

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Lusaka from 1 to 7 August, 1979. Of the 39 countries which attended the Meeting, 27 were represented by their Presidents or Prime Ministers. The President of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, was in the Chair.

2. They sent a message of felicitations to Her Majesty the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. They welcomed with special pleasure the opportunity of meeting in Lusaka the capital of Zambia, an African nation in the forefront of the struggle for human emancipation. They expressed deep appreciation for the excellent arrangements for the Meeting made by the Zambian Government and gratitude for the hospitality extended to them.

3. Heads of Government warmly welcomed their colleagues from Solomon Islands, Dominica, St. Lucia and Kiribati, which had become members of the association since their last Meeting, and extended similar greetings to Tuvalu which had acceded to special membership.

4. Heads of Government, recognising the growing contribution which the Commonwealth is capable of making to the solution of world problems, reaffirmed the importance which they attach to meeting together and the opportunity this gives for consultations aimed at forging a consensus on some of the major issues facing the world.

Lusaka Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial Prejudice

5. Heads of Government approved unanimously and proclaimed the Lusaka Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial Prejudice.

World and Commonwealth Trends

6. In considering political trends since their last Meeting, Heads of Government were conscious of the gravity and complexity of the problems now facing the international community, in particular in South East Asia, Southern Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean. They were concerned that many of these problems, some of long standing, were now assuming critical dimensions. Their analysis of political trends was made against the sombre background of mounting economic difficulties which they subsequently examined in greater detail. They noted that the intractability of international economic problems was increasingly a cause of political instability in many parts of the world and frequently made it difficult for governments to take positive steps within their own societies necessary to promote social and economic justice consistent with respect for basic human rights. In Southern Africa the stubborn persistence of apartheid and racist policies was seen as a matter of grave concern to the Commonwealth and Heads of Government acknowledged that further delay in the satisfactory resolution of that issue could lead to divisions within the Commonwealth itself and jeopardise further the peace and security of the entire region.

7. Focusing on these and other international problems, Heads of Government recognised that no single power or group of powers could any longer impose solutions; lasting solutions required collective action by the international community as a whole. Heads of Government looked to the Commonwealth to play a significant part in upholding shared principles, reconciling differences of approach, harmonising divergent interests and building a more secure basis for world peace and prosperity.

South East Asia

8. Heads of Government reviewed the serious situation in South East Asia resulting from the armed conflicts in Indo-China. They expressed concern at the continuing conflicts and tensions in the region, and the fact that these were being exacerbated by outside powers. They warned that there was a real danger of the conflicts escalating over a wider area.

9. Heads of Government condemned all acts of armed intervention in the region which violated the universally accepted principles of respect for a country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. Affirming the right of the peoples of the region to determine their own future free from outside interference, subversion or coercion, they called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the areas of conflict. Urging all states in South East Asia to develop peaceful, friendly and harmonious relations, Heads of Government noted with approval the efforts being made for the early establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region, and called upon all states to lend their fullest support to these efforts.

Refugees

10. Heads of Government expressed deep concern at the global growth of the international refugee problem. They turned their attention to the particular problems of refugees in Africa, South East Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean.

11. They recalled the longstanding concern of the Commonwealth at the enforced movements of refugees as a result of harassment by the authorities in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. They expressed their concern at the additional burden thus imposed on independent countries in Southern Africa in discharging a humanitarian obligation to receive and support the peoples concerned.

12. Heads of Government expressed grave concern at the enormity of the problem of refugees leaving the countries of Indo-China, in particular Vietnam, arising from the situation in that region and which is causing severe political, socio-economic and security problems for the other countries and territories in South East Asia. They noted that this problem, if unchecked, will have a destabilising effect on the region. They expressed their appreciation for the contribution being made in the South East Asia region by Malaysia and Hong Kong in particular, and the large-scale programmes for resettlement including those being undertaken by Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand. They appealed to all members of the international community to increase their contributions to and actively co-operate with the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for whose operations they expressed their admiration and support.

13. In this regard, they noted with approval the statement of the UN Secretary-General Dr. Waldheim that "the countries of origin must respect the right of emigration and family reunification, while avoiding any action leading to their people departing the country under conditions which would put their lives in jeopardy. This obligation stems from the basic right of individuals to stay in their country or to leave as a matter of free will." They also noted that at the recent UN Geneva Conference on Indo-China Refugees, Vietnam had undertaken to co-operate with the international community in regulating the orderly departure of these refugees. They expressed the hope that Vietnam will continue to show a positive attitude and assist in finding an effective and permanent solution to this refugee problem.

