

Section 2.—International Activities, 1965-66

Subsection 1.—Canada and Commonwealth Relations

The Commonwealth today has been transformed basically from the compact and like-minded family of nations of predominantly European stock which constituted the Commonwealth association from the enactment of the Statute of Westminster to 1947. With its present membership of 23 sovereign states covering about one quarter of the earth's land surface, representing more than 750,000,000 people of many colours, creeds and languages, and including both economically developed and under-developed countries as well as governments committed and uncommitted in the international power groupings, the Commonwealth more accurately reflects the world over which it spreads so widely. The interests of its members extend to all continents and the variety of problems demanding their attention has greatly increased in scarcely more than a decade.

Commonwealth members are enumerated according to the year (if post-1931, noted in brackets) when membership was proclaimed: Britain; Canada; Australia; New Zealand; India (1947); Pakistan (1947); Ceylon (1948); Ghana (1957); Malaya (1957); Nigeria (1960); Cyprus (1961); Sierra Leone (1961); Tanganyika (1961); Jamaica (1962); Trinidad and Tobago (1962); Uganda (1962); Kenya (1963); Malawi (1964); Malta (1964); Zambia (1964); Gambia (1965); Singapore (1965); Guyana (1966). Early in 1964, Tanganyika joined Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania. When Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah joined the Federation in September 1963, Malaya became Malaysia; Singapore separated from Malaysia in August 1965.

Membership in the Commonwealth is one of the fundamental aspects of Canadian foreign policy. Canada has supported the extension and development of a strong Commonwealth, capable of exerting significant influence for international peace and progress. Commonwealth ties give Canada a special relationship with this group of nations which, despite the diversity of their backgrounds, share important ideals and traditions in common. Commonwealth ties are characterized in the main by a spirit of co-operation developed through consultation and exchange of views. These are continuous not only in Commonwealth capitals but in other countries, and also at United Nations and other international gatherings.

In addition to these continuing exchanges at many levels, special meetings are convened for the purpose of discussing and co-ordinating the interests of Commonwealth members in various special fields, and to review international developments in the Commonwealth context. The most important conference of this kind in 1966 was the meeting of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers and Presidents) held in Lagos, Nigeria, Jan. 11-12, to discuss Rhodesia. This was the first such meeting to be held in Africa, the first to be held after the establishment of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the first meeting called to deal with a single political issue.

Canada's external aid for developing countries continued to be directed, in the main, to Commonwealth countries through the Colombo Plan, the Commonwealth Caribbean Program, and the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP). Canada's total contribution under the Colombo Plan since its inception exceeds \$670,000,000. Canada aided Commonwealth countries in Africa through SCAAP to a total of \$38,000,000 for the period from 1960 to the end of March 1966. Approximately \$31,000,000 was made available for aid and technical assistance to Commonwealth Caribbean countries from 1958 to the end of March 1966. During 1965, Canada also provided, on an increased scale, assistance in military training designed to improve the defence capability of certain Commonwealth countries.

Canada is an active participant in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (see pp. 179-180) and during the 1965-66 academic year received 222 students under this Plan, 80 p.c. of them from the developing countries; 77 Canadian students continued their higher education in other Commonwealth countries. Canada is also playing a significant part in the training and provision of teachers for service in Commonwealth countries and