



PRIME MINISTER

14 March 1983

For Media

COMMONWEALTH DAY

Commonwealth member countries today commemorate this unique association of countries which vary widely in their geography and racial and cultural backgrounds.

My Government sees the Commonwealth as an instrument for peace and understanding, and for the political, social and economic advancement of all its members. I have written to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Ramphal, in response to his message of congratulations to me following the election, to inform him that the Government will aim particularly to develop relationships within the Commonwealth in a manner beneficial to the less advantaged member countries.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi from 23-30 November, will provide a most useful opportunity to pursue this objective.