed that the comprehensive mandatory sanctions were having some effect. It was important to strengthen the enforcement of these and other pressures on the illegal régime, and to intensify them where ever possible, in order to bring about an acceptable political settlement. Heads of Government therefore affirmed their support for the Supervisory Committee of the United Nations Security Council and for the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee, which they requested to continue to keep the situation under review.

33. Notwithstanding some differences of opinion on method, Heads of Government remained unanimous on the ultimate objectives to be sought in Rhodesia. They were more than ever resolved that, whatever the time needed to reverse it, the seizure of power by a small racial minority could be neither recognised nor tolerated. Concerted international action was being steadily built up particularly through the United Nations and the Commonwealth and Heads of Government pledged their continuing support for all efforts to strengthen and extend this and to continue to assist Rhodesian Africans in preparing themselves to take their rightful place in the Government and administration of their country. The special problems encountered by Botswana and Zambia arising from the Rhodesia crisis were recognised.

34. The British Prime Minister undertook to continue to consult Commonwealth members on the issue of Rhodesia.

Southern Africa

35. The Meeting considered other problems in Southern Africa. It reaffirmed the condemnation expressed at previous meetings of the policy of apartheid of the South African Government—a policy totally abhorrent to world opinion. It expressed serious concern at the continued refusal of South Africa to accept its international obligations in respect of the territory of South West Africa.

36. The Meeting deeply regretted that Portugal continued to deny the right of self-determination to the inhabitants of her colonial territories in Africa and called on Portugal to concede that right without delay. Some Heads of Government felt that the situation in Southern Africa if continued, would endanger peace and security and pointed to the threats which they felt were posed to their countries by the armed forces of South Africa and Portugal.

Migration

37. Informal discussions took place outside the meeting between some Commonwealth countries on certain problems of migration between those Commonwealth countries. The Secretary-General was requested by the countries engaged in these discussions to examine in consultation with representatives of those countries general principles relating to short and long term movement of people between their countries and to consider the possibility of exploring ways and means of studying this subject on a continuing basis with a view to providing relevant information to those Governments.

38. The Prime Ministers re-affirmed the declaration made in communiques of 1964 and 1965 that for all Commonwealth Governments it should be an objective of policy to build in each country a structure of society which offers equal opportunity and non-discrimination for all its people, irrespective of race, colour or creed. The Commonwealth should be able to exercise constructive leadership in the application of democratic principles in a manner which will enable the people of each country of different racial and cultural groups to exist and develop as free and equal citizens.

Economic Affairs

39. Heads of Government held a general discussion on the world economic situation and broadly reviewed recent developments and trends. They agreed that the representative character of the Commonwealth and its tradition of informed and sympathetic interest in the problems of development make it a most valuable forum for constructive discussion and a useful instrument for co-operative endeavour.

40. They noted that early last year, in New Delhi during UNCTAD II, Commonwealth Ministers had exchanged views on some of the problems affecting trade and development of member countries, and that more recently, Commonwealth Finance Ministers at their annual meeting held in London had a full discussion of the world economic situation with special reference to international monetary problems, development and aid.

41. Heads of Government were concerned that the gap between the rich and poor was widening, but were encouraged by growing recognition of the increasing inter-dependence of nations. Greater co-operative action was vital to

ensure economic progress and prosperity on which stability and peace so largely depend. Postponement of adequate and united efforts would lead to greater political and economic problems.

42. They took note of the fact that developing countries of the Commonwealth were making efforts to help themselves. They were steadily laying the ground-work of future self-sustained growth by paying increasing attention to agriculture, education, population control and administrative and institutional reforms. It was therefore hoped that if they were assisted by appropriate international measures, they would be in a position during the decade of the 1970s to achieve higher rates of economic growth.

43. Heads of Government noted the growing movements towards greater regional co-operation among the developing countries of the Commonwealth. This represented a valuable form of self-help on the part of the developing countries.

44. Heads of Government recognised that the results of UNCTAD II had been very disappointing to the developing countries. While there had been agreement on the need to evolve an international policy for development and a global strategy to implement it, little progress had been made in achieving this. On the other hand UNCTAD II had mapped out certain promising lines of approach.

45. They stressed the need to give practical effect to the unanimous agreements reached in principle at UNCTAD II. They expressed the hope that it would soon be possible to conclude successfully the negotiations on a scheme of generalised preferences which would be of benefit to all developing countries and which would provide compensation for the less developed countries whose export trade might be adversely affected by the introduction of such a scheme. They agreed that close and continuous consultations among Commonwealth countries would be necessary during the consideration of the scheme of generalised preference. They emphasised the importance of continuing consultation at the Trade and Development Board and other organs of UNCTAD and asked the Secretary-General to maintain close contacts with these and other international agencies in order to keep these developments under review.

46. Heads of Government agreed that the first Development Decade had fallen short of expectations in achieving practical results. They hoped, however, that the experience gained would help in the identification of areas of development and the strategy to which urgent attention needs to be directed with a view to achieving greater concrete results during the second Development Decade.

