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Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government, Kingston, Jamaica, April/May 1975.

Final Communique.

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Kingston from 29 April to 6 May. All Commonwealth countries were represented twenty-eight by their Presidents or Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister of Jamaica was in the Chair.
2. This was the first Heads of Government Meeting to be held in the Caribbean. Heads of Government expressed their gratitude to Commonwealth Caribbean Governments and in particular to the Prime Minister of Jamaica for the warm hospitality provided by his Government.
3. Heads of Government extended a cordial greeting to the Prime Minister of Grenada whose country had become a member of the Commonwealth since the previous meeting. They affirmed that a request from Papua New Guinea for Commonwealth membership on the attainment of its independence would be welcomed.
4. Heads of Government paid tribute to the memory of the late Norman Kirk, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and recalled with respect and affection his deep and practical concern for humanity and his outstanding personal contribution to the development of the modern Commonwealth.
5. Heads of Government reaffirmed the value they attach to these meetings and expressed satisfaction with the constructive approach and mutual confidence of their deliberations. They noted with approval the increasing use being made of Commonwealth machinery to further the principles of the Commonwealth Declaration and to promote consultation, co-operation and collaborative action across and within regions. Such consultation formed an important part of the contribution Commonwealth countries make to the development of a new pattern of international relations which takes account of the significant shifts in political and economic power. Heads of Government urged that the Commonwealth initiatives already taken to this end should be intensified so as to promote peace and security, economic and social justice and harmony among races.

6. The reduction of continuing unacceptable economic disparities, the shifting balance of political and economic power, and colonialism and racialism in Southern Africa, were the main preoccupations of Heads of Government in their discussions.

7. Heads of Government recalled the statement in the Declaration of Commonwealth principles: "We believe that the wide disparities in wealth now existing between different sections of mankind are too great to be tolerated", and pledged themselves to do all in their power to promote a new and equitable economic order.

#### World and Commonwealth Trends

8. Heads of Government reviewed political developments in the world which had occurred since they last met, in the light of the varied interests and concerns of member countries. They acknowledged the contribution of the spirit of detente to a measure of relaxation in international tensions and called for its universal application. They noted, however, that there were some crisis areas in the world where peace and stability were not yet secured and which were still subject to super power rivalry and interference. They stressed that the maintenance of peace and stability could not be left to arrangements between the super powers but was the responsibility to the entire international community. Heads of Government laid particular emphasis on the opportunities for the Commonwealth to make a constructive contribution to the problems of Southern Africa and underlined the special responsibility of Commonwealth member countries to work together in the search for a resolution of the situation in Rhodesia.

#### Disarmament

9. Heads of Government expressed their concern at the continued testing and proliferation of nuclear weapons and reaffirmed the need for urgent measures to facilitate a comprehensive ban on all nuclear weapons tests as one essential step towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

#### Cyprus

10. Heads of Government, deeply concerned over the continuation of the Cyprus crisis, expressed their solidarity with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and 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. They reaffirmed their support for the General Assembly Resolution 3212 (XXIX) and Security Council's Resolutions 365 (1974) and 367 (1975) and in particular they called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from the Republic of Cyprus, for the taking of urgent measures for the return of all the refugees to their homes in safety and for the continued efforts through the

intercommunal talks to reach freely and mutually acceptable political settlement. They note the spirit of goodwill with which the Government of Cyprus approached the resumption of the intercommunal talks under the personal auspices and direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and expressed the hope that these would be fruitful.

11. Heads of Government, as a concrete expression of their interest and concern for a fellow Commonwealth country, agreed to establish a Committee consisting of representatives of the Governments of Australia, Britain, Guyana, India, Kenya, Malta, Nigeria and Zambia to meet with the Commonwealth Secretary-General as early as possible, to follow developments concerning Cyprus, make recommendations and assist in every possible way towards the early implementation of the above-mentioned United Nations resolutions.

