

been used to increase trade and prosperity. In general, the distribution of the Commonwealth countries through all parts of the world has made it essential to organize their defences on a regional basis providing for full co-operation with friendly foreign countries. As regards North Atlantic defence, for example, Canada and the United Kingdom, as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have worked together in co-operation with the other members of NATO, while the United Kingdom, the Union of South Africa, and Southern Rhodesia have consulted with other countries interested in the defence of Africa. A Conference of the Defence Ministers of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, at which Canada was represented by observers, was held at London in June 1951 to consider defence problems arising in the Middle East and other regions of common concern.

A number of conferences were held to discuss special problems of an economic, scientific or technical character. These included a conference to review the work of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux; meetings on air transport and aeronautical research; gatherings of survey officers, statisticians, auditors-general, and scientists in various special fields; a British Commonwealth Scientific Conference; a British Commonwealth Forestry Conference; and a Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The last two conferences were held at Ottawa.

In addition, Canada is represented on such standing bodies as the Executive Council of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux; the Commonwealth Economic Committee; the Commonwealth Shipping Committee; the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board; the Commonwealth Air Transport Council; the Commonwealth Advisory Aeronautical Research Council; the Commonwealth Liaison Committee; the Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Resources and Geology; the Imperial Institute; and the Imperial War Graves Commission.

All but one of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux are bodies that collect and distribute information on agricultural research and are located in the United Kingdom. The work of the one in Canada, known as the Commonwealth Bureau of Biological Control is of a somewhat different nature; it undertakes to control the spread of noxious insects and plants by such means as the collection and distribution of parasites. The work of these Bureaux was reviewed by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Review Conference held at London in June 1950, which made various recommendations for increasing the usefulness of the Bureaux and ensuring co-operation with United Nations organizations and with interested foreign governments. The Canadian Government is represented on the Executive Council of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux by Mr. J. G. Robertson of the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom.

The Commonwealth Economic Committee issues annual statistics on world production and trade in certain commodities, including dairy produce, meat, fruit and grain crops, and monthly intelligence bulletins on some of these. It has also, from time to time, undertaken special studies on economic questions of interest to Commonwealth governments. The Canadian representative is Mr. F. Hudd of the High Commissioner's Office at London, England.

The Commonwealth Shipping Committee was established in 1920 for the purpose of making special investigations relating to the co-ordination and improvement of ocean-shipping facilities. It includes representatives of industry as well as of governments. The High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom represents the Canadian Government.