47. It was recognised that the terms of trade had moved against some countries of the Commonwealth who depend to a great extent on the export of primary products. More orderly and satisfactory markets for primary products were crucial for Commonwealth countries. Recognising the present unsatisfactory state of major export markets for many primary products, Heads of Government stressed the need for further efforts by Commonwealth countries in international forums to secure improved conditions for international commodity trade, including better access to markets in both developed and developing countries and equitable and stable prices for primary products. They expressed gratification at the extension of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement and

expressed the hope that those governments which had not already signed it would do so. They further hoped that other commodities of special economic importance to Commonwealth countries would be covered similarly by suitable international arrangements, which arrangements would be pursued and be supported by Commonwealth countries.

48. In this connection, they noted recent developments in the negotiations for the conclusion of an International Agreement on Cocoa. They urged all parties to the negotiations to intensify their efforts so as to reach a speedy agreement, and on the progress of which the Secretary-General should keep members fully informed.

49. Heads of Government welcomed the liberalisation of trade in respect of manufactured products consequent on the conclusion of the Kennedy Round of negotiations, and hoped that this process of trade liberalisation would be carried further in respect of all products. They regretted however that these negotiations had produced no significant benefits for most developing countries. They expressed the hope that continuing efforts would be made under the auspices of GATT and UNCTAD to enable developing countries to secure improved access for their products to international markets with a view to increasing their foreign exchange earnings, while making every effort to increase trade among themselves.

50. They stressed the dangers of excessive protectionism in a number of foreign industrialised countries for agricultural products of export interest to Commonwealth countries.

51. While it was recognised the Commonwealth trade must be seen in the larger context of global trade of which it was a vital part, they agreed there was continuing scope for the expansion of Commonwealth trade and for this purpose there was need to strengthen the well-established links amongst Commonwealth members.

52. Heads of Government took note of the Secretary-General's report that, in pursuance of an earlier decision, the Secretariat had begun a study on the feasibility of Commonwealth co-operation to assist in trade promotion. They looked forward to the completion of this study.

53. The Meeting took note of the special difficulties of Lesotho and other African landlocked Commonwealth countries. These countries expressed the hope that all concerned would find it possible to accede to or ratify the international convention on the transit trade of landlocked countries. Heads of Government hoped that all countries concerned would make every effort to provide adequate transit facilities to the trade of such landlocked countries.

54. Heads of Government reiterated the importance of continuing close consultation by the British Government with Commonwealth governments in regard to developments of interest to them concerning the British application for entry into the European Economic Community.

55. In discussing the international monetary situation, Heads of Government stressed the importance of restoring stability in world payments—and of adapting the world monetary system to meet evolving needs. They stressed the need for providing adequate international liquidity for implementing and

activating as early as practicable the scheme for Special Drawing Rights through the International Monetary Fund to supplement reserve assets. They regretted that it had not been possible as yet to get the necessary broad international agreement on a special link between international action to increase liquidity and the needs of developing countries. They hoped that further consideration would be given to establishing such a link.

56. They expressed the hope that more liberal trade policies would follow from improvements in the international payments system.

57. Some Heads of Government felt that Commonwealth countries should call for a world monetary conference, open to all members of the IMF, to reappraise the World Monetary System since Bretton Woods and to make recommendations for its improvement, and that there should be a Commonwealth Meeting prior to such a conference. Others while sympathising with these objectives felt that it would be inappropriate to attempt to achieve them through such a conference and that it would be better to continue official discussions through existing channels.

58. The Meeting discussed international assistance for economic development, and noted with concern that the net transfer of resources from industrialised to developing countries had stagnated at a level which was inadequate to facilitate an acceptable rate of economic development in the developing countries. A critical situation was emerging for a number of countries because of the burden of debt servicing. Heads of Government expressed the hope that countries which had not already done so would be in a position to signify their acceptance of an early date for complying with UNCTAD resolution on the target of 1 per cent of gross national product at market prices. They stressed the urgency of the replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association and expressed the hope that all countries concerned would follow the lead already given by some in effecting such replenishment.

59. Heads of Government noted with approval the recent tendency on the part of some Commonwealth countries to soften the terms of their loans which they were extending to the less developed Commonwealth countries. They considered that Commonwealth donor countries should take the lead in seeking further improvements in the terms of international aid generally, and hoped that donor Governments would view sympathetically in appropriate cases the granting of more flexible terms.

60. Heads of Government expressed the hope that the consideration of the scheme of supplementary financing would lead to early results of benefit to developing countries.

61. They welcomed the appointment of an International Commission by the World Bank to review the total aid experience of the past two decades and to make recommendations for future aid programmes, and were particularly gratified that a former colleague, The Rt Hon Lester B Pearson, was presiding over the Commission's work.

Commonwealth Co-operation

62. Heads of Government reviewed the extensive range of co-operation which exists among Commonwealth countries in such areas as technical assistance,

education, science, medicine, law and many other functional fields. Such co-operation is facilitated and rendered more fruitful by the advantages the Commonwealth association offers—a common working language, similar traditions in government, administration, educational methods, and the organisation of the professions. With the increasing membership of the Commonwealth and the potentially wider areas of co-operation, they recognised the importance of seeking ways and means of achieving more effective co-operation among members in all fields.