#### Middle East

12. Heads of Government expressed concern at the renewed danger of conflict in the Middle East. They re-emphasised the need for the establishment of a durable peace in the area as a matter of urgency and urged all parties to renew their efforts to achieve this objective. To this end Heads of Government affirmed their support for the relevant United Nations Resolutions on the Middle East and their belief that to ensure success it was necessary that the authentic and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people participate in the forthcoming peace negotiations in Geneva.

#### Indian Ocean

13. Noting that the Indian Ocean was a region of special interest to a significant number of Commonwealth countries, Heads of Government re-affirmed the desirability of ensuring that it remain an area of peace and stability. Serious concern was expressed about the increase in naval activity in the Indian Ocean Area on the part of the great powers and the establishment and expansion there of military installations. Heads of Government called upon all nations, and particularly the great powers most directly concerned, to work towards the implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

#### South Asia

14. The Heads of Government noted that positive steps had been taken in the process of normalisation among the countries of the South Asian sub-continent. However, they expressed their grave concern at the impediment to normalisation of relations posed by certain outstanding problems resulting in the aggravation of economic hardship and the retardation of the process of national reconstruction in Bangladesh. These problems include the repatriation of nationals and the sharing of assets. Heads of Government

expressed the hope that the problems will be resolved expeditiously and satisfactorily through discussions among the countries concerned in the larger interest of peace and stability in the region

#### Indo-China

15. Heads of Government welcomed the end of the prolonged war in Indo-China, urged countries in a position to do so to contribute to international assistance for the urgent tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction and looked forward to the new governments of the region playing their full part in the community of nations.

#### The Caribbean

16. Heads of Government strongly reaffirmed the right of people in each country to choose the form of government which they considered best able to achieve their social, economic and political goals.

#### Belize

Heads of Government offered their full support for the aspirations of the people of Belize for early independence. Noting that talks had recently been resumed with Guatemala, and bearing in mind the special responsibilities of Britain as the administering power, Heads of Government urged the parties to take all necessary action for a speedy solution of the problem, which could be endorsed by the international community through the United Nations, in accordance with the principle of the self-determination of peoples as enshrined in the charter of the United Nations.

#### Cuba

Heads of Government expressed the hope that all countries would now normalise their relations with Cuba and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that state and the right of its people to the government of their choice.

#### Southern Africa

17. Heads of Government had a thorough and constructive discussion of the changing situation in Southern Africa and its implications for the Commonwealth. They considered that the imminent independence of Mozambique and Angola had radically altered the balance of forces in the area and tributes were paid to the liberation movements who had contributed so decisively to this result.

18. Heads of Government re-emphasized that the objective for Rhodesia was independence on the basis of majority rule. They welcomed the initiatives taken by the Heads of Government of Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia and the President of Frelimo to achieve this objective by peaceful means if possible. The Heads of Government, meeting informally, heard a statement by Bishop Muzorewa,

President of the African National Council. The meeting noted that the nationalist movement now united in the African National Council was seeking with sincerity and determination the basis for an agreed settlement.

19. Heads of Government reaffirmed their total support for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for independence on the basis of majority rule and pledged to concert their efforts for the speedy attainment of this objective. They took note of the determination of the African freedom fighters, supported by African and other states, to achieve their objective by peaceful means if possible and recognised the inevitability of intensified armed struggle should peaceful avenues be blocked by the racist and illegal regime. The moral responsibilities in those circumstances would lie with the minority government and those who had chosen to sustain it.

20. The meeting noted that South Africa continues to support the rebel government by affording it the military and economic assistance on which its survival depends and reaffirmed their view that South Africa should fulfil its international obligations and strictly apply the United Nations mandatory sanctions and withdraw its forces from Rhodesia.

21. It was agreed that the prospects for a settlement would be greatly enhanced by the strict enforcement of sanctions by the international community as a whole. Heads of Government undertook to bring this consideration to the attention of governments outside the Commonwealth in renewed representations where a breach of sanctions was known to have occurred. They also agreed to take action at the international level for the reinforcement and extension of sanctions.