Southern Africa

14. Heads of Government had a frank discussion on the current problems of Southern Africa and their implications for the Commonwealth and the wider international community. While recognising that certain developments since their

Meeting in London have added new dimensions, they remained concerned by the potential dangers inherent in the existing situation. They therefore stressed the urgent need for finding satisfactory solutions to the remaining problems of this region.

15. In relation to the situation in Rhodesia, Heads of Government therefore:

- (a) confirmed that they were wholly committed to genuine black majority rule for the people of Zimbabwe;
- (b) recognised, in this context, that the internal settlement constitution is defective in certain important respects;
- (c) fully accepted that it is the constitutional responsibility of the British Government to grant legal independence to Zimbabwe on the basis of majority rule;
- (d) recognised that the search for a lasting settlement must involve all parties to the conflict;
- (e) were deeply conscious of the urgent need to achieve such a settlement and bring peace to the people of Zimbabwe and their neighbours;
- (f) accepted that independence on the basis of majority rule requires the adoption of a democratic constitution including appropriate safeguards for minorities;
- (g) acknowledged that the government formed under such an independence constitution must be chosen through free and fair elections properly supervised under British Government authority, and with Commonwealth observers;
- (h) welcomed the British Government's indication that an appropriate procedure for advancing towards these objectives would be for them to call a constitutional conference to which all the parties would be invited; and
- (i) consequently, accepted that it must be a major objective to bring about a cessation of hostilities and an end to sanctions as part of the process of implementation of a lasting settlement.

16. Heads of Government stressed that the grave problems afflicting the Southern African region stemmed from the racist policies of the South African régime embodied in the system of apartheid. In order formally to express their abhorrence of all forms of racist policy, wherever and however they might be manifested, they had agreed to make a special declaration on this subject. This has been published as the Lusaka Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial Prejudice. This declaration reaffirms the Commonwealth rejection of all policies designed to perpetuate apartheid, racial segregation or other policies based on theories that racial groups are or may be inherently superior or inferior.

17. Heads of Government deplored South Africa's continued refusal to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions providing for Namibia's independence and the UN Secretary-General's proposals outlined in his report of 26 February, 1979. They commended the positive response of those Commonwealth Governments which had been requested by the Secretary-General to provide military or civilian personnel as part of the proposed UN Transitional Assistance Group for Namibia.

18. Heads of Government condemned the steps taken by South Africa to establish an illegal National Assembly inside Namibia following the holding of the so-called elections last December. They declared that these developments contravened the relevant Security Council resolutions and were in defiance of

the efforts of the international community to bring to an end South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and to secure for its people genuine independence.

19. Heads of Government recalled that in repeatedly condemning South Africa's policies, the UN General Assembly and Security Council had warned South Africa that it faced international action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter if it did not agree to the implementation of the UN proposals for Namibia. They therefore called upon South Africa to comply with the decisions of the international community.

20. Taking note that two of their members had played a role as part of a Five Power initiative with the South African authorities in attempting to secure South Africa's co-operation in implementing the decisions of the Security Council with regard to Namibia, Heads of Government expressed the earnest hope that this effort would contribute to expediting Namibia's passage to genuine independence.

21. Meeting for the first time in full Session in Africa, Heads of Government paid tribute to the outstanding contribution of African countries in general and African Commonwealth countries in particular, to the development of a more humanitarian international community and to the evolution of the Commonwealth along relevant and enlightened lines. They paid special tribute to the Front-Line States and to Nigeria for their active support to the various initiatives seeking negotiated solutions to the problems of Rhodesia and Namibia.

22. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the effective manner in which the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa had discharged its responsibilities in the past two years. Having considered its Report, Heads of Government endorsed those recommendations which were put forward unanimously. They authorised the Committee to continue its work, and to intensify its collaboration with the UN on all questions of mutual concern and interest.

23. In endorsing the recommendations of the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa regarding Commonwealth humanitarian assistance to Southern Africa, Heads of Government noted with approval the contribution of the Commonwealth, made both bilaterally and multilaterally, to international assistance for manpower development for Zimbabwe and Namibia. In this context, Heads of Government commended the Secretariat's assistance programmes as cost-effective and efficiently administered and agreed that they should be expanded in scope subject to the availability of resources.