63. Much was being done through bilateral arrangements between member countries. The Meeting noted that intra-Commonwealth official bilateral assistance, which accounts on the average for about 85 per cent of the total of such assistance provided by Commonwealth members in all developing countries, had increased in 1967 and 1968, and they hoped that this would continue to grow.

64. They also reaffirmed the value of programmes of specifically Commonwealth effort in certain fields. An example would be increasing application of the principle of third-party financing, as a useful mechanism for bringing qualified experts and important tasks together quickly and efficiently. Third-party financing, by which exports from one country can be financed wholly or in part by another, can significantly enlarge the pool of expertise available for technical assistance arrangements by drawing on skills available in developing countries. These skills, moreover, are often of particular relevance to the needs of other developing countries. The Meeting agreed that early consideration should be given to the extension of the principle of third-party financing to education, training and consultations. This would allow students to be trained in surroundings and under conditions more appropriate to their future employment, and in this way ease the problem of the brain-drain.

65. The Meeting noted several examples of mutual assistance which had already grown up among developing members of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Programme of Technical Co-operation, established within the Secretariat the previous year and on which the Secretary-General submitted a progress report, was a further step in building on the special advantages which the Commonwealth affords. A number of them underlined the particular usefulness of the Programme to the smaller members. They noted that a review of this Programme is to be carried out later this year.

66. The Meeting also considered a number of proposals for strengthening Commonwealth co-operation in specific fields.

67. They agreed that the nature and work of the Commonwealth should be more widely known in member countries. They approved in principle the proposal by Guyana for a Commonwealth Information Programme, and authorised the Secretary-General to appoint an Information Officer and to undertake in consultation with Governments a study of the implications of a programme as proposed.

68. Heads of Government also welcomed in principle the proposals submitted by Pakistan on co-operation in the fields of mass communication and education and asked the Secretary-General to undertake studies in detail and in consultation with Commonwealth governments.

69. The Meeting had before it three proposals by Britain for increased Commonwealth co-operation. The first was for extension of co-operation in the legal field. This proposal involved the establishment of a small Legal Section in the Secretariat, which was agreed; and a conference on legal education, to which further consideration should be given.

70. The second British proposal was for regional centres for the teaching of English and the teaching of science, which was welcomed in principle, and which it was agreed should be further considered by the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee and the Secretariat.

71. The third British proposal was for a series of studies on the problems of youth. The Meeting asked the Secretary-General to examine its feasibility, taking into account the work in this field undertaken by other international organisations.

72. In addition the Meeting discussed proposals for a Commonwealth Book Development Programme designed to assist developing Commonwealth countries to obtain books and journals for educational and research purposes. The Meeting asked the Secretary-General to undertake studies in detail in conjunction with the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee, convening expert working parties where necessary. The Secretary-General was asked to include in these studies the implications of the ratification of the Protocol to the Berne Copyright Convention.

73. Heads of Government took note of the Second Report of the Secretary-General and the Report of the Commonwealth Foundation.

74. The Meeting also expressed appreciation of the valuable contribution to the strengthening of Commonwealth co-operation and understanding being made by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. As an independent association of Parliamentarians, it provides unique opportunity for the sharing of experience, the discussion of common problems and the development of personal links to the benefit both of its members and of the people they represent.

75. They expressed high appreciation with the work of the Commonwealth Secretary-General and his colleagues which they thought more than adequately justified the decision to establish the Secretariat.

15 January 1969

Heads of Delegation

Australia	The Rt Hon J G Gorton, Prime Minister
Barbados	The Rt Hon Errol W Barrow, Prime Minister
Botswana	Sir Seretse Khama, President
Britain	The Rt Hon Harold Wilson, Prime Minister
Canada	The Hon Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister
Ceylon	The Hon Dudley S Senanayake, Prime Minister
Cyprus	His Beatitude Archbishop Makarios, President
The Gambia	Sir Dawda Jawara, Prime Minister
Ghana	The Hon J W K Harlley, Deputy Chairman, National Liberation Council
Guyana	The Hon L F S Burnham, Prime Minister
India	Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister
Jamaica	The Hon H L Shearer, Prime Minister
Kenya	The Hon J S Gichuru, Minister of Finance
Lesotho	The Hon Chief Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister
Malawi	Ngwazi Dr H Kamuzu Banda, President
Malaysia	Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, Prime Minister
Malta	The Hon Dr G Borg-Olivier, Prime Minister
Mauritius	The Rt Hon Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister
New Zealand	The Rt Hon K H Holyoake, Prime Minister
Nigeria	Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Deputy Chairman, Federal Executive Council
Pakistan	The Hon M Arshad Hussain, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Sierra Leone	The Hon Siaka P Stevens, Prime Minister
Singapore	The Hon Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister
Swaziland	HRH Prince Makhosini Dlamini, Prime Minister
Tanzania	HE Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere, President
Trinidad and Tobago	Dr The Rt Hon Eric Williams, Prime Minister
Uganda	HE Dr A Milton Obote, President
Zambia	HE Dr Kenneth D Kaunda, President
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Arnold Smith, Secretary-General