22. In considering the recommendations of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee, and authorising the Committee to continue its work, Heads of Government emphasised the importance of taking immediate practical steps to assist and independent Mozambique in applying sanctions since the great bulk of Rhodesia's exports and imports is dependent on Mozambique's transit facilities. They were unanimously in favour of providing immediate financial assistance to the new government of Mozambique. They also endorsed the recommendation that an initiative should be taken by Commonwealth Governments at the United Nations to establish a program of assistance for Mozambique in terms of Articles 49 and 50 of the Charter.

23. Heads of Government were deeply concerned that South Africa continues to occupy Namibia illegally in total disregard to the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of June 1971, and in defiance of world opinion. Reaffirming that the fragmentation of Namibia was unacceptable, they recalled the obligation of the international community to maintain the territorial integrity of the territory and the right of its people to self-determination and independence.

24. The meeting looked forward to the time when the Government and people of Namibia might be welcomed into the Commonwealth, if that were their wish.

25. Heads of Government reaffirmed their total and unequivocal condemnation of apartheid and all forms of racialism. They welcomed the British Government's decision to comply strictly with the United Nations embargo on the sale of arms to South Africa and to terminate the Simonstown Agreement. They condemned the violation of the embargo by those countries which continue to supply arms to South Africa or enable them to be manufactured in that country. Noting the alarming increase in South Africa's defence expenditure, Heads of Government express their concern that this military build-up was bound to increase tension in an area already plagued by dangerous conflict. Heads of Government also agreed to maintain and intensify effective pressure on South Africa in the struggle for the elimination of apartheid.

26. Heads of Government reiterated their support for humanitarian assistance to the indigenous people of Southern Africa in their efforts to achieve self-determination and independence. Several Heads of Government described their contributions to various bilateral and multilateral programs and indicated their intention to increase such assistance. The meeting also noted with approval the development of the special Commonwealth program for assisting the education of Rhodesian Africans and indicated their desire to expand this program to meet new and urgent needs. In particular, Heads of Government recognised the importance of extending the variety of education and training opportunities available to the people of Zimbabwe, with special emphasis on technical and industrial training, "in service" experience and administrative training. It was also agreed that Commonwealth multilateral assistance should be made available to help in the developmental and training needs of the people of Namibia.

#### ECONOMIC MATTERS

27. Commonwealth Heads of Government recognised the need to take immediate steps towards the creation of a rational and equitable new international economic order. They reaffirmed the statement included in the Commonwealth Declaration adopted in Singapore in 1971 that "the wide disparities of wealth now existing between different sections of mankind are too great to be tolerated.... our aim is their progressive removal", and acknowledged the complexity, range and inter-related nature of the issues involved. They agreed that a small group of experts should be invited to draw up for consideration by Commonwealth Governments, in the context of the current international dialogue, a comprehensive and inter-related program of practical measures directed at closing the gap between the rich and the poor countries. These measures would be designed to promote development and to increase the transfer of real resources to developing countries inter alia in the areas of production,

distribution and exchange of primary and secondary products as well as services. Heads of Government recognised the importance in this context of co-operating to achieve an expanding world economy and world trade.

28. The group of experts should be selected from the Commonwealth on the basis of their personal capacities and their expert knowledge of contemporary problems of international economic development, and should be assembled in a way which would enable the perspectives of different regions of the Commonwealth and different national development strategies to be brought to bear on the problems concerned.

29. The group of experts should address itself to the issues and proposals elaborated in:

I. The Declaration and the program of action on the establishment of a new international economic order as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: and

II. The relevant principles of the Commonwealth Declaration adopted in Singapore in 1971, and

III. The concepts and proposals advanced during the discussions of the international economic situation at the Kingston Meeting Heads of Government including the presentations by the Governments of Guyana on behalf of the Caribbean and the Government of Britain.

30. In drawing up a program of practical measures the group should pay particular attention to:

I. Measures to transfer real resources from developed to developing countries through international co-operation in the field of international trade in primary commodities with particular reference to the integrated commodities program recommended by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, current proposals of buffer stocks, for indexation, and other relevant proposals, including the proposal for a general agreement on commodities.

