

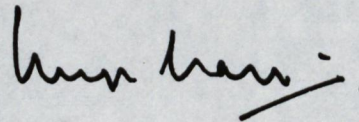
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21 October 1985

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING  
NASSAU 1985

--- Attached is a copy of the Draft Communique for consideration by Heads of Delegation at their final Session tomorrow morning, Wednesday 22 October 1985 - relating to Item 8 of the Agenda.



Hugh Craft  
Conference Secretary

Commonwealth Secretariat  
Cable Beach Hotel  
Nassau

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING  
NASSAU 1985

DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Nassau from 16 to 22 October 1985. Of the 46 countries which attended 41 were represented by their Heads of State or Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Sir Lynden Pindling, was in the Chair.
2. Heads of Government sent a message of felicitation to Her Majesty the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. They expressed great pleasure at the opportunity of meeting in Nassau and deep appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and the generous hospitality extended to them by the Government of The Bahamas.
3. Heads of Government warmly welcomed their colleagues from Brunei Darussalam, which had joined the Commonwealth on resuming independence in 1984, and from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Republic of Maldives, which had become full members since the last Meeting.
4. Heads of Government expressed their deep sense of loss at the death of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, who had chaired their last Meeting, and of President Forbes Burnham of Guyana and Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados, and recalled their significant services to the Commonwealth.
5. In reviewing international developments since their last Meeting, Heads of Government were concerned by the continuing evidence of a decline in commitment to co-operative approaches to the ordering of global affairs. Meeting as they did while the General Assembly of the United Nations was marking the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the world body, Heads of Government felt impelled to voice their concerns, and their hopes for the future, in their separate Nassau Declaration. Their views on a number of other important problems and issues are set out below.

Disarmament

6. Heads of Government welcomed the reactivation of bilateral arms talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. They recognised that these negotiations would be significantly influenced by the forthcoming meeting in November between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan, and stressed the importance of a constructive and positive outcome. They urged the two leaders to achieve their declared objective of preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth.
7. As world civilisation was already under threat from existing nuclear arsenals, they appealed to the two leaders to halt the nuclear arms race and begin without delay the process of reversing it through significant measures

of nuclear disarmament. Most stressed in particular the need to prevent a new and uncontrolled arms race in outer space.

8. Recognising the significant contribution which the cessation of nuclear testing within the framework of an effective nuclear disarmament process would represent, they called upon nuclear weapons states to facilitate and pursue vigorously through the Committee on Disarmament the early resolution of outstanding problems, including the problem of verification, over a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In the meantime most Heads of Government stressed the need for earnest effort to be made for an immediate halt to the testing of nuclear weapons. Most Heads of Government recalled the importance of the consensus declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

9. Heads of Government expressed special concern that some countries might be involved in the actual or potential manufacture of chemical weapons, and urged that a global and verifiable agreement to ban the development, production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical weapons be achieved as soon as possible.

#### Small States

10. Heads of Government welcomed the Report, 'Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society', prepared by the Consultative Group set up following their New Delhi Meeting. They expressed their appreciation of the comprehensive and sensitive analysis of the situation of small states and of the unique problems that arise from their inherent high level of vulnerability. They believed the Report would help to increase international awareness of the link between the well-being of small states and wider concerns for peace and security, and that this would enlarge the possibilities for creative international responses. Heads of Government, however, stressed that action to reduce the vulnerability of these states should not diminish their status as independent, sovereign and equal members of the world community. Efforts should be directed at working for the realisation of a global environment safe for small states and conducive to their economic viability.

11. Heads of Government welcomed the wide range of approaches suggested in the Group's Report directed at enabling small states to become more self-reliant both through their own initiatives and through bilaterally and multilateral action. They also endorsed the Report's emphasis on the increased potential for action at the regional level. Noting with approval that some governments had already established programmes of support for small states, they urged continuing appraisal of these programmes in the light of the Report. They also encouraged other governments in a position to do so to establish similar programmes.

