

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

COMMUNIQUE FROM LANCASTER HOUSE

The following is the text of the communique issued from Lancaster House -

"At their meetings this week, the Commonwealth Prime Ministers have discussed questions affecting South Africa. On 13th March, the Prime Minister of South Africa informed the meeting that, following the plebiscite in October, 1960, the appropriate constitutional steps were now being taken to introduce a Republican form of constitution in the Union, and that it was the desire of the Union Government that South Africa should remain in the Commonwealth as a Republic. In connection with this application the meeting also discussed with the consent of the Prime Minister of South Africa the racial policy followed by the Union Government.

The Prime Minister of South Africa informed the other Prime Ministers this evening that in the light of the views expressed on behalf of other member governments, and the indications of their future intentions regarding the racial policy of the Union Government, he had decided to withdraw his application for South Africa's continuing membership of the Commonwealth as a republic."

CANBERRA,

16th March, 1961.