24. Heads of Government noted with concern that as the conflict has escalated in Zimbabwe, its effects have increasingly spilled over into the neighbouring Commonwealth states of Botswana and Zambia as well as into Mozambique. The Meeting called on the international community to increase its assistance to the Front-Line States in order to alleviate the damage to their development caused by the persistent problems of Southern Africa. Heads of Government, noting with approval the technical assistance programme financed by the Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique and recognising that the Government of Mozambique would welcome continued Commonwealth assistance, agreed that the Fund should continue to remain available to member Governments as a channel for such assistance. The Meeting concluded that, while significant bilateral and multilateral assistance is already being provided to the Front-Line States and Southern Africa to which individual Commonwealth countries make an important contribution, the needs of the region justify further international assistance on a substantial scale. Against the background of a collective Commonwealth commitment and in response to the requests of member Governments, the Secretary-General was asked to supplement the activities of other international agencies by assisting in contingency planning including regional studies in anticipation of the emergence of independent and internationally accepted governments in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Cyprus

25. Reviewing developments concerning Cyprus since their last Meeting, Heads of Government noted with satisfaction and endorsed the Kyprianou-Denktaş Agreement of 19 May, 1979 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General but expressed their grave concern at the failure to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem.

26. They regretted the lack of progress in the inter-communal talks which should be based on the said agreement and expressed the hope that these talks could be resumed at the earliest possible date with a view to reaching a just and lasting solution on the basis of the UN Resolutions relevant to the question of Cyprus and in accordance with the Kyprianou-Denktaş Agreement of 19 May, 1979.

27. Heads of Government also regretted the non-implementation of General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions on Cyprus. They called once more for the urgent implementation of General Assembly Resolution 3212 (XXIX) as endorsed by Security Council Resolution 365 (1974) which, together with subsequent UN Resolutions were to form the basis of settling the Cyprus question.

28. They expressed concern at the fact that foreign troops still occupied part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and stressed the urgent need for the voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes in safety, respect for the human rights of all Cypriots, including the tracing of and accounting for those missing on both sides, and non-interference in the demographic structure of the Republic of Cyprus.

29. They noted the proposal of the President of the Republic of Cyprus presented at the Tenth Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament for the total demilitarisation and disarmament of the Republic of Cyprus which was put forward as a significant contribution to the search for a solution of the Cyprus problem.

30. They reaffirmed their solidarity with the Government and people of Cyprus and in this respect reiterated their determination to help in the achievement of a political settlement based on the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus.

31. Heads of Government believing further that the Commonwealth Committee on Cyprus, established in 1975 at their Meeting in Kingston, could play a more constructive role in the achievement of a just and lasting solution of the problem of Cyprus, decided to ask the Commonwealth Secretary-General to convene the Committee at Ministerial level whenever appropriate and under the same terms of reference.

Belize

32. Heads of Government reviewed developments over Belize and noted with appreciation the work of the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize. They reaffirmed their full support for the legitimate aspirations of the people of Belize for early and secure independence on the basis of territorial integrity, and again acknowledged that any settlement of the question must command the full consent of the Government and people of Belize. Heads of Government renewed their commitment to the search for an acceptable solution and in this regard requested the Committee, consonant with its mandate, to intensify its efforts to mobilise even further international support for Belize. Noting that there were on-going talks with Guatemala and bearing in mind the special responsibilities of Britain as the administering power, they welcomed the British Government's readiness to resume negotiations with a view to producing an internationally acceptable settlement in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the UN.

Middle East

33. Heads of Government reviewed the serious situation in the Middle East with particular reference to the central question of Palestine. Recalling the relevant UN Resolutions they emphasised that a just and permanent peace can only be achieved on the basis of a fully comprehensive solution which upholds the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to a homeland. In this respect the Commonwealth members of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People drew particular attention to the Committee's recommendations. Heads of Government expressed their grave concern that the Palestinian problem is still unresolved and that it continues to pose a serious threat to peace and security in the Middle East, the Mediterranean and throughout the world. Most Heads of Government recognised that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people struggling justifiably for an independent Palestinian State.

Mediterranean

34. Heads of Government emphasised that the security of Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East were inter-related and that Europe has a contribution to make to the search for just and durable solutions to conflicts in the region. In this respect, the further implementation of the Mediterranean Chapter agreed upon and incorporated in the Helsinki Final Act, four years ago, would enhance both European and Mediterranean security and co-operation through peace, thus contributing to the development of security and co-operation throughout the area. Heads of Government agreed that greater stability in the Mediterranean would enable the countries of the Region and Europe to pursue freer and closer co-operation amongst themselves and also with Commonwealth members.