12. Heads of Government drew particular attention to the analysis and recommendations pertaining to the economies of small states. In respect of immediate international action, they called on international financial institutions to pay due regard, in providing access to their resources, to the structural problems which impede economic diversification and which are compounded by the relatively higher per capita costs for installing and maintaining infrastructure including transportation, the latter being of

particular significance to small island states. They commended the Report's recommendations regarding graduation from IDA and the IBRD, and supported the view expressed in the Report that "relatively high per capita income levels give a distorted view of actual development achievement. We regard it as extremely important that graduation should not be applied to small states until there is assurance of adequate availability of capital from other sources". They stressed too the relevance of support for regional efforts to help overcome the problems emanating from small size. Recognising the inevitability of the relative openness of their economies and their susceptibility to external and internal shocks, they called also for early attention to the recommendations concerning favourable access to product markets and to international safety-net arrangements.

13. Heads of Government stressed the particular problems being faced by small land-locked states in Southern Africa, especially at this time, and the need for increased assistance for domestic and regional efforts to overcome their transportation and other special problems

14. Heads of Government asked the Secretary-General to undertake appropriate action to follow-up the Report's conclusions and recommendations and to ensure that small states continue to receive priority in the economic and developmental assistance rendered by the Secretariat. They welcomed the fact that the Report pointed directions in which small states could take measures to increase their national security capacity and urged the need for a sustained Commonwealth-wide effort to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from it. They also undertook to consider such appropriate forms of collective support as have been referred to in the Report, both within the Commonwealth and through the United Nations. In addition, they called for a meeting of Commonwealth officials to formulate a programme of action to implement the recommendations and to press for international action where required.

15. Heads of Government drew particular attention to the recommendations that the United Nations should strengthen its capacity to safeguard the security of vulnerable states and that the United Nations Secretary-General should play a more active role, in the spirit of Article 99 of the United Nations Charter, in responding to requests from a state feeling itself under military threat.

16. Heads of Government also stressed the importance of the role at the Commonwealth Secretary-General could play in assisting a country anticipating a security crisis.

17. Recognising the importance to small states of participation in the work of the United Nations, Heads of Government expressed appreciation of the support given by Australia for the office in New York accommodating the permanent missions at the United Nations of several small member states from the Asia-Pacific region. They also requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to explore the possibility of the extension of similar facilities to other regional groups that might seek such assistance for the consideration of member governments. They also agreed to consider the possibility of collective funding and requested the Secretary-General to present proposals to member states.

18. In commending the Report to the international community Heads of Government asked the Secretary-General to facilitate its circulation both within and beyond the Commonwealth.

#### Southern Africa

19. Heads of Government, having set out in their separate statement, Southern Africa: The Commonwealth Accord a united Commonwealth response to the continuing problem of apartheid in South Africa, also addressed the other major issues of the region: the question of South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia and the regime's acts of aggression against its neighbouring states.

20. Heads of Government were gravely concerned that Namibia's independence had been further delayed. They considered the establishment of the so-called interim administration as null and void and renewed their call for the immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) which they reaffirmed as the only acceptable basis for bringing Namibia to independence. In accordance with this position, they again rejected attempts to delay Namibia's freedom by linking it to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. They also stressed that the policy of "constructive engagement" had failed to end South Africa's intransigence over Namibia as well as over apartheid.

21. Heads of Government recalled that in New Delhi they had agreed that if South Africa continued to obstruct the implementation of Resolution 435, the adoption of appropriate measures under the Charter of the United Nations would have to be considered. They also agreed that the action which they envisaged in their separate Accord on South Africa should be directed equally towards ensuring South Africa's compliance with the wishes of the international community on the question of Namibia.

22. Heads of Government recalled that when South Africa entered into pacts with Angola and Mozambique early in 1984, the hope had been expressed that they would lead to peace in the region. But far from breaking the cycle of violence, South Africa had continued to occupy Angolan territory and to launch attacks against that country. It had also continued its destabilisation programme against its neighbours as evidenced in its self-confessed active support for UNITA, the Angolan rebel movement, and in the support given to the MNR, the rebel movement in Mozambique. Heads of Government again called for the immediate withdrawal of all South African troops from Angola and an end to all assistance to dissident movements in the region. They also called upon all states to do everything in their power to refrain from any actions which might encourage South African attacks on or continued insurgency in these countries.

23. Heads of Government condemned the South African regime's continued attacks on those neighbouring countries which have refused to enter into pacts with it. They especially deplored the brutal attack against Botswana, a Commonwealth country, in June 1985. In this regard they expressed full support for Security Council Resolution 568 (1985) which called for an end to all such acts of aggression and demanded that South Africa make full compensation to Botswana for the loss of life, injury and damage to property.

