



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 December 1983

Dear Mr Ramphal,

Thank you for your letter of 9 December enclosing the New Delhi Communique and related documents.

The Heads of Government Meeting in India was indeed valuable. We shall look forward to working in due course for a successful conference in Nassau.

I was delighted that you were appointed to serve a further term as Commonwealth Secretary-General and assure you that you will have the support of Her Majesty's Government in your efforts on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Shridath Ramphal, Kt, GMC, QC.

889

9th December, 1983.

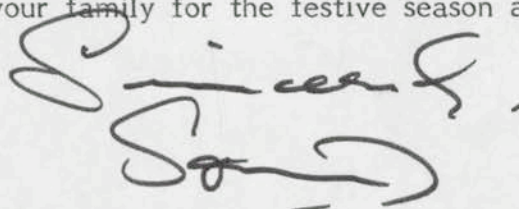
Dear Eric Kintski,

I am sending you by this letter the first printed copies of the New Delhi Communique and related documents. In the weeks ahead I will be following up on the many decisions taken and will address you on them in due course. Some action, like that pertaining to the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus, is already in hand.

As you return to the daily round in your Capital, I hope you carry recollections of an effective Heads of Government Meeting - one, hopefully, that helped to light the way through hazardous times. Pursuing that path presents, however, a continuing challenge. Perhaps, therefore, it is on how the Commonwealth works between now and Nassau in two years time that the real judgement of success will turn. I look forward to working most closely with you as we seek to cover that ground.

I could not end without repeating what I tried to convey at the close of the meeting, namely, a deep sense of humility in being invited by you and your colleagues to serve the Commonwealth for a further term, and my promise to continue to try to be worthy of your confidence and trust. In doing so, I shall assuredly need your support.

With deep respect; with warmest good wishes for the future; and with rather special greetings to you and your family for the festive season ahead,

Sincerely,


Shridath S. Ramphal

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
10 Downing Street
London SW1

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Circular Letter No.5/84

20 January 1984

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20 JAN 1984	
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... Enclosed are envelopes addressed to each member of your delegation to the Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi, which contain a personal copy of the Delhi Communique from the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for them to be forwarded to delegates as soon as possible.

... An additional three copies are enclosed for your records.

*Copy attached to Ramphal
to PM dated 9 Dec 1983*

Hugh Craft

Hugh Craft
Conference Secretary
Director, International
Affairs Division

23 JAN 1984



Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located in the upper left quadrant of the page.

**Commonwealth
Heads of
Government**

**The New Delhi
Communiqué
November 1983**



Commonwealth Secretariat

Commonwealth
Heads of Government

Meeting in New Delhi
23-29 November 1983

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The Goa Declaration on International Security

As we meet together in India at the end of 1983, representing a quarter of the world's people from every continent and many regions, we have shared both our concerns and our hopes for international security. Despite differences of approach which affect the way we analyse and judge events, it is our perception that relationships between the world's major military alliances are in danger of becoming more confrontational. In the context of heightened tensions and a continuing build-up of nuclear arsenals, the future of civilisation as we know it could be threatened. None of our countries or peoples would be insulated from that fate.

We are alarmed by increasing disregard for the moral and legal principles which should govern the conduct of states; by the degree to which the ethic of peaceful settlement of disputes is being eroded and by the readiness of nations to resort to the illegal use of force.

At this time of crisis, we believe it to be imperative that the Soviet Union and the United States should summon up the political vision of a world in which their nations can live in peace. Their first objective must be to work for the resumption of a genuine political dialogue between themselves leading to a relaxation of tensions. We believe that Commonwealth governments can make a practical contribution in encouraging them to do so and in promoting a larger measure of international understanding than now exists.

Essential to that enlargement of understanding is the need to increase contacts at a variety of levels between the governments and peoples of East and West. A concerted effort is required to restore constructive dialogue to the conduct of East-West relations. Only thus can a climate of confidence be rebuilt in place of the prevailing one of fear and mistrust.

In all these pursuits we emphasise the supreme importance of political will. We therefore welcome Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's call for a new political dimension in the quest for international security. We support his efforts to restore active political contact and communication among all the nuclear weapon powers, and are willing to help these and other such efforts in all appropriate ways.

As Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has so consistently emphasised, the central issue in securing wider progress on disarmament is the stopping of the nuclear arms race. These are essential steps for progress in working towards a world released from the menace of nuclear weapons and their wider spread. If the resources released by disarmament were ploughed back in some measure into world development, the needs of the developing countries which are in the forefront of our concern could be significantly met.

