

Commonwealth members (with the year when membership was proclaimed in parentheses if post-1931) are as follows: Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, The Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbados (1966), Botswana (1966), Cyprus (1961), Fiji (1970), Gambia (1965), Ghana (1957), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), India (1947), Jamaica (1962), Kenya (1963), Lesotho (1966), Malawi (1964), Malaysia (1963), Malta (1964), Mauritius (1968), Nauru (Special Member), Nigeria (1960), Papua New Guinea (1975), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapore (1965), Sri Lanka (Ceylon) (1948), Swaziland (1968), Tanzania (1964), Tonga (1970), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Uganda (1962), Western Samoa (1970) and Zambia (1964). Nauru has special membership in the Commonwealth with all the advantages of membership except attendance at Heads of Government meetings. Through their association with Britain, which has retained responsibility for foreign affairs and defence, the five West Indies Associated States of Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent are also associated with the Commonwealth, as are the British dependencies and the external territories of Australia and New Zealand in the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Membership in the Commonwealth is an important aspect of Canadian foreign policy. Canada has consistently supported its expansion and development as a vigorous and effective association working for international peace and progress. Canadian objectives have remained constant: to strengthen the association, to encourage more active participation in it by members, and to assist its development as a vehicle for practical cooperation. The organization has no binding rules, and decisions are by consensus rather than formal vote.

The Commonwealth Secretariat in Marlborough House, London, organizes and services official Commonwealth conferences, facilitates the exchange of information between member countries and collates their views. Canada's assessment to the 1976-77 budget of the Secretariat was 19% of the total, or approximately \$607,800. In 1976 Canada contributed over \$9 million to various Commonwealth institutions and programs, with particular emphasis on the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Commonwealth Youth Program and the Commonwealth Foundation.

An important duty of the Secretariat is the organization of Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings such as the one held in Kingston, Jamaica in April-May 1975 and the next in London in mid-1977. Of more than 50 Commonwealth conferences held in 1976, some 20 were in the non-governmental sector, such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Mauritius and the Dalhousie Conference on the Commonwealth and Non-Governmental Bodies. Major governmental meetings included the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting in Canberra, Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in Hong Kong, the Commonwealth Youth Council Meeting in Malta, and the Commonwealth Science Council Meeting, in Colombo.

### 3.6.2.2 Canada and "la Francophonie"

The term "la Francophonie" generally describes countries that are wholly or partly French-speaking — i.e. the French-speaking community. This term has also been used to designate a movement aimed at providing the French-speaking world with an organized framework and functional structures.

To demonstrate abroad the bilingual aspect of Canadian society, the federal government fosters the strengthening of ties with francophone countries. In the last few years relations with French-speaking countries of Europe have been considerably expanded and diversified, complemented by the establishment of ties with the French-speaking countries of the Third World. Development aid remains an important activity.

Canada also participates in multilateral organizations such as the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, of which it is a founding member. At the agency's fourth general conference in Mauritius in November 1975 it was agreed in principle to create a multilateral mechanism to collect voluntary contributions