24. Heads of Government approved the report of the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa and in commending its work asked it to continue paying particular attention to developments in Namibia and South Africa.

25. As the apartheid regime can be expected to redouble its efforts to mislead the world about apartheid and its current policies, Heads of Government agreed that the programme to counteract apartheid propaganda they had launched in New Delhi should be continued.

26. Heads of Government welcomed the progress made by Commonwealth training programmes for South African and Namibian refugees and agreed that these be expanded.

### Cyprus

27. Heads of Government reaffirmed the position they took at New Delhi and their support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-aligned status of Cyprus, and reiterated their condemnation and non-recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot authorities in November 1983. They declared that they would not recognise, and denounced, the subsequent measures designed to consolidate the secessionist state in the area of Cyprus which to their deep regret remained under foreign occupation. They noted with satisfaction that no other country besides Turkey had recognised or given assistance to the illegal entity. Heads of Government stressed the importance of securing compliance with Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the unilateral declaration of independence and the continuation of the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices, and, in particular, Security Council Resolutions 541 and 550. They strongly supported his latest initiative and expressed the hope that all parties would co-operate fully with him so that the negotiations could lead to a just and peaceful settlement in accordance with the Charter principles and United Nations resolutions on Cyprus. They also urged that no action be taken which might exacerbate the situation.

28. Heads of Government commended the work of the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus they had set up at their last Meeting and the support it had given to the United Nations Secretary-General's good offices mission. As an expression of their continuing solidarity with the Government and people of Cyprus and their colleague, the President of Cyprus, they agreed that the Group should continue to monitor developments and assist the Secretary-General's efforts.

### Belize

29. Heads of Government reaffirmed their full support for the efforts of the Government of Belize to maintain its territorial integrity and consolidate its independence in the context of the claims to a part of its territory by Guatemala. Noting positive indications of a shared desire to reach agreement, they urged the parties to pursue negotiations to achieve a lasting settlement at the earliest opportunity. They reaffirmed their readiness to co-operate in the search for a settlement and the mandate authorising the Secretary-General to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary. They commended the continuing role

of the British Government in helping to provide for Belize's security.

### Guyana

30. Heads of Government welcomed the constructive efforts underway to resolve the controversy arising from Venezuela's territorial claim to more than two-thirds of Guyana's territory. They noted that the Governments of both countries had referred the choice of means of settlement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with the 1966 Geneva Agreement, and had pledged every assistance for his efforts. They were encouraged by the expressed determination of the two governments to reach agreement and their hopes for a peaceful settlement.

### South Pacific

31. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the right of the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories of the South Pacific to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. They stressed the need to secure the early independence of New Caledonia. They endorsed the call by the South Pacific Forum to all parties to engage in constructive dialogue for a peaceful and lasting resolution of New Caledonia's problems. While welcoming the fact that France had agreed to an act of self-determination to be held by the end of 1987 at the latest, they also expressed the hope that there would be a positive response to the call on it by the South Pacific Forum that prior electoral reform be undertaken; and that it clarify its announced intentions with regard to its military presence in New Caledonia.

32. Heads of Government expressed their belief that nuclear weapon free zones, on the basis, among other criteria, of agreements freely arrived at among states of a region, could constitute an important disarmament measure. They welcomed the adoption of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty by the South Pacific Forum on 6 August 1985 at Rarotonga as an important step in global and regional efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. They noted that consultations would be held on the draft Protocols to the Treaty to enlist the support of nuclear weapon states for the Treaty and its Protocols.

33. Heads of Government recognised that continued nuclear testing in the region by France was a major reason for the Forum's adoption of the Treaty. Most of them also expressed their strong opposition to the continuation of nuclear tests and to proposals to dump or store nuclear waste in the region.

### South-East Asia

34. Heads of Government noted with great concern the continuing tension in South-East Asia arising particularly from the armed conflict in Kampuchea which posed a serious threat to peace and security of the region as a whole and if left unchecked would lead to active intervention by major powers. They reaffirmed their support for the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference, subversion and coercion. The Heads of Government reiterated their position, as reflected at the 1981 Melbourne Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the 1982 Suva

Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting, and at the 1983 New Delhi Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, including the call for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea. They also agreed on the urgent need for a comprehensive political settlement which would ensure peace in the region. Noting the recent events on the issue, they emphasised that the search for such a settlement should be continued in a constructive manner.