We are concerned also over the diminishing capacity of international institutions to play an effective role in world affairs. Rejecting this negative trend, we pledge our renewed support for the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. There is, in our view, an urgent need to consider what practical steps can be taken to strengthen the United Nations system and to improve its capacity to fulfil the objectives of the Charter.

We are particularly concerned at the vulnerability of small states to external attack and interference in their affairs. These countries are members of the international community which must respect their independence and, at the very least, has a moral obligation to provide effectively for their territorial integrity. We have separately agreed on an urgent study of these issues. Additionally, however, we will play our part in helping the international community to make an appropriate response to the UN Secretary-General's call for a strengthening of collective security in keeping with the Charter.

Meeting here in India, we cannot emphasise too strongly our belief that an ethic of non-violence must be at the heart of all efforts to ensure peace and harmony in the world. That ethic requires close adherence to the principle of peaceful settlement. Only by such a commitment on all sides will the world's people enjoy an environment of true international security.

Finally, we retain faith in human capacity to overcome the dangers and difficulties that threaten the world and to secure for all its people the prospect of a more peaceful international environment. We shall work together to fulfil that faith.

Fort Aguada, Goa
27 November 1983

The New Delhi Statement on Economic Action

We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth meeting in New Delhi, addressed ourselves to the global economic crisis. We considered how, as a group, we might try to resolve our common problems, through urgent action by the international community.

Background

Our approach to international economic questions has been moulded by a shared experience of the most serious and pervasive recession since the Second World War and a concern about long-term structural problems. Most countries have suffered from economic stagnation, unemployment and inflation. World trade has declined. The international monetary, financial and trading system has been further weakened. Many countries have been severely affected and have immediate anxieties arising from depressed commodity prices, protectionism, inadequate resource flows, and debt and balance of payments problems. For developing countries, this common crisis has been superimposed on deep-seated problems of poverty and hunger. The small states, with their exposed economies, have had particular problems of their own.

Since we met in Melbourne there have been some signs of recovery. But the recovery remains uneven and fragile, and its overall pace has been disappointing. Its impact continues to elude the developing world. Moreover, there are considerable dangers in the present situation. Recovery remains at risk because of continuing high real interest rates, excessive budgetary deficits, inflationary expectations, and rising protectionism.

The Reports

In trying to understand the origins of these problems, and in seeking solutions, we have noted with appreciation the Commonwealth reports on Protectionism: Threat to International Order, The North-South Dialogue: Making it Work and Towards a New Bretton Woods. The last report was first submitted to Finance Ministers at their meeting in Port of Spain in September, and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has given us an account of their

discussions. We commend the authors for their valuable reports and we have taken note of the conclusions of Commonwealth Finance Ministers at their last meeting.

National and International Policy

All countries have a responsibility for pursuing prudent domestic economic policies. At the same time we are deeply conscious of the crucial international dimension to our problems. The domestic policies of major countries make an impact on the well-being of others. Mutually acceptable principles governing trade and financial flows must be found by the international community. We share a common belief that the Bretton Woods institutions need to be adapted and better equipped to help cope with the full magnitude of the global crisis. These institutions need the resources and operational flexibility to meet the changing requirements of the international economy. In particular, the adjustment efforts of the developing countries must be supported by adequate resources on appropriate terms and conditions from the international financial institutions. We believe that these institutions must develop and adapt to the conditions of the 1980s and beyond. They must help sustain resource flows to developing countries. We especially recognise the need for increasing concessional flows to developing countries, especially the least developed. Access to the international and regional financial institutions by the small states must be improved.

Reform

We recognise that there are some differences concerning the nature and scale of the reforms and adaptations required in the international economic system. These have been reflected in different formulations of the problem. The Commonwealth report Towards a New Bretton Woods recognised that there are many deficiencies in the system, and recommended that the international community should work towards an international conference on the world's financial and trading system. The Non-Aligned Summit has proposed an international conference on money and finance for development with universal participation. The Williamsburg Summit has invited Finance Ministers to define the conditions for improving the international monetary system and to consider the part which might in due course be played in this process, by a high level international monetary conference.

We believe that the situation calls for a comprehensive review of the international monetary, financial and relevant trade issues.

