

Section 2.—International Activities, 1963-64

Subsection 1.—Canada and Commonwealth Relations

Membership in the Commonwealth is one of the cornerstones upon which Canadian foreign policy is built, for Canada supports the extension and developments of a strong Commonwealth of Nations and believes that no other association throughout the world has a greater influence for good. Commonwealth membership allows Canada to enjoy an especially close, if perhaps undefinable, relationship with a group of important nations which, despite a diversity of ethnic, economic, racial, religious, cultural and political backgrounds, find usefulness in shared ideals and traditions. Exchanges taking place between Commonwealth countries are characterized by a readiness to understand if not always to agree. Consultations and exchanges of views are the very lifeblood of the Commonwealth; these exchanges are continuous, not only in the capitals of Commonwealth countries but in other capitals, at the United Nations and at international gatherings.

In addition to these continuing consultations at many levels, two special Commonwealth meetings are to be held in 1964. The Third Commonwealth Education Conference is to be held in Ottawa in August of this year, on the invitation of the Canadian Government. This conference is the third of a series of conferences convened primarily to discuss government programs of educational co-operation within the Commonwealth. The Second Conference was held in New Delhi in January of 1962. The Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth will meet in London in July, the twelfth in a series of Prime Ministers' Meetings which have been held at intervals since the end of the Second World War.

During 1963 and early 1964, membership of the Commonwealth increased from 16 to 17 members. Kenya became a member when its independence was achieved in December. Zanzibar achieved independence also in 1963, but in early 1964 joined Tanganyika to form the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. In addition, the Federation of Malaya which had become a member of the Commonwealth in 1957, upon the accession of Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore in 1963 became known as Malaysia. At the end of April 1964, Canada had High Commissioners accredited to all member countries of the Commonwealth.

Canada's overseas aid for developing countries continued to be directed, in the main, to Commonwealth countries through the Colombo Plan, the Canada-West Indies Aid Program, and the Special Commonwealth Africa Aid Program (SCAAP). Canada's total contribution under the Colombo Plan since the Plan's inception exceeds \$400,000,000. Canada aided Commonwealth countries in Africa through SCAAP to a total of \$10,500,000 for the period 1960-63. Approximately \$12,000,000 was made available for aid and technical assistance to Commonwealth Caribbean countries from 1958 to 1963.

Canada is also an active participant in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. At the end of April 1964, there were approximately 220 Commonwealth students in Canada under this Plan and many Canadians were studying in other Commonwealth countries. Canada has also played a significant part in the training and provision of teachers for service in Commonwealth countries and has assisted in plans for co-operation in technical education. As of the end of April 1964, 183 Canadian teachers were serving under Canadian Government aid programs in the less-developed countries of Southeast Asia, Africa and the Caribbean area.

Any chronicle of Commonwealth events for the year 1963-64 must include the visits paid to Canada by distinguished citizens of other Commonwealth countries. In addition to the visit of H.R.H. Princess Alice in September 1963, Commonwealth visitors included the Prime Minister of Britain, the Rt. Hon. Sir Alec Douglas-Home; the Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies; the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Eric Williams; His Excellency the Governor of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, Sir Francis Ibiem; the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaya, Mr. Tun Razak; the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt. Hon. J. McEwen; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Britain, the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler; the Secretary of State for Common-