Indian Ocean

35. Heads of Government reviewed developments in the Indian Ocean region since their last Meeting. They noted, with regret, that not much progress had been made in implementing the UN Declaration of 1971 on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They also noted that Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean, instead of decreasing, had actually increased. They urged the Great Powers and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to co-operate more actively with the littoral and hinterland States and with the Ad Hoc Committee of the UN for the implementing of this Declaration.

36. Heads of Government noted, with satisfaction, that the US and the USSR have agreed that their representatives would meet to discuss the resumption of talks, which they hoped would contribute to the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They expressed the wish that these talks would be resumed early.

South Asia

37. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that the countries of the South Asian subcontinent were making earnest efforts to increase co-operation among themselves, thus contributing positively to stability and peace in the area.

Economic matters

38. Heads of Government reviewed developments in the world economy since they last met in London in 1977. They noted with deep concern the deterioration since then in the world economic situation. A continuation of this trend would pose grave problems for all countries. The developing countries, especially the poorest among them, were facing particularly grim prospects and there was a real danger that unless remedial measures were taken urgently, existing disparities in income and wealth between the rich and poor countries would widen further. They noted that a large part of the world's population continued to live in intolerable poverty with little hope for a better future. They

recognised that this persistence of mass poverty further highlighted the urgent need for a more rational and equitable economic order. They reaffirmed their commitment to structural changes and policies to improve growth in order to reduce poverty and increase living standards.

39. Heads of Government noted that the increasingly interdependent world economic system depended for its healthy functioning on the efficient deployment of global resources and affording all countries an equitable opportunity to participate in it. This would require acceptance by all of structural change and the adoption of policies to effect such change and to improve prospects for global economic growth, the restraint of inflation and the fuller employment of human and material resources. Higher rates of growth were particularly urgent for the developing countries.

40. Heads of Government noted that the period since 1973 had witnessed slower growth in international economic activity and in international trade by comparison with the previous quarter century. Recent assessments by international organisations for the medium term outlook were for a continuation of slow growth or even a further deterioration in growth prospects.

41. Heads of Government considered that a continuation of slow growth in the global economy would further damage the prospects for reducing poverty and raising living standards in developing countries. Such a continuation would also be contrary to the economic interests of developed countries and could have adverse effects on the economic social and political structures of all countries. These circumstances called for bolder endeavours and a new approach to the formulation of policies and to improving the public understanding of the need for change in the countries participating in the interdependent international system. For the decision-making process to be sufficiently responsive, it would require better information and involvement at the highest political level.

42. Against this background, Heads of Government requested the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth report by a group of eight to ten independent experts from Commonwealth countries chosen from appropriate fields. Their task would be to investigate and report on the factors inhibiting structural change and a sustained improvement in economic growth in both developed and developing countries, in particular the acceleration of growth in developing countries. The report, which should be clearly focused, should assess the importance of and the relationship between possible constraints, such as protection and adjustment policies, inflation, subsidies both on production and exports, fluctuations in commodity prices, availability and cost of energy resources, including oil, and factors inhibiting investment, transfer of technology and international flows of official and private resources.

43. The report should identify specific measures by which developed and developing countries, Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth, might act to reduce or eliminate such constraints as a matter of urgency. They recognised that this would require attention at the highest political level. The group, which would be assembled by the Secretary-General after appropriate consultation with member governments, should report in time to assist Commonwealth Governments in their preparation for the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1980.

44. Heads of Government expressed concern about the serious balance of payments problems faced by many developing countries and some developed countries also. They noted that, among other serious and persisting factors, recent developments in the oil market had aggravated these problems. This would call for appropriate adjustment policies and might necessitate emergency assistance in many cases. They recognised that orderly arrangements for financing these deficits were in the interest of all countries and therefore constituted an important challenge to the international community. They welcomed recent agreement on an increase in the IMF quotas, new allocations of SDRs and the establishment

of the Supplementary Financing Facility since it represented a step towards the goal of much-needed monetary reform. They also welcomed prospects for an early enlargement of the capital of the IBRD, and stressed the need to keep under close review the resources available from international institutions.

45. Heads of Government noted the new guidelines on conditionality which had been adopted by the IMF. While all countries accepted the need for reasonable conditions, and the need to adopt appropriate adjustment policies, it was important to have regard to individual domestic, social and political circumstances. These considerations are of especial importance to small island developing and other specially disadvantaged states. They accordingly recognised the need for the international financial institutions to keep their operational policies under review.