35. As a further means of ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region, Heads of Government noted with approval efforts being made towards the early establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region, and urged all states to fully support these efforts.

#### Indian Ocean

36. Heads of Government noted the efforts made in the past two years towards agreement on the preparatory work for the long delayed United Nations Conference on the Implementation of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They emphasised the importance of the Conference in view of the continuing military presence of outside powers in the Indian Ocean against the wishes of most littoral and hinterland states. They reiterated the need to carry forward the preparations in order that the holding of the Conference could be made possible, with the participation of all concerned States, in the first half of 1986 as called for by the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1984.

#### Caribbean and Central America

37. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the efforts to strengthen regional co-operation in the Caribbean and pledged their support for the region's collective efforts to accelerate development.

38. Heads of Government were gravely concerned by the continuing tension in Central America. At the New Delhi Meeting they had noted with great concern the escalation of tensions which posed a threat to the peace and stability of the region with potentially dangerous consequences for international security. They stressed the urgent need to reduce these tensions and to achieve a lasting peace through dialogue and negotiations. Despite progress in some areas, the situation had not improved in major respects. In this context they expressed their continuing support for the Contadora Group's efforts to promote dialogue with the aim of finding lasting solutions to the region's problems and promoting its development. Believing that the Contadora Act of Peace and Co-operation in Central America of 7 September 1984 had significantly assisted the negotiating process, they urged all states to refrain from carrying out, supporting or promoting political, economic or military actions which might aggravate the situation in the region, and particularly in Nicaragua, or impede the Group's efforts.

#### Mediterranean

39. Heads of Government noted, with concern, the continuing dangerous situation of accumulation of forces in the Mediterranean region and the persistence of unresolved conflicts. They called for restraint and expressed



the view that the prospects of reduction of forces and armaments in the region would be enhanced through a just and durable settlement to all the problems in the region.

40. Heads of Government noted initiatives being taken by various Mediterranean countries with the objective of transforming their region into a zone of peace, security and co-operation. They reaffirmed that security, co-operation and confidence-building in the Mediterranean and in Europe are closely interrelated.

41. In this context, they noted with interest the results and decisions of the first meeting of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Mediterranean countries held in Valletta, Malta in September 1984, intended as a preliminary basis for further initiatives towards peace in the region.

42. Heads of Government welcomed the reaffirmation by the Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Mediterranean countries at that meeting of their resolve to avoid the resort to force, or threat of force, in relations between them. They agreed to work actively to secure agreement on measures to reduce tension in the region.

#### Middle East

43. Heads of Government noted with deep concern that the tensions arising from the unresolved problems of the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue, continued to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. They stressed the need to intensify efforts to achieve a settlement on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967 and recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a national homeland, as well as the rights of all states in the region to live in peace within secure borders. They hoped that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of February 1985 would assist progress towards a framework for durable peace. Most Heads of Government reaffirmed their view that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, must be involved on an equal footing in negotiations for a settlement.

44. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern at the violence which continues in various areas of Lebanon and reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and for the efforts of the Lebanese Government and people to restore stability and peace to their country.

#### Afghanistan

45. Heads of Government noted that in spite of the ongoing process of indirect talks through the intermediary of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative, major barriers remained preventing agreement on the key provisions for eventual political agreement. They renewed their call for an urgent search for a negotiated settlement, based on the withdrawal of foreign troops and full respect for the independence, sovereignty and non-aligned status of Afghanistan, and strict observance of the principles of non-intervention and non-interference, which would leave the Afghan people free to determine their own future. They also

reaffirmed the right of Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour.

#### Terrorism

46. Heads of Government were deeply concerned at the growing incidence of terrorism world-wide with its increasing toll on innocent lives. They condemned all terrorist activities whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states, and resolved to counter them by every means possible. They in particular acknowledged the duty of governments to refrain from acts of, and encouragement to, terrorism in the territories of other states, and to resist the demands of terrorists, including demands for safe haven. They stressed the need for states to co-operate more closely in preventing and combating all forms of terrorism and promoting appropriate action through competent international organisations. They also agreed to strengthen their adherence to the relevant legal instruments including those adopted under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.

