

bodies as the United Kingdom-Canada Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs, the ties existing between Canada and the senior member of the Commonwealth were daily strengthened and maintained.

In June and July 1956, a Meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers was held in London under the chairmanship of Sir Anthony Eden. Sir Anthony, Mr. Strijdom of South Africa, Mr. Mohamad Ali of Pakistan, and Mr. Bandaranaike of Ceylon, attended as Prime Ministers for the first time. Noting the growing recognition of the devastating power of thermo-nuclear weapons, the Prime Ministers agreed that the peaceful use of nuclear energy constitutes a valuable new sphere for co-operation within the Commonwealth as well as with other countries. The Prime Ministers went on to review significant developments in the Soviet Union and relate them to the context of international relations and world affairs. In acknowledging Ceylon's statement of intent to become a republic, the Prime Ministers accepted and recognized its continuing membership in the Commonwealth.

In November and December 1956, the Hon. Paul Martin, then Minister of National Health and Welfare, carried out a goodwill tour of Asia *en route* to and from the meetings of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Wellington, New Zealand, at which he was Chairman of the Canadian Delegation. The tour included Australia and Asiatic countries including India, Pakistan and Ceylon where he inspected Canadian Colombo Plan projects.

During 1956, Ottawa welcomed many prominent Commonwealth statesmen including the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations of the United Kingdom; the Prime Minister, the Minister for External Affairs and the Minister of Trade of Australia; the Prime Minister of New Zealand; the Prime Minister of Ceylon; the Prime Minister of India; the Premier and the Minister of Education of Western Nigeria; the Minister of Labour of Jamaica; and the Premier of the Australian State of Victoria. In addition, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and the Minister of National Resources of India came to Ottawa to discuss problems of common interest with Canadian Government leaders and officials.

Severe flooding occurred in several sections of India and Pakistan in July and August 1956. In August the Canadian Government authorized a gift to Pakistan of 25,000 tons of Canadian No. 4 wheat valued at \$1,500,000, a gift separate and distinct from Colombo Plan contributions. The Canadian Red Cross gave India flood relief supplies valued at \$25,000. Emergency assistance in the form of \$50,000 worth of wheat flour was sent to relieve hurricane victims in the British West Indies. In addition, \$50,000 worth of relief supplies was provided by the West Indies Hurricane Relief Fund, sponsored jointly by the Canadian Exporters Association and the Canadian Red Cross.

At the Eleventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly the Delegation of the Union of South Africa announced that, in view of the Assembly's continuing insistence on discussing matters which were within the internal jurisdiction of the Government of South Africa, the South African Permanent Representative to the United Nations would be withdrawn and that South Africa would, in future, maintain only token representation at the United Nations.

On Mar. 23, 1956, the Republic of Pakistan was proclaimed. This had been forecast at the Prime Ministers' Meeting of January 1955 at which the Prime Ministers had accepted and recognized Pakistan's continuing membership in the Commonwealth after it became a republic. Canada sent its Ambassador to Tokyo, Mr. T. C. Davis, as special envoy to the inauguration ceremonies in Karachi.

The period was marked by a series of steps leading to the eventual granting of independence to certain United Kingdom dependent territories. On Feb. 8, negotiations between the United Kingdom and representatives of Malaya were successfully concluded with the signing of an agreement to cover the transfer of full sovereignty to the Government of the