46. Heads of Government discussed the effects of recent developments in the field of energy on the growth prospects of developed and developing countries. Mindful of the serious effects on the world economy of recent trends, they noted that the developing countries consumed only a small proportion of the world's oil and this mostly for essential purposes in agriculture, industry and transport. In discussing the relationship between the supply and cost of energy they recognised the particularly difficult economic problem that the energy deficient developing countries were currently having to face. Heads of Government noted that many countries had embarked upon major programmes to conserve energy and reduce their dependence on imported oil. They called upon the international community to develop the necessary institutional mechanisms to deal with this most important subject and to ensure that the necessary financial and technological resources were mobilised to ensure rapid development of both renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. The Heads of Government noted that special measures would need to be taken to assist the energy deficient developing countries to reduce this deficiency and the effect it is having upon their economic development.

47. Heads of Government noted that the Multilateral Trade Negotiations had been concluded since their last Meeting and that agreement had been reached on tariffs and some non-tariff barriers. Heads of Government recalled the hope expressed at their last Meeting that the Negotiations would provide significant benefits to developing countries. They recognised that the results fell far short of the aspirations of the developing countries. They noted that there had been little or no progress on liberalisation of world agricultural trade and trade in tropical products. On the other hand, they noted that progress had been made in the liberalisation of trade in industrial products. While noting failure so far to reach agreement on a safeguard code, they expressed the hope that the negotiation of such a code, satisfactory to all concerned, would be completed without delay. They agreed that countries should not take unilateral action against imports in a manner inconsistent with established international trade rules. They noted that the danger of protectionism was ever present and urged countries to resist protectionist pressures wherever they arise. They believed this would assist the efforts of developing countries to secure better and more stable access to the markets of industrialised countries, and hoped that every effort would be made to achieve this.

48. Heads of Government noted the strong dissatisfaction of the Commonwealth African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries with the outcome of the negotiation for a successor to the Lomé Convention. This concerned many aspects of the Lomé Convention, including the dissatisfaction of the mineral exporting ACP countries with the proposed mineral assistance scheme and its failure to deal with the urgent problem of unstable export earnings for minerals.

49. They reviewed developments in the North/South dialogue, particularly the results of the Fifth Session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD) in Manila. They expressed disappointment at the lack of faster progress towards more effective international co-operation in the areas of trade and finance, and concern at the slow pace of recent international negotiations on specific measures to promote the evolution of a new international order from which all countries could benefit. They acknowledged, however, that one element of progress had been the agreement regarding the basic elements of the Common Fund. They welcomed this development and noted with satisfaction the contribution made by the Commonwealth in helping to bring about a convergence of positions on the Common Fund following initiatives taken at their last Meeting. They urged early completion of final arrangements for the establishment of the Fund as scheduled, including pledges to the Second Window. They stressed the need to accelerate the setting up of effective international commodity agreements, in respect of commodities of export interest to developing countries, to stabilise commodity prices, and to fulfil the objectives of the Common Fund. They recognised the need for effective mechanisms for consultations between producers to be developed within the framework of the Commonwealth.

50. Heads of Government noted that the Final Report of the Team of Industrial Specialists had been completed and considered by a Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers on industrial co-operation held in Bangalore in March 1979. They acknowledged that effective industrialisation was an essential element in development strategy and that international action must support and reinforce policies to accelerate the pace of industrialisation in developing countries. In this context, they endorsed the Commonwealth Action Programme agreed at the Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers. They approved the establishment of an Industrial Development Unit in the CFTC with proposed additional financial resources of £5 million for the initial three-year period, and requested the Secretary-General to proceed with the establishment of a Unit with functions and initial staffing as proposed by him.

51. Heads of Government expressed concern over the international food security situation. They agreed that a meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of Agriculture and Food be held before or during the forthcoming FAO Council Meeting. The meeting could usefully encompass such essential elements as food security, production and distribution, as well as the transfer of technology for the manufacture of agricultural inputs. To facilitate the discussion at the proposed Ministerial Meeting the Secretariat was asked to prepare a study of these issues.