Immediate process of preparatory consultation is needed to identify areas of agreement, potential agreement and areas requiring further consideration. All the countries affected must be directly involved in the discussions and decision-making. There is a widespread belief among us that it will be necessary to discuss these issues at an international conference with universal participation. The preparatory process could result in a consensus on convening such a conference.

Role of the Commonwealth

We have carefully considered how the Commonwealth can make a distinctive practical contribution to remove differences and misunderstandings. We believe we can be particularly effective when, as a representative group of developing and developed nations, we can speak with a common voice to the rest of the world. We have found a common voice on certain specific and immediate issues and we believe we can point the way forward on the more complex, longer-term questions.

Immediate Issues

As to the former, we unite in calling for prompt and substantial additional resources to be made available to the international financial institutions, and in particular to IDA under the Seventh Replenishment. We stress the need for the negotiations on the replenishment to be completed urgently to ensure that IDA VII becomes effective by 1 July 1984. The negotiations should take into account the need to accommodate an expanded recipient community and the critical importance of enhancing the growth prospects of developing countries. We pledge our commitment to play a positive role to this end. We invite the Commonwealth donor countries to convey to all other donor countries the strength of our support for the IDA VII replenishment. We also concur in deploring the rising level of protectionism. We welcome, in this connection, the strong stance taken in defence of multilateral trading rules by the Commonwealth report, Protectionism: Threat to International Order. We reaffirm our support not only for a standstill in the adoption of further protectionist measures but also for a progressive relaxation of those now in force. We see this, along with sustained world recovery, as crucial to the resolution of the developing-country debt problem. We have consequently requested the Secretariat, with the aid of a group of experts, to examine the developing-country debt problem in all its aspects and to report to the Toronto meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers.

The Process

As to longer-term questions, we are encouraged by the growing recognition that more co-operative relations must be established between the developed and the developing countries; growing interdependence and mutual interests make renewed efforts to establish such relations imperative. We believe that the way in which the Commonwealth functions is, in itself, evidence that dialogue is not only possible but fruitful. We endorse the practical and business-like approach to the negotiations recommended in the Commonwealth report North-South Dialogue: Making it Work. We believe the Commonwealth can perform a useful role in stimulating a more responsive dialogue.

We have accordingly decided to establish a Commonwealth consultative group for the purpose of promoting a consensus on the issues covered by this Statement. It will consult as appropriate on the most effective way of taking action, taking full account of international consultations going on elsewhere and of our discussions in New Delhi. The group will be composed of representatives of Governments from Britain, Canada, Fiji, India, New Zealand, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe, together with the Secretary-General. We ask the group to report to Finance Ministers in good time before they meet next year in Toronto.

Vigyan Bhavan
New Delhi
28 November 1983

Communiqué

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in New Delhi from 23 to 29 November 1983. Of the 42 countries which attended the Meeting 33 were represented by their Presidents or Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was in the Chair.
2. Heads of Government sent a message of felicitations to Her Majesty the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. They welcomed with great pleasure the opportunity of meeting in New Delhi and expressed their deep appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting by the Government of India and gratitude for the generous hospitality extended to them.
3. Heads of Government warmly welcomed Antigua and Barbuda and St Christopher-Nevis which had become members of the association since their last Meeting, and extended similar greetings to the Republic of Maldives which had become a special member.
4. Heads of Government reviewed a number of important current international issues. They were encouraged to find much common ground between them. In view of the overriding importance of issues relating to security, disarmament and the maintenance of peace, as well as the increasing tendency towards interference and intervention by political and economic means in the internal affairs of other states, they have in their Goa Declaration expressed their grave concern about them. Their views on a number of other problems and situations are set out below.

Cyprus

5. Heads of Government condemned the declaration by the Turkish Cypriot authorities issued on 15 November 1983 to create a secessionist state in Northern Cyprus, in the area under foreign occupation. Fully endorsing Security Council Resolution 541, they denounced the declaration as legally invalid and reiterated the call for its non-recognition and immediate withdrawal. They further called upon all states not to facilitate or in any way assist the illegal secessionist entity. They regarded this illegal act as a challenge to the international community and demanded the implementation of the relevant UN Resolutions on Cyprus.
6. At this critical moment for a member country of the Commonwealth, Heads of Government, reaffirming their Lusaka and

Melbourne communiqués and recalling the relevant Security Council resolutions, pledged their renewed support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus; and in this respect, they expressed their solidarity with their colleague the President of Cyprus.

