

of its members extend to all continents and the variety of issues demanding attention increased greatly during the 1960s and will undoubtedly continue through the 1970s.

Commonwealth members listed according to the year (if post-1931, noted in parentheses) when membership was proclaimed are as follows: Britain; Canada; Australia; New Zealand; India (1947); Sri Lanka (1948); Ghana (1957); Nigeria (1960); Cyprus (1961); Sierra Leone (1961); Jamaica (1962); Trinidad and Tobago (1962); Uganda (1962); Kenya (1963); Malaysia (1963) – when Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah joined the Federation in 1963, Malaya became Malaysia; Malawi (1964); Malta (1964); Tanzania (1964) – in 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar joined to form the United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia (1964); Gambia (1965); Singapore (1965) – Singapore separated from Malaysia in 1965; Guyana (1966); Botswana (1966); Lesotho (1966); Barbados (1966); Mauritius (1968); Swaziland (1968); Tonga (1970); Western Samoa (1970); Fiji (1970); and Bangladesh (1972). The Commonwealth of the Bahama Islands will become a full member of the Commonwealth after attaining its independence on July 10, 1973. Nauru, which became fully independent in 1968, has “special” membership in the Commonwealth which entitles it to all the advantages of membership except attendance at Heads of Government Conferences. Through their association with Britain, which has retained responsibility for foreign affairs and defence, the six West Indies Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts - Nevis - Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) also have an appropriate relationship with the Commonwealth.

Continuing membership in the Commonwealth has been an important aspect of Canada's foreign policy. It has supported the extension and development of a vigorous and effective Commonwealth capable of exerting a beneficial 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 common ideals and traditions, characterized by a spirit of co-operation developed through consultation and a continuous exchange of views.

The Commonwealth Secretariat was established by a 1965 decision of heads of government and is located in Marlborough House in London. The Secretariat organizes and services official Commonwealth conferences; it facilitates the exchange of information between all member countries and serves as a visible symbol of the co-operative spirit of the Commonwealth. Canada's contribution to the 1971-72 budget of the Secretariat was \$275,699 or 17.9% of the total.

The most important initiative of the Secretariat is the organization of conferences of the Commonwealth Heads of Government; the latest was held in Singapore in January 1971. The next will be hosted by Canada in Ottawa in August 1973. Other Commonwealth conferences held in 1971-72 included the Fifth Commonwealth Education Conference in Canberra, the Third Quinquennial Conference of the Commonwealth Council of the Royal Life Saving Society in London, the annual Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meetings in Nassau and London, the Meeting of Commonwealth Officials on Consular Relations within the Commonwealth in London, and the Meeting of Commonwealth Senior Officials on Techniques of Government and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Conference, both in Ottawa.

4.6.2.2 The French community

Canada is a bilingual country with more than 6 million French-speaking inhabitants. To make the most of this special characteristic internationally, Canada has established close links with other francophone countries. Its bilateral relations with France have developed greatly in recent years through political consultations, parliamentary visits, cultural and scientific exchanges, increased trade, exchanges of government officials and defence production co-operation. To its relations with French-speaking European countries has been added considerable bilateral aid to the French-speaking Third World. A growing proportion of Canadian economic aid has been directed to francophone countries in Africa; in 1972-73 the Canadian International Development Agency allocated more than \$68 million, or 21% of Canada's bilateral aid budget, to this group.

Recognizing the value of ties with an international community of some 30 countries with 150 million inhabitants, Canada has played an active role in developing multilateral co-operation among French-speaking countries. It is a founding member of the *Agence de coopération culturelle et technique* and in 1972 was the host for the first annual meeting of the