52. Developed Commonwealth countries recognised the importance of increased and stable flows of aid, finance and investment to developing countries. Heads of Government expressed deep concern at the declining trend in Official Development Assistance in relation to national income, having regard to the internationally agreed 0.7 per cent target. They called for further improvement in the terms and conditions of aid, particularly for poor countries. In this connection, they noted with satisfaction the improvement effected by major Commonwealth donor countries in the terms of their aid to developing countries.

53. Heads of Government welcomed the opportunity to discuss for the first time the special disadvantages that beset the growing number of smaller member countries, particularly the island developing countries and certain other specially disadvantaged member countries. They agreed that in order to offset the disadvantages of small size, isolation and scarce resources which severely limit the capacity of such countries to achieve their development objectives or to pursue their national interests in a wider international context, special measures of support were required. They noted in particular the growing needs of small island states for specialised assistance to enable them to take effective advantage of the resources within their 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zones. In order to facilitate the exploitation of such resources, they hoped for early completion of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in a manner which would reflect in a balanced way the interests of all countries.

54. Heads of Government considered a memorandum by the Secretary-General analysing the problems of island developing and other specially disadvantaged countries, and proposing a wide range of measures designed to supplement existing bilateral and multilateral assistance to these countries. They commended the memorandum as a constructive basis for practical action. They requested the Secretary-General to pursue the programme of action recommended for the Secretariat, as resources permit and recipient countries request, and urged member Governments carefully to consider implementing those measures recommended. Heads of Government believed that the Commonwealth could thus respond both multilaterally and bilaterally to the special needs of smaller and specially disadvantaged members. They requested the Secretary-General, acting in close consultation with the countries concerned, to convene as necessary a committee to make recommendations on additional or improved programmes of assistance for consideration by Commonwealth Governments.

55. Heads of Government reaffirmed their belief in the value of regional co-operation as a means of promoting accelerated growth and development. They noted the active participation of Commonwealth countries in a wide range of regional associations in five continents and agreed that the Secretariat should continue to assist efforts directed at fostering and strengthening regional and inter-regional co-operation. Recognising the valuable contribution which Commonwealth consultation at the regional level could make in enhancing co-operation on matters of Commonwealth interest and promoting Commonwealth objectives, the Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the first meeting of Heads of Government of the Asia/Pacific region held in Sydney in February 1978. They commended the initiatives flowing from the Sydney Meeting and hoped that progress in the consultative and working groups that had been established would contribute to the success of the next Heads of Government Regional Meeting in New Delhi in 1980.

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

56. Heads of Government recorded their appreciation of the work of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and in particular of the expeditious and flexible way in which the Fund responded to a wide variety of requests. They agreed that, while maintaining its reputation for informality and cost-effectiveness, the Fund expressed in a practical way the ideals of mutual assistance and functional co-operation and thus strengthened multilateral links amongst Commonwealth countries and peoples. Recognising the need of the Fund to grow in order to maintain its ability to meet the expanding requirements of Commonwealth Governments, and to be innovative in response to new needs, including housing, urbanisation and protection of the environment, Heads of Government called for a positive approach by all members to the provision of additional real resources and they welcomed the intention expressed at the Meeting by a number of developed and developing countries to make significant increases in their contributions.

International Year of the Child

57. Cognisant of the fact that their Meeting was taking place during the International Year of the Child, Heads of Government recognised that the future economic and social wellbeing of all Commonwealth countries depends in large measure on the extent to which the social needs and aspirations of children are fulfilled. They agreed that all future development planning should reflect this important priority.

Commonwealth Youth Programme

58. Heads of Government reaffirmed the original objectives of the Commonwealth Youth Programme and noted that it was the only Programme providing for extensive inter-governmental co-operation in this field. They recognised that the need for mobilising young people to assist in the development process was

even more pressing now than when the Programme was first launched in 1973. It was therefore a matter for concern that inadequate funding of the Programme was severely limiting its capacity to assist Commonwealth Governments in a crucial area of co-operation. In commending the work of the three regional centres in providing essential training for young administrators and field workers it was recognised that unless the Programme received more funds this vital aspect of its activities would be placed in jeopardy.

59. Heads of Government strongly endorsed the request of the Secretary-General for an increase of at least one-third in pledges to the Commonwealth Youth Programme. They agreed that the funds available to the Programme for the biennium 1980-82 should be increased to £1 million per annum. In determining its minimum voluntary contribution to the target figure they suggested that each Government might be guided by its assessed percentage contribution to the Commonwealth Secretariat's administration budget and that all member Governments should endeavour to increase their pledges to make good the deficit. They also agreed that the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council at its meeting early in 1980 should review the management, budget, structure, activities and future direction of the Programme.