7. They agreed to establish a special Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus at high level to assist in securing compliance with Security Council Resolution 541. The Group would consist of the following five countries, together with the Secretary-General: Australia, Guyana, India, Nigeria and Zambia.

8. Finally, they urged all states and the two communities in Cyprus to refrain from any action which might further exacerbate the situation.

Grenada

9. Commonwealth Leaders discussed recent events in Grenada which have caused such deep disquiet among them and in the wider international community, and on which most of them had already expressed their views at the United Nations. They reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for the strict observance of these principles. They recorded their profound regret over the tragic loss of life in Grenada.

10. Heads of Government agreed, however, that the emphasis should now be on reconstruction, not recrimination. They welcomed the establishment of an interim civilian administration in Grenada. They looked forward to its functioning free of external interference, pressure, or the presence of foreign military forces and noted its intention to hold, as early as possible, elections which would be seen by the international community to be free and fair. On this basis, and given the readiness of the countries of the Caribbean Community to assist in the maintenance of law and order in Grenada if so requested by the Interim Administration, Commonwealth leaders confirmed their readiness to give sympathetic consideration to requests for assistance from the island state. In doing so, they stressed the importance they attached to an early return of Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean to the spirit of fraternity and co-operation that had been so characteristic of the region.

11. Time and again in their discussions, Commonwealth leaders were recalled to the special needs of small states, not only in the Caribbean but elsewhere in the Commonwealth. They recognised

the Commonwealth itself had given some attention to these needs in the context of economic development but felt that the matter deserved consideration on a wider basis, including that of national security. Recalling the particular dangers faced in the past by small Commonwealth countries, they requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study, drawing as necessary on the resources and experience of Commonwealth countries, of the special needs of such states consonant with the right to sovereignty and territorial integrity that they shared with all nations.

Southern Africa

12. Heads of Government expressed grave concern about the sharp deterioration of the situation in Southern Africa since their Meeting in Melbourne. Once again they identified apartheid as the root cause of repressions and violence in South Africa and of instability in the region.

13. Heads of Government expressed their indignation at repeated violations by South Africa of the territorial integrity of neighbouring states. These acts of aggression, intended to intimidate and destabilise South Africa's neighbours, had involved for example ground and air strikes, attacks on refugee concentrations in Lesotho and Mozambique, the occupation of parts of southern Angola, as well as economic sabotage and blackmail. Heads of Government condemned these acts which endangered international peace and security and showed a total disregard for the norms of civilised conduct between sovereign states. They believed that the international community as a whole had an obligation to take effective measures to impose restraint on South Africa, and to ensure that the stability of the region was not jeopardised by further acts of aggression. In that context they called for the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and an end to all forms of assistance to the subversive forces. As a significant element in collective action to achieve these objectives, Heads of Government called for a stricter enforcement of the mandatory arms embargo so as to ensure that there are no loopholes in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 418 of 1977. They commended the Secretary-General's prompt response to Lesotho's request for assistance in the wake of South African attacks and they urged Commonwealth Governments to respond favourably to Lesotho's bilateral approaches for assistance.

14. Heads of Government recalled their view, stated on a number of occasions, that the denial of inalienable rights to the African majority was at the heart of the apartheid system. In the light of

the Lusaka Declaration on Racism and Racial Prejudice, the overwhelming majority of Heads of Government rejected the proposals of the South African Government for "constitutional" change, since the African majority was wholly excluded from their scope and the proposals were designed not to eradicate but to entrench and strengthen apartheid; they consequently condemned the recent referendum as fraudulent. The implementation of these proposals could only lead to a rising tide of anger against the injustice of apartheid with further repression and brutality directed at the African majority and other racial groups acting in solidarity with them.

15. Heads of Government were of the view that only the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule on the basis of free and fair exercise of universal adult suffrage by all the people in a united and non-fragmented South Africa can lead to a just and lasting solution of the explosive situation prevailing in Southern Africa.

16. Heads of Government agreed that Namibia was the most immediate of the remaining issues in Southern Africa. They were in full agreement on the need, without further delay, to bring about the independence of Namibia through the full and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). Hopes that such independence might be imminent had been frustrated when the United States and South Africa insisted on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a precondition. Heads of Government, reflecting the view of the international community as a whole, firmly rejected any attempt to link the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban troops. South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal, and acquiescence by any member of the international community in South Africa's attempt to undermine the central role of the United Nations in this matter strikes at the fabric of international order. In support of Security Council Resolution 539 (1983), Heads of Government urged members of the Contact Group to exercise their influence to secure the speedy and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). If South Africa continues to obstruct the implementation of Resolution 435 the adoption of appropriate measures under the Charter of the United Nations will have to be considered.

17. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to uphold, in both spirit and letter, their 1977 Gleneagles Declaration on sporting contacts with South Africa. Recognising that sport in South Africa cannot become genuinely multiracial until apartheid itself is eliminated, they urged all Commonwealth sportsmen not to be misled by recent changes in South African sport. Heads of Government

noted that, as a result of the sporting boycott, South Africa had resorted to a strategy of massive financial inducements and they commended the many Commonwealth sportsmen and sports bodies who have resisted these blandishments. They also noted with satisfaction that the Commonwealth Games Federation had amended its constitution to enable it to fulfil its obligations with regard to the Gleneagles Declaration more effectively in future.

18. In the continuing struggle against the evil system of apartheid, Heads of Government attached importance to taking effective public relations measures to counteract South African propaganda in certain target countries by disseminating the truth about apartheid and about social and economic progress in African countries. To this end they requested the Secretary-General to co-operate with the United Nations in collecting and disseminating such information.

19. Heads of Government reiterated their support for the efforts of the member countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) to strengthen their co-operation and to reduce their economic dependence on South Africa. Recognising that SADCC had evolved into a major force for development co-operation in the region, they renewed their call for greater international assistance to meet its continuing needs.

20. Heads of Government commended the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa for the effective manner in which it had fulfilled its mandate, and endorsed the recommendations put forward in its report, including its proposals for a Commonwealth education and training programme for South African refugees. They authorised the Committee to continue its work and to pay particular attention to developments in Namibia as well as within South Africa itself.

The Middle East

21. Heads of Government noted with deep concern and anxiety the heightening tensions, the dangerous concentration of forces and the generally worsening situation in the Middle East, which posed a grave threat to world peace and security. They called for the exercise of utmost restraint by all concerned. They recognised the central importance of the Palestinian issue and stressed the need to intensify efforts for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967, and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people including their inalienable right to a national homeland, as well as the right of all

states in the region to live in peace within secure borders. Recalling their statement at Melbourne, and their support for self-determination, most Heads of Government reaffirmed their view that the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, must be involved on an equal footing in negotiations for a settlement.

22. They noted the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held in Geneva in September 1983. They expressed appreciation of the successful efforts of the non-aligned mission in securing a ceasefire in Northern Lebanon.

23. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon, and expressed solidarity with the efforts of the Lebanese people and Government to restore stability and peace to their country. Many Heads of Government called for the withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from Lebanon other than those present at the express request of the Government of Lebanon.

South-east Asia

24. Heads of Government were gravely concerned that since the discussion at the 1981 Melbourne Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the 1982 Suva Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting, tension in South-east Asia arising especially from armed conflict in Kampuchea was continuing and if left unchecked would result in active intervention by major powers in the affairs of the region. They reaffirmed the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference, subversion and coercion. In this regard, they also reaffirmed their position on the issue as reflected in the Melbourne Communiqué and endorsed the position adopted in the Suva CHOGRM Communiqué and in the New Delhi Non-Aligned Summit Declaration. They renewed their call for an urgent comprehensive political settlement of the problem which would lead to lasting peace in the region.

25. 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 on all states fully to support these efforts.

Refugees

26. Heads of Government also noted with concern the continuing problem of Indo-Chinese refugees/illegal immigrants caused by the

ability in Indo-China. They expressed their appreciation to countries of first transit burdened with this problem and to the resettlement countries for accepting these refugees/illegal immigrants. They were convinced that the root cause of this problem could be eliminated through a political solution to the conflict in Indo-China. They urged the countries which have the primary responsibility to tackle the problem of illegal departures at source by fostering the establishment of circumstances in which all the people concerned can live in peace and harmony and by co-operating with the UNHCR and resettlement countries to implement the Programme of Orderly Departures. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the results of the First International Conference on Refugees in Africa convened in Geneva in 1981 and urged members of the Commonwealth and the wider international community to participate fully in the Second International Conference on Refugees in Africa to be held in Geneva in 1984.