47. They urged the media to exercise due care in reporting on all forms of terrorist activity so as to avoid giving unwitting support to terrorism.

#### Law of The Sea

48. Heads of Government took note that the work of the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has been proceeding apace in Kingston and Geneva. Most reaffirmed the importance they attached to the Convention as an instrument of international co-operation and development and urged, as they had in New Delhi, that all states should accede to the Convention and proceed to the ratification process without unnecessary delay.

#### World Economic Situation

49. Heads of Government expressed concern at the continuing difficult world economic situation and its impact on developing countries. They recognised that there were positive features such as the control of inflation and a recovery in output in most developed countries. However, they also noted that the recovery had generally slowed down. They were concerned at the fragility and unevenness of the recovery and its failure, so far, to benefit most parts of the developing world. In spite of progress made on some fronts, there were deep uncertainties about economic prospects.

50. Heads of Government noted that the economic position of the vast majority of developing countries remained grave, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, with per capita incomes falling from levels which were already seriously inadequate. Balance of payments pressures, aggravated by falling commodity prices, onerous debt servicing obligations and reduced, or in some cases reverse, capital flows had imposed severe constraints on growth.

51. Heads of Government stressed the mutuality of interest between developed and developing countries. They welcomed the growing recognition in

industrial countries of the reality of interdependence, and of the need to broaden the basis of expansion through bolder, co-ordinated action. In this regard they noted the growing importance of the links between finance and trade. They also noted the view of leading developed countries that exchange rates should better reflect fundamental conditions than has been the case. They urged all countries, and particularly the major developed countries, to show greater concern for the repercussions of their policies on the developing countries. They recognised that the critical situation facing developing countries necessitated urgent action to improve the external environment - higher growth and a rollback of protectionist measures especially in industrial countries; lower interest rates; and significantly increased external assistance and foreign investment - as well as continuing efforts to improve their domestic economies.

52. Heads of Government considered the final Report of the Consultative Group on International Economic Action, which they had set up at their New Delhi Meeting, and expressed appreciation of the Group's work. They noted its contribution to the holding of the special Spring Washington meetings of the Development and Interim Committees in 1985. Heads of Government recalled the Statement on Economic Action which they had issued at New Delhi. They considered it important to develop an active dialogue on the functioning of the international monetary and financial system. In this context they noted that the Spring 1986 meetings of the Development and Interim Committees would provide an opportunity for in-depth examination of the relevant issues, in the light of the reports by the Group of 10 developed countries and the Group of 24 developing countries.

#### Financial Flows

53. Heads of Government noted the serious decline, since they last met, in financial flows to developing countries. There had been a substantial fall in multilateral official flows, bank lending, foreign investment and export credit, and stagnation in concessional flows. Net flows of resources to developing countries as a whole had become negative.

54. Heads of Government reviewed the developing country debt problem and acknowledged the continuing validity of the concern expressed in the Report of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Debt. Despite action by banks, international financial institutions and governments to stabilise it, the situation remained precarious. They welcomed the Report's detailed attention to the serious debt problems of many low-income developing countries, to which insufficient attention had been paid by the international community.

55. Heads of Government emphasised the importance attached to the role of multilateral institutions in channelling resources to developing countries. They welcomed the growing consensus reflected at the Seoul meetings of the World Bank and the IMF on the need for these institutions to have a considerably enlarged role in supporting growth-oriented adjustment. They noted the proposals of the United States Administration in this regard, and looked forward to early elaboration of the details. They called for a substantial general capital increase to permit the World Bank to fulfil the larger role envisaged for it. In the case of the small island economies this role should, in the prevailing economic circumstances, include a review of the graduation policy which has been progressively applied to those

economies. In relation to low-income countries it was crucial to secure a substantially increased replenishment for IDA 8, with strict respect for the timetable envisaged by the Development Committee.

