

Federation, with Aug. 31, 1957, set as the date for full independence "if possible" Negotiations conducted at London in March 1957 resulted in agreement on complete internal autonomy for the State of Singapore, with the United Kingdom remaining responsible for its foreign relations and defence.

A bill granting independence to Ghana was passed by the United Kingdom Parliament in February 1957. The granting of independence on Mar. 6, 1957, was marked by extensive celebrations in Accra, at which Canada was represented by the Hon. George Prudham, then Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. On the same day Canada's then Prime Minister, in a statement in the House of Commons, welcomed Ghana's entry into the Commonwealth as a fully independent nation and announced that Canada would open a diplomatic mission in Accra and appoint a Canadian High Commissioner as soon as it was possible to do so. Ghana became a member of the United Nations on Mar. 8, its application for membership being sponsored by Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Delegations from Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Barbados, the Windward Islands and Trinidad, and observers from British Guiana and British Honduras discussed a proposed Caribbean Federation with the United Kingdom Government at London in February 1956. On Aug. 2 the Queen gave assent to enabling legislation for the establishment of the Federation. Lord Hailes has been appointed the first Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the West Indies.

The United Kingdom Government reaffirmed its intention to grant internal self-government to any region in Nigeria which desired it. In March 1957 the Legislative Assembly of the Federation of Nigeria passed a unanimous resolution requesting the Federation's independence within the Commonwealth in 1959. A constitutional conference was slated to be held in London at the end of May 1957.

During the review period, changes of government took place in a number of Commonwealth countries. At elections held in April 1956 in Ceylon a coalition of parties headed by Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike defeated Sir John Kotelawala's United National party. In September, following political disputes between the two wings of the country, Mr. Mohamad Ali resigned as Prime Minister of Pakistan and was succeeded by Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Sir Anthony Eden, resigned because of ill health in January 1957 and was succeeded by Mr. Harold Macmillan. In India a general election, the second since Independence, was held in March and April 1957. Since the first general election the number of States had been reduced and the borders of the new ones redrawn on linguistic lines. The Congress Party secured another impressive victory at the polls, increasing its share of the popular vote from 45 p.c. to 48 p.c., although it gained only one additional seat in the Lok Sabha (House of the People).

The Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and Canada met in Bermuda on Mar. 25 and 26, 1957, immediately following a meeting between Prime Minister Macmillan of the United Kingdom and President Eisenhower of the United States. Discussions were held on topics of concern to both countries, including the Middle East situation, relations between the United Kingdom and Europe and Canadian-United Kingdom trade.

It was announced on Apr. 17, 1957, that a meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers would be held at London on June 26, 1957.

Subsection 2.—Canada and the United Nations

The period June 1, 1955, to Apr. 30, 1957, was perhaps the most difficult experienced by the United Nations in the eleven years of its existence. There was no war but there was no tranquillity in the world and, since the United Nations is a reflection of the world as it exists, these strains and quarrels were mirrored in the United Nations. Nevertheless, the United Nations continued to make progress on many fronts in its efforts to safeguard peace and advance the economic and social welfare of all peoples through international co-operation. Canada has continued to play an active role in United Nations affairs.