Afghanistan

27. Heads of Government continued to be gravely concerned at the situation in and around Afghanistan and its implications both for the region's peace and stability and for international security. They renewed the call for an urgent search for a negotiated political settlement on the basis of 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 reaffirmed the right of Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour. Heads of Government noted with approval the discussions through the intermediary of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and urged their continuation.

Central America

28. Heads of Government noted with great concern the escalation of tensions in Central America 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. In this connection, they welcomed the efforts of the Contadora Group of states to seek a negotiated settlement to the region's problems. They noted that these problems were rooted not in East-West ideological rivalry but in deep-seated social and economic ills. They urged all the states to refrain from aggression, from the use of force or the threat of the use of force, and from intervention and interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Guyana

29. In reaffirming their position adopted at Melbourne with regard to the controversy between Guyana and Venezuela arising from the resuscitation by Venezuela of a claim to more than two-thirds of the territory of Guyana, Heads of Government noted that the Governments of these countries had referred the choice of a means of settlement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with the provisions of the 1966 Geneva Agreement. They welcomed the unqualified undertaking given by the Venezuelan Government to eschew the use of force as a means of settling the controversy. Stressing the importance of the sanctity of treaties and respect for defined and demarcated boundaries, Heads of Government expressed the hope that the controversy would be quickly and peacefully resolved.

Belize

30. Heads of Government noted with concern the continuation of the political problem between Belize and Guatemala and reaffirmed their full support for the efforts of the Government of Belize to maintain Belize's territorial integrity. They expressed satisfaction with the continuing role of the British Government in helping to provide for the security of Belize. They reiterated their commitment to co-operate in the search for a settlement, requesting the Secretary-General to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary. They urged the parties to pursue negotiations on the outstanding issues so as to achieve a lasting settlement at the earliest possible opportunity.

Indian Ocean

31. Heads of Government again voiced their disappointment that despite the expressed wishes of littoral and hinterland states and adoption in 1971 of the UN Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace there had been a further increase in the military presence and rivalry of outside powers in the Indian Ocean with adverse consequences for the peace and security of the area. They called upon all the governments concerned to reach agreement for the convening of the proposed UN Conference on the Indian Ocean in 1984 or early in 1985 at the latest.

South Pacific

32. Heads of Government reiterated that the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories of the South Pacific should

given the opportunity to exercise their rights to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Progress towards this end was continuing in New Caledonia and they urged that this momentum be maintained. In this regard they strongly supported the resolution on New Caledonia adopted by the South Pacific Forum at its recent meeting. Heads of Government noted that the general principles of the concept of a nuclear-free zone had also been discussed by South Pacific Forum member states and that further consultations would be undertaken pursuant to this initiative. Furthermore most expressed strong opposition to nuclear testing in the Pacific and to the proposals for the dumping and storage of nuclear waste material there.

Mediterranean

33. Heads of Government expressed their concern at the continuing tensions in the Mediterranean and the accumulation of forces in the region. They noted the desire of a number of Mediterranean countries to transform their region into a zone of peace. They urged all states concerned to participate effectively in all appropriate fora, especially the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), in agreeing upon measures aimed at reducing tensions in the area. They reaffirmed that peace and security in the Mediterranean and in Europe are closely interrelated and in this context stressed the need for a full implementation of the relevant decisions of the CSCE, including the decisions agreed upon in the recently concluded Madrid meeting.

Law of the Sea

34. Heads of Government recalled the view expressed at Melbourne that a comprehensive and widely accepted Convention on the Law of the Sea would enhance the prospects for peace and security in the world. Most Heads of Government recognised the Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed at Montego Bay, Jamaica 10 December 1982, as a major step forward in the codification and development of international law. Most Heads of Government expressed the fear that the lack of universal support for the Convention would seriously undermine the effectiveness of an instrument that was designed to establish equitable and orderly management of the resources of the sea for the benefit of developed and developing countries alike. There was a widespread view that all states should sign the Convention and proceed to the ratification process without unnecessary delay.

International Economic Co-operation

35. Heads of Government reviewed developments in the world economy since their last Meeting and paid particular attention in their discussion to monetary and financial issues, protectionism and the state of the North-South dialogue. In this regard, they drew attention to the recommendations of the reports of the three Commonwealth Expert Groups on these subjects.

36. Heads of Government stressed the need for and called upon the international community to take urgent and comprehensive action to deal with the grave problems facing the world economy. They have set up a Commonwealth consultative group at high level to pursue the matter. The details are contained in the "New Delhi Statement on Economic Action", the text of which appears above.

37. Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction at the work of the Commonwealth in international economic co-operation. They noted that since they last met there had been meetings of Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, Trade, and Labour and Employment. These meetings covered a wide range of issues in addition to those dealt with in particular in the New Delhi Statement. Heads of Government took note of the communiqués issued by the respective Ministerial meetings. They requested the Secretariat to continue their work in the areas specified in those communiqués, paying particular attention to the debt problems of low-income countries; concessional and private capital flows; trade issues affecting developing countries, especially present commodity prices and protectionism; the special problems of disadvantaged states; the problems of unemployment; food production and international food security issues.

Food and Agriculture

38. Heads of Government noted the deteriorating food situation in many low-income countries. The problem was particularly grave in Sub-Saharan Africa where per capita food production had declined in the last ten years and where there was an imminent crisis caused by a number of factors including drought and inadequate foreign exchange to purchase agricultural inputs and increased food imports. Heads of Government called on international agencies and donor countries to redouble efforts to ensure increased financial and technical assistance for agriculture and expanded food aid to meet international targets in order to benefit in particular the food-deficit low-income countries. They also called on these food-deficit countries to make greater efforts to increase food production and support agricultural development through improved policies and increased investment in this sector.

39. Heads of Government endorsed the recommendations of the Meeting of Commonwealth Agriculture Ministers held in Rome on 4 November 1983 prior to the opening of the 22nd FAO Conference. They commended the assistance already provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) in food and agriculture. They emphasised, in addition, the importance of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development to be held in Rome in mid-1984.

Population

40. Heads of Government noted the serious pressure of population on the resources of many Commonwealth countries and especially on developing Commonwealth countries and the world in general. They recognised that in many Commonwealth countries measures to curb rapid population growth have proved quite successful but there is a need for those countries with greater expertise in this important field to assist those in need of it.

Next Meeting

41. Heads of Government accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to hold their next Meeting in The Bahamas.

Commonwealth Functional Co-operation

1. Heads of Government reaffirmed that functional co-operation was an important and dynamic aspect of the Commonwealth. They reviewed progress in a variety of areas and welcomed evidence of consolidation, improved co-ordination, and increasing attention paid to evaluation and cost-effectiveness in the utilisation of resources. In this connection, they noted with approval the establishment of the Human Resource Development Group in the Secretariat, and, reaffirming their confidence in the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), welcomed the successful introduction of a new planning framework for the Fund.

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

2. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), strengthened by increased contributions from all member countries, had restored its programme activity to the levels attained in 1978/9. They welcomed the valuable work done by the Fund including its recently established Industrial Development Unit, particularly its special efforts to assist small island states and in the promotion of regional and interregional co-operation. Recognising that the technical assistance needs of developing member countries had increased, they underlined the importance of maintaining the momentum of the Fund's activities. They agreed to ensure that the Fund's resources would be adequate to meet the forward planning programme targets recently approved by its Board of Representatives.

Commonwealth Stamp Issue

3. Heads of Government welcomed the satisfactory financial outcome of the special Commonwealth stamp issue. They requested the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed review of the experience with the 1983 issue and proposals for a second issue together with the promotion of a second commemorative album on Commonwealth Day 1988. In order to provide all concerned with an adequate lead time, these proposals and the review should be considered by the meeting of Senior Officials to be held in 1984.

Student Mobility

4. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance of student mobility and educational interchange within the Commonwealth, not only to the national development efforts of member countries but also to the maintenance of Commonwealth links. They considered that the consequences of any further diminution in the levels of intra-Commonwealth exchange would be regrettable. Heads of Government, while welcoming expansion in the number of scholarship awards in some receiving countries, noted the effect that increases in fees and charges could have in limiting the number of Commonwealth students abroad. They emphasised the importance of strengthening, and putting on a more systematic basis, the process of dialogue and consultation among member countries on the major questions affecting student mobility, including fees.

5. Heads of Government considered that the recommendations in the Second Report of the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Student Mobility provided, in the proposed Commonwealth Higher Education Programme, a framework for action within which the range of educational opportunities for citizens of Commonwealth countries could be significantly widened in a manner consistent with the long-term policies of member countries. To carry forward these recommendations they agreed that a Commonwealth Higher Education Unit should be established within the Secretariat's Human Resource Development Group. In endorsing the Standing Committee's recommendations, Heads of Government expressed their appreciation of its work and invited it to continue its contribution to this important Commonwealth endeavour.