Commonwealth Foundation

60. Heads of Government commended the cost-effectiveness and imaginative work of the Commonwealth Foundation in developing and strengthening professional co-operation throughout the Commonwealth. They agreed that the Foundation's mandate should, subject to a review of its priorities, be expanded as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Relationships between the Official and the Unofficial Commonwealth in areas including culture, information, social welfare and rural development. In order to make good the erosive effects of inflation, and to permit the envisaged expansion in the Foundation's activities, the target for the Foundation's income was set at £1.1 million, although it was recognised that realisable resources were unlikely to exceed £900,000 in 1979-1980.

The Official and Unofficial Commonwealth

61. Heads of Government considered the Report of the Advisory Committee on relationships between the official and the unofficial Commonwealth and endorsed the conclusion that non-governmental organisations were an under-utilised resource. They agreed that official Commonwealth bodies at all levels, national, international and regional, should make a determined drive to establish regular exchanges with the unofficial sector. In this way the energies and expertise of non-governmental organisations would be more effectively harnessed to programmes of social and economic development, and to increasing information, understanding and appreciation of the Commonwealth among the general public. At the national level, Governments should take appropriate measures to improve contact with NGOs and to channel assistance to and through them. They requested the Secretary-General to encourage Commonwealth consultative bodies dealing with technical and professional matters to invite representatives of NGOs to meetings in an observer capacity.

Women and Development

62. Heads of Government noted that in conformity with the decision taken at their London Meeting in 1977, the Secretary-General had carried out an assessment of all Secretariat programmes with a view to ensuring that appropriate provision was made for women both as participants in and as beneficiaries of such programmes.

63. Heads of Government also noted that the review revealed scope for greater involvement of women in Secretariat programmes and for those programmes to be more relevant to the needs of women. They recognised that to achieve significant and quick progress in this area a focal point was needed within

the Secretariat to assist the Secretary-General in responding to identified needs and priorities of Governments and help the Secretariat to plan its programmes so as to take full account of the needs of women. They, therefore, agreed that an Adviser to the Secretary-General be appointed, with such supporting staff as were necessary, to co-ordinate and monitor action in this area.

64. It was recognised, however, that to a large extent progress depended on the policies of member Governments. In particular Governments should be encouraged to ensure that women played their full part in activities organised and training programmes funded by the Secretariat, and that in their requests for assistance, development projects which would be of direct benefit to women should receive due priority.

Commonwealth Human Rights Commission

65. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance attached by Commonwealth Governments to the observance of human rights proclaimed in the Singapore Declaration and other international instruments and welcomed in principle the initiative by the Government of The Gambia for the establishment of a Commonwealth Human Rights Commission. They decided that Governments be urged by the Secretary-General to communicate to him by the date of the next Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting, the views requested on the subject by Law Ministers at their Winnipeg Meeting in August 1977. They also requested the Secretary-General to appoint a suitably qualified and representative Working Party to make recommendations for the consideration of Commonwealth Governments.

Commonwealth Film and Television Institute

66. Heads of Government welcomed in principle the proposal by the Government of Cyprus for the establishment of a Commonwealth Film and Television Institute which would operate as a non-governmental institution. They invited the Secretary-General to undertake, with relevant Commonwealth institutions, a detailed study for the feasibility of the proposal and report to Commonwealth Governments, if possible within a year.

Communication and Media in the Commonwealth

67. Heads of Government endorsed the establishment of a select committee to identify the most pressing communication and media problems, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries, as a basis for the identification of regional and national communications priorities in Commonwealth countries and of suitable forms of practical co-operation to meet these problems. They asked the Secretary-General to determine, in consultation with Commonwealth Governments, the size and composition of the select committee bearing in mind the need to obtain a representative cross-section of Commonwealth opinion. The Committee could include representatives not only of Commonwealth Governments but also of relevant Commonwealth non-governmental organisations.

68. Heads of Government acknowledged the desirability of expanding media exchanges between Commonwealth countries and proposed that such exchanges be co-ordinated by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Governments concerned, and on the basis of voluntary contributions.

Report of the Secretary-General

69. Heads of Government commended the Seventh Report of the Secretary-General and noted with appreciation the progress made in various areas of Commonwealth activity since their last Meeting.

Next Meeting

70. Heads of Government accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of Australia to hold their next Meeting in Australia in 1981.