II. Measures which the international community can introduce for assisting developing countries -

- (A) To increase food production:
- (B) To promote rural development:
- (C) To promote economic co-operation among themselves at the sub-regional, intra-regional and inter-regional levels: and
- (D) A review of existing organisations for industrial co-operation and development.
- (E) To obtain greater control over, and benefits from, such activities as shipping, insurance, banking and other parts of the infrastructure for international trade and development.

III. Programs for industrial development involving new and expanded forms of industrial co-operation, the enlargement of employment opportunities in developing countries, and more favourable access to the markets of developed countries:

IV. A review of existing organisations for industrial co-operation and development:

V. Mechanisms for increasing the flow of long-term development funds, the transfer of technology and the transfer of real resources to developing countries: and

VI. Reform and where necessary the restructuring of the international institutions concerned with the management of international trade and finance, and whether means could be found to increase the effective share of the developing countries in the decision-making process of the major international financial institutions.

In all of the above matters due regard would be paid to the special needs of the least developed, land-locked, the most seriously affected, and island developing states with limited natural resources.

31. In drawing up its recommendations the group of experts should consider the feasibility of utilising relevant concepts and mechanisms embodied in recent economic co-operation agreements between certain developed and developing countries.

32. The group of experts should consist of not more than ten persons.

33. The members of the group should be appointed by the Secretary-General after consultation with member governments.

34. The group should aim at submitting to governments an interim report on the results of its work indicating measures which are amenable to early and effective implementation in time to permit discussion of this report at the next meeting of Commonwealth Ministers and to enable governments to take this report into account before the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly.

35. It is expected that the group will endeavour to hold its first meeting by the end of May or early in June.

36. It would be desirable that the Secretary-General elect should be associated at as early a stage as possible with the work of the group.

37. Heads of Government appointed Mr Alister McIntyre, Secretary-General of the Caribbean community, Chairman of the Expert Group.



### Lome Convention

38. Heads of Government welcomed the conclusion of the Lome Convention drawn up by the European Economic Community and forty-six countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. They welcomed the increased co-operation within the Convention between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries in these areas. They expressed the hope that the principles underlying the Lome Convention could usefully contribute to the further development of relations between the EEC and other industrialised countries, on the one hand, and developing countries, including the Asian and other Commonwealth countries, on the other.

39. Heads of Government welcomed the valuable support which the Secretariat is giving to Commonwealth countries in the multi-lateral trade negotiations.

### Food Production and Rural Development

40. Heads of Government discussed the Report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Food Production and Rural Development, held in London in March 1975. They welcomed the opportunity it had provided to consider in a Commonwealth setting the problems of the three quarters of the population of Commonwealth developing countries who live in rural areas. Heads of Government endorsed the view that the problems of rural development and food production should be attacked in an integrated manner and should receive high priority from individual governments and aid agencies. They stressed the need for aid-providing agencies to adapt their practices and programs to meet the special needs of food production and rural development, and endorsed the proposal to establish a food production and rural development division within the Secretariat. The new division would enhance the effectiveness of the Secretariat's already significant contribution to this sector and should be essentially action-oriented.

41. Heads of Government emphasised the setback to agricultural production which has resulted from scarcity and high prices of fertilizer, and welcomed efforts, in the Commonwealth and elsewhere, to secure adequate supplies of fertilizer at reduced costs. They also called for similar efforts with respect to farm machinery, feed stuffs and other agricultural inputs.

### Drought and Other Natural Disaster

42. Heads of Government recognised the value of the Commonwealth as a forum in which to consult and concert broad strategies for action in the Sahelian Zone of Africa and in other natural disaster areas and endorsed the recommendation of the Ministerial Meeting on Food Production and Rural Development that Commonwealth action should supplement action taken by world bodies.

### Industrial Development Co-operation

43. In underlining the importance of increasing agricultural production, Heads of Government stressed the parallel and related need to accelerate the development of industry and endorsed the expansion of industrial co-operation, particularly between Commonwealth countries. In this context, they stressed the need for measures to promote the processing of primary commodities in their places of origin and the removal of barriers to trade in processed primary commodities and other manufactured goods.