56. Heads of Government recognised the need for adjustment in countries drawing on IMF resources. They also acknowledged that in many cases adjustment had to take place over a longer period, with conditionality appropriate to the circumstances of the country concerned and the time period required. While closer co-ordination between the IMF and the World Bank was necessary, there was growing concern about cross-conditionality; they emphasised the value of the Secretariat making a careful study of this issue as requested by Finance Ministers. Heads of Government welcomed the reactivation of the IMF Trust Fund and noted that further resources would be required for structural adjustment lending on concessional terms to low-income countries. They applauded the decision of India and China not to avail themselves of the Trust Fund, so permitting other low-income countries to benefit more from the limited resources available.

57. They also emphasised the Fund's surveillance role, and in particular the need for strengthening the Fund's surveillance of the economic policies of major industrialised countries. They agreed that a more equitable sharing of the burden of adjustment should be one of the principal aims of multilateral surveillance.

58. They endorsed the view of the World Bank's Task Force that concessional resources were generally well used and that an increase in such flows was needed. They urged donor countries to redouble their efforts to increase concessional flows in line with internationally agreed targets and as far as possible to give priority in the distribution of such additional aid to low-income countries, particularly the least developed. They also emphasised the vital importance of private capital. In this connection they expressed appreciation of the Secretariat's practical work in relation to capital markets and foreign investment.

#### International Trade

59. They noted with concern that the benefits of the recovery in world trade had not been widely shared. Commodity prices had fallen, worsening the terms of trade of many commodity exporting countries. They regretted the lack of progress in the negotiation of international commodity agreement and in establishing the Common Fund. [They also called for improved access to the IMF's Compensatory Financing Facility to offset export earnings instability.]

60. Heads of Government noted with serious concern that, since they last met in New Delhi, there had been an alarming increase in protectionist pressures, an increase in trade barriers outside the GATT and a proliferation of discriminatory trade practices. Protectionism was a grave threat to world economic growth and resumption of progress on trade liberalisation was urgently needed. Heads of Government therefore affirmed the importance of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations in the GATT in helping to restore confidence in the multilateral system and reverse protectionism. They noted the statement by the GATT Contracting Parties that a preparatory process on the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations had now

been initiated and they looked forward to an early agreement on an agenda and timetable for the new round. They emphasised, however, that substantive progress would occur only if the interests of all participants receive adequate attention, and there is respect for the principles enshrined in the Tokyo Round. They urged that the large amount of preparatory technical work on new issues should not delay or prevent urgently needed progress on outstanding GATT mandates, notably those arising from the 1982 Ministerial Work Programme.

61. Heads of Government believed that consultations among Commonwealth countries could assist their preparation for negotiations. They requested the Secretary-General to assist member governments, particularly those not permanently represented in Geneva, to prepare for their participation in the new round. With this in view, they asked him to give priority to ongoing work in this area and prepare a comprehensive paper on issues of concern to Commonwealth governments.

#### Sub-Saharan African Problems

62. Heads of Government paid particular attention to the multiple problems faced by sub-Saharan African countries, very many of whom were members of the Commonwealth. These problems were both short and long term and both external and internal. Heads of Government noted the comprehensive approach adopted by the Organisation of African Unity in the Declaration issued at its summit meeting in July. On internal policies, they noted the convergence of views, as reflected in the Summit Declaration, and welcomed the determined measures already taken. They expressed satisfaction with national and international relief efforts and noted that more favourable weather had eased the immediate food crisis in many African countries. They emphasised that the region's long-term problems could not be solved without the application of appropriate agricultural technology and improved infrastructure. In addition, development of industrial and service sectors, as well as moderation of population pressures, were of vital importance in the promotion of balanced growth.

63. Heads of Government noted that for domestic policies to work it was necessary to create a more favourable external economic environment and to increase the inward flow of resources. They stressed the problem of sub-Saharan African indebtedness, emphasising that it differed qualitatively from that of other regions. They called for urgent consideration of measures to ease the debt burdens of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In this connection, they [endorsed] [noted] the call of the Organisation of African Unity for a conference involving creditors, debtors and the international financial institutions to consider measures to ease the burdens of these countries. As an immediate step they stressed the necessity for additional concessional financing and increased flexibility in debt servicing arrangements.