ANNEX TO FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

LUSAKA DECLARATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH ON RACISM AND RACIAL PREJUDICE

We, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, recalling the Declaration of Commonwealth Principles made at Singapore on 22 January, 1971 and the statement on Apartheid in Sport, issued in London on 15 June, 1977, have decided to proclaim our desire to work jointly as well as severally for the eradication of all forms of racism and racial prejudice.

The Commonwealth is an institution devoted to the promotion of international understanding and world peace, and to the achievement of equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, sex, creed or political belief, and is committed to the eradication of the dangerous evils of racism and racial prejudice.

We now, therefore, proclaim this Lusaka Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial Prejudice.

United in our desire to rid the world of the evils of racism and racial prejudice, we proclaim our faith in the inherent dignity and worth of the human person and declare that—

- (i) the peoples of the Commonwealth have the right to live freely in dignity and equality, without any distinction or exclusion based on race, colour, sex, descent, or national or ethnic origin;
- (ii) while everyone is free to retain diversity in his or her culture and lifestyle, this diversity does not justify the perpetuation of racial prejudice or racially discriminatory practices;
- (iii) everyone has the right to equality before the law and equal justice under the law;
- (iv) everyone has the right to effective remedies and protection against any form of discrimination based on the grounds of race, colour, sex, descent, or national or ethnic origin.

We reject as inhuman and intolerable all policies designed to perpetuate apartheid, racial segregation or other policies based on theories that racial groups are or may be inherently superior or inferior.

We reaffirm that it is the duty of all the peoples of the Commonwealth to work together for the total eradication of the infamous policy of apartheid which is internationally recognised as a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind and the very existence of which is an affront to humanity.

We agree that everyone has the right to protection against acts of incitement to racial hatred and discrimination, whether committed by individuals, groups or other organisations.

We affirm that there should be no discrimination based on race, colour, sex, descent or national or ethnic origin in the acquisition or exercise of the right to vote; in the field of civil rights or access to citizenship; or in the economic, social or cultural fields, particularly education, health, employment, occupation, housing, social security and cultural life.

We attach particular importance to ensuring that children shall be protected from practices which may foster racism or racial prejudice. Children have the right to be brought up and educated in a spirit of tolerance and understanding so as to be able to contribute fully to the building of future societies based on justice and friendship.

We believe that those groups in societies who may be especially disadvantaged because of residual racist attitudes are entitled to the fullest protection of the law. We recognise that the history of the Commonwealth and its diversity require that special attention should be paid to the problems of indigenous minorities. We recognise that the same special attention should be paid to the problems of immigrants, immigrant workers and refugees.

We agree that special measures may in particular circumstances be required to advance the development of disadvantaged groups in society. We recognise that the effects of colonialism or racism in the past may make desirable special provisions for the social and economic enhancement of indigenous populations.

Inspired by the principles of freedom and equality which characterise our association, we accept the solemn duty of working together to eliminate racism and racial prejudice. This duty involves the acceptance of the principle that positive measures may be required to advance the elimination of racism, including assistance to those struggling to rid themselves and their environment of the practice.

Being aware that legislation alone cannot eliminate racism and racial prejudice, we endorse the need to initiate public information and education policies designed to promote understanding, tolerance, respect and friendship among peoples and racial groups.

We are particularly conscious of the importance of the contribution the media can make to human rights and the eradication of racism and racial prejudice by helping to eliminate ignorance and misunderstanding between people and by drawing attention to the evils which afflict humanity. We affirm the importance of truthful presentation of facts in order to ensure that the public are fully informed of the dangers presented by racism and racial prejudice.

In accordance with established principles of International Law and, in particular, the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, we affirm that everyone is, at all times and in all places, entitled to be protected in the enjoyment of the right to be free of racism and racial prejudice.

We believe that the existence in the world of apartheid and racial discrimination is a matter of concern to all human beings. We recognise that we share an international responsibility to work together for the total eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination.

We note that racism and racial prejudice, wherever they occur, are significant factors contributing to tension between nations and thus inhibit peaceful progress and development. We believe that the goal of the eradication of racism stands as a critical priority for governments of the Commonwealth, committed as they are to the promotion of the ideals of peaceful and happy lives for their people.

We intend that the Commonwealth, as an international organisation with a fundamental and deeprooted attachment to principles of freedom and equality, should co-operate with other organisations in the fulfilment of these principles. In particular the Commonwealth should seek to enhance the co-ordination of its activities with those of other organisations similarly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.