44. Heads of Government stressed their concern to ensure that the activities of multinational corporations conform with the policies of host governments and their goals for an equitable redistribution of wealth. They noted the work done on multinational corporations by the Commonwealth Secretariat and by bodies in the UN system. They agreed on the need for countries to build up their capabilities to deal with multinational corporations.

### Development Assistance

45. Heads of Government affirmed the need for all countries with the capacity to do so, to maintain and, wherever possible, increase the flow of development assistance to developing countries, especially to the developing countries most seriously affected by recent economic developments. They should also promote the rapid industrialization of developing countries.

### Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

46. Heads of Government reaffirmed their conviction that mutual help and shared responsibility were essential elements in Commonwealth co-operation. They expressed satisfaction at the expansion of the Commonwealth Fund for technical co-operation in the four years since its establishment, noted with approval its flexibility and its capacity to respond quickly to the requests of member countries and commented favourably on its successful management.

47. Recognising the need for the Fund's resources to keep pace with the expanding requirements of Commonwealth governments, Heads of Government noted with appreciation the steady growth in support for the Fund and welcomed the substantially increased pledges made by developed and developing member countries. They noted the intention expressed by a number of governments to increase their contribution and hoped that further increases would be forthcoming.

### Commonwealth Investment Bank

48. Heads of Government noted the studies organised by the Secretary-General at the request of the 1974 Meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers, on the financial feasibility and the need for the services of a Commonwealth investment bank along the lines proposed

by a Commonwealth expert group. They concluded that a number of issues still required discussion before the proposal could be put to governments for a final decision. They requested the Secretary-General to convene a committee of Commonwealth officials to prepare a detailed and specific proposal, addressing itself to the unresolved issues which must be faced if such an institution is to be set up, this committee should report to the next meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers.

#### Commonwealth Scientific Committee

49. Noting the crucial importance of science and technology in promoting social and economic development, Heads of Government welcomed the proposal of the Commonwealth Scientific Committee for an enlarged program of scientific and technological co-operation among Commonwealth members and for the closer integration of its activities within the Secretariat. They expressed the view that attention should be given to environmental aspects in the enlarged program.

#### Commonwealth Youth Program

50. Recognising that the populations of all Commonwealth countries included a significant and increasing number of young people whose talents and potential ought to be fully utilised in meeting the developmental challenges of their communities and nations, Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the progress which had been made in the short time since the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Program and agreed that the program should be extended beyond 1976.

#### Brain Drain

51. Heads of Government acknowledged the concern expressed over the problems associated with the brain drain and agreed that there was an urgent need for practical measures to reduce these difficulties being experienced. The specific proposal for the establishment of a volunteer corps was considered and the Secretary-General was asked to undertake a detailed study for the consideration of Commonwealth governments.

#### Women in Public Affairs

52. While recognising that there was increasing participation by women in the national affairs of many Commonwealth countries, Heads of Government emphasized the need to focus greater attention on the rights of women to ensure the availability of opportunities for them to participate on a basis of full equality in the political, economic and cultural activities of their countries. As far as possible existing and future Commonwealth programs should take into account the needs and aspirations of women and genuine efforts should be made to provide for their full participation in national and international affairs.

Commonwealth Foundation

53. Heads of Government expressed appreciation of the achievements and progress of the Commonwealth Foundation which they regarded as having an important role to play in strengthening professional co-operation throughout the Commonwealth and noted the increased budgetary requirements for 1976/79.

Report of the Secretary-General

54. Heads of Government took note of the Fifth Report of the Secretary-General.

Election of Secretary-General

55. Heads of Government paid warm tribute to the Secretary-General Mr Arnold Smith C.H. for his distinguished service to the Commonwealth over the past ten years and elected Honourable Shridath Ramphal, Foreign Minister of Guyana, to succeed him.

Next Meeting

56. Heads of Government accepted with pleasure an invitation by the United Kingdom Government to hold their next meeting in London in mid-1977 at the time of the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of H.M. The Queen's accession as head of the Commonwealth.