Commonwealth Youth Programme

6. Heads of Government commended the Commonwealth Youth Programme for the continued assistance being provided to member governments in this vital area of national development. They noted with approval the expansion of services in the South Pacific and activities planned for International Youth Year.

7. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the Programme and agreed to use their best endeavours to maintain at least the existing level of programme activity during the next biennium.

Commonwealth Scientific Co-operation

8. Heads of Government expressed their appreciation of the work of the Commonwealth Science Council which was charged with

fostering co-operative activities designed to enhance the scientific and technological capabilities of member countries. They welcomed the establishment of an Expert Group to examine ways and means of promoting an expanded programme of Commonwealth scientific co-operation, which would encourage work in new areas of developmental significance, including high technology, and affirmed the priority which they accord to strengthening Commonwealth scientific co-operation.

Women and Development

9. Heads of Government recognised that the full integration of women as agents and beneficiaries of development was essential if development goals were to be realised.

10. They noted with satisfaction the continued progress of the Secretariat's Women and Development Programme and reaffirmed their support for the Programme's work in promoting the advancement of women as well as their full participation in the development process and in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries. Heads of Government agreed that ministers responsible for women's affairs should meet in Nairobi on the eve of the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. They considered that the preparations for this meeting would be greatly facilitated by a meeting of officials in London in 1984.

11. Heads of Government recognised the multi-faceted nature of women's contribution to the development process. This called inter alia for the close and active collaboration of all Secretariat Divisions with the Women and Development Programme. They further noted that as women experienced particular disadvantages in such fields as agriculture, education and commerce, and also under the law, special attention should be given to programmes in these areas.

Employment and Labour

12. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that the meetings of Commonwealth Employment and Labour Ministers which they initiated at their previous Meeting had proved useful. As a result, increasing attention was being given by the Secretariat to labour and employment matters, and the point had been reached when a permanent capacity to deal with such matters should be designated by the Secretariat. They also noted the agreement of the 1983 Meeting of Employment and Labour Ministers to convene annually. They expressed support for the further development of Commonwealth activities on employment and labour, in particular the

proposed Commonwealth Industrial Training and Experience Programme. Heads of Government welcomed the role and activities of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council described in their memorandum and noted the important role of workers' education in national development. Heads of Government recognised that the problems of unemployment were likely to persist on a substantial scale. They considered in this context that the adoption of new technologies could present additional difficulties of, as well as opportunities for, structural adjustment. To assist member countries in their planning, training and adjustment strategies in these areas, they endorsed the recommendation of Employment and Labour Ministers that a Commonwealth Working Group be set up to examine member countries' experience in managing technological change; the Group's terms of reference would be those proposed by the Secretary-General.

The Commonwealth Foundation

13. Heads of Government noted that following their decision at Melbourne to reconstitute the Foundation as an international organisation formalities had been completed in February 1983.

14. They expressed satisfaction that the comprehensive review of the Foundation's activities initiated in Lusaka in 1979 had been completed, and welcomed the new orientation adopted, including its limited role in cultural exchanges. They noted with approval that the Foundation had begun to support trade-union education and training projects.

15. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that the Foundation's total income in 1982/3 had slightly exceeded the Lusaka target of £1.1 million through careful investment of funds awaiting disbursement, although in no single year since 1979 had government contributions attained the target they had set. They recognised that the Foundation had great potential to contribute to Commonwealth co-operation. In order to put into effect the new activities of the Foundation and to maintain its present level of operation, Heads of Government agreed that a new target for the Foundation's income should be set at £1.46 million for the period 1984/5 to 1985/6, recognising that the target might not be reached in 1984/5.

Commonwealth Cultural Co-operation

16. Heads of Government fully recognised the value to the Commonwealth of enhanced cultural interchange among its diverse peoples. They agreed that in the present circumstances of financial

stringency governments should pursue the objective of greater cultural interaction through existing official institutions and private agencies, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations for the development of wider programmes of cultural co-operation.

17. They noted that the Commonwealth Foundation intended a modest increase in its support for activities in this field.

18. Heads of Government very much hoped that the practice of holding festivals of Commonwealth arts at the time of the four-yearly Commonwealth Games would continue.

19. They asked the Secretary-General to continue to keep in view the possibility of finding ways to promote cultural activity, and to report to the next meeting of Senior Officials.

Report of the Secretary-General

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