64. Heads of Government noted with special interest the Report, 'African Agriculture: Building for the Future', compiled by a Commonwealth Action Group, following a recommendation at the 1984 meeting of Commonwealth Senior Officials. They endorsed the conclusions and recommendations on the role the Commonwealth, and the Secretariat, could play in helping to ease the constraints on long-term development in Africa. They asked the

Secretary-General to ensure that the Group's recommendations are implemented as speedily as possible. They requested Commonwealth Agricultural Ministers to follow up the Report at their November 1985 meeting. They expressed appreciation at the speed with which the CFTC had already responded to urgent requests for assistance and the greater emphasis it was giving to Africa and agriculture in its operations. They emphasised the useful consultative role the Secretariat could play in assisting project preparation to speed up the use of external finance and in assisting agricultural policy development, in which it was asked to take due account of the role of women in agriculture.

#### Population and Development

65. Heads of Government noted the recommendations of the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in August 1984. They recognised the close but complex links between population growth, resources, the environment and living standards. They reiterated their continuing firm support for the agreed population programmes of the United Nations and other multilateral organisations. They felt that the Commonwealth should co-operate more actively with current national and international programmes in this field.

#### Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

66. Heads of Government were deeply concerned at the rising incidence of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking that was seriously threatening the social fabric and security of many countries. They recognised that it called for a wide range of responses, including urgent attention to problems affecting young persons and to the rehabilitation of its victims. They agreed that governments should co-operate, both to counter the international traffic in illicit drugs and to deny to those convicted of drug trafficking the proceeds of their crime and looked to the early implementation of a scheme for enhanced co-operation between Commonwealth countries in this regard.

67. Heads of Government were also disturbed by the extent to which the profits made by drug traffickers were used in criminal and subversive activities often across international borders. They invited Commonwealth Law Ministers to explore measures to counter this trend. While supporting the work of existing international organisations in the field of narcotics control, Heads of Government welcomed the proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General for the convening of an international conference at a high political level in 1987 to deal with all aspects of drug abuse and trafficking and expressed the hope that action would be expedited on the related proposed new Convention.

#### Human Rights

68. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance which all Commonwealth Governments attach to the observance of human rights. They welcomed the recent establishment of a Human Rights Unit in the Secretariat and looked forward to its assistance in promoting understanding and respect for human rights within the Commonwealth, in accordance with the principles enshrined in Commonwealth Declarations and the main international human rights instruments.

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

69. Heads of Government expressed their appreciation of the initiative taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to focus attention on the needs of the homeless. They agreed on the need to give priority, consistent with national resources and policies, to efforts to improve the shelter and neighbourhood of the poor and disadvantaged people throughout the Commonwealth. As well as supporting international measures under the auspices of the United Nations, which has proclaimed 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, they invited the Secretary-General to explore the scope for complementary action in Commonwealth programmes of functional co-operation.

Universal Child Immunisation

70. Heads of Government expressed their support for United Nations efforts to achieve the goal of universal child immunisation against preventable disease by 1990, and their hope that governments would intensify their own efforts to this end. They expressed their appreciation of Canada's contribution towards the support of immunisation campaigns in Commonwealth countries and looked to further support from the donor community.

Next Meeting

71. Heads of Government accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ to hold their next meeting in \_\_\_\_\_.

## COMMONWEALTH FUNCTIONAL CO-OPERATION

Heads of Government welcomed the progress made in the various areas of Commonwealth functional co-operation which represented a vital aspect of their collective endeavours and gave practical expression to the Commonwealth's spirit of partnership. They expressed satisfaction at the emphasis placed on cost-effective functioning and responsiveness to the evolving needs of member countries. They also noted the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to make the fullest use of its staff resources through inter-divisional collaboration and the progress made by the Human Resource Development Group in bringing a multi-disciplinary approach to the work of the Secretariat.

### Commonwealth Fund For Technical Co-operation

Heads of Government reaffirmed their confidence in the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) and their appreciation of its role in the work of the Commonwealth. They noted with satisfaction the high reputation the CFTC had gained as a technical assistance agency and the increasing readiness of larger development agencies to enlist its collaboration. They welcomed further evidence of the CFTC's capacity to orient its services to meet newly perceived needs as exemplified in its assistance to countries in the field of debt management and its growing contribution to longer-term solutions to the economic problems of sub-Saharan Africa. Recognising the importance of maintaining the CFTC's momentum in view of the increasing developmental needs of member countries, and in particular those of small and vulnerable members, Heads of Government pledged their efforts to achieve the CFTC's resource targets.

### Report of the Secretary-General

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