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- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL;
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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF SMALL STATES

Letter dated 26 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 24 October 1989 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 41, 47, 48, 50, 63, 64, 67, 70, 71, 77, 82, 82 (f), 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 90, 94, 95, 98, 103, 104, 108, 109, 110 (c), 111, 118, 113 (b), 139, 146 and 150, of the Security Council.

(Signed) RAZALI Ismail  
Ambassador

ANNEX

Communiqué adopted on 24 October 1989 by the Commonwealth Heads  
of Government at their meeting held at Kuala Lumpur

I. COMMUNIQUE

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 24 October 1989. Of the 46 countries that attended, 35 were represented by Heads of State or Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, was in the Chair.
2. Heads of Government sent a message of felicitation to Her Majesty The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. They welcomed with great pleasure the opportunity of meeting at Kuala Lumpur and expressed deep appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and the warm welcome and generous hospitality of the Government and people of Malaysia.
3. Heads of Government issued separately the Langkawi Declaration on Environment (A/44/673, annex) and the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Southern Africa: The Way Ahead (A/44/672-S/20914, annex).
4. Heads of Government unanimously welcomed Pakistan's return to the Commonwealth family of nations as an auspicious development that would enrich their discussion and help to strengthen Commonwealth collective action.

The Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond

5. At its fortieth Anniversary Meeting at Kuala Lumpur, all Commonwealth leaders expressed pride in the Commonwealth and appreciation for its contributions to peace, social justice and economic progress among its members and in the wider world. In looking ahead to the role of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond, they recognized that the Commonwealth will continue to have a distinctive and enlarging role to play. They were conscious that in fulfilling its potential to its member countries and pursuing that role in a changing world society, the Commonwealth can derive confidence from its capacity to fashion a sense of common purpose out of diversity, its qualities of flexibility and pragmatism, and its wide-ranging network of linkages at the level of peoples. In an era of transition and change, the world had need of such attributes, and the Commonwealth a duty to harness them even more effectively to the global quest for new patterns of co-operation.
6. Accordingly, in looking more closely at the future of the Commonwealth as it faces the years ahead, Commonwealth leaders accepted the Secretary-General's proposal for a high-level group to identify possible roles that the Commonwealth might need to play, and to examine whether its institutions, including the secretariat, are adequately equipped for the task. This wide-ranging appraisal of future Commonwealth roles and structures should be completed in time for a report

to the next Heads of Government Meeting in 1991, with the new Secretary-General having a full opportunity of contributing to it.

7. Heads of Government also agreed that one area in which the Commonwealth might usefully make a distinctive contribution is the strengthening of democratic institutions in member countries. Heads of Government have long recognized a commitment to democratic processes as being among the values they most cherish. It was an ethic enshrined in the 1971 Singapore Declaration of Commonwealth Principles, in which member countries undertook "to promote in each of their territories those representative institutions and guarantees of personal freedom under the law that are our common heritage". In reaffirming these principles and in reviewing the international political scene, Heads of Government agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal that one of the Commonwealth's contributions to strengthening democracy might be the provision of Commonwealth assistance in helping member countries to reinforce their election and other constitutional processes through a facility for mounting observer missions at the request of member Governments, and in responding to such requests in other relevant ways. They requested that the modalities of such a facility and related assistance be examined in greater detail by the high-level group on future Commonwealth roles.

8. They also requested that the group consider the question of Commonwealth membership in the light of their discussions at Kuala Lumpur.

9. Commonwealth leaders agreed that the high-level appraisal group should comprise the Heads of Government of Australia, the Bahamas, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore and Zambia. The Prime Minister of Malaysia would be Chairman and Co-ordinator of the Committee of Heads of Government. The high-level group would be assisted, particularly in relation to structures of Commonwealth co-operation, by a working group of experienced officials, or former officials, constituted by the Secretary-General after consultations with Governments generally.

#### Global trends and prospects

10. Heads of Government welcomed the improved international political environment and the opportunity that it provided for strengthening the trend towards achieving security through co-operation. They were encouraged that the cold war and other confrontations were giving way to pragmatic negotiations and were hopeful that, in such an atmosphere of developing entente, a growing sense of trust between nations would foster creative international policies focusing on peace and development.

11. They recognized that the reduction in East-West tensions had stimulated significant changes in the international political environment, not only in respect of disarmament and arms limitation, but also in relation to the abatement of regional conflicts, the relaxation of long intractable situations, and the spread of democracy. In particular, they emphasized the important role of democratic processes in ensuring the freedom of choice for all peoples.

12. They observed that the improvement in the international political climate had come about as a result of initiatives and changes on a wide front and that therefore the responsibility for continuing and building on these achievements rested upon the whole world community, East and West and North and South. They noted that, while fundamental changes were taking place, the international community continued to face a range of major problems requiring global solutions.

13. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and precepts of the Charter of the United Nations and to the goal of strengthening the United Nations system as the central instrument of peace, security and co-operation among nations. They welcomed the increasing role of the United Nations in contributing to conflict resolution in many regions of the world, thereby enhancing international security, and paid particular tribute to the role played by the United Nations Secretary-General. They called for the enhancement of the financial viability of the Organization.

#### Disarmament

14. Heads of Government noted that the Treaty between the United States of America, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and Shorter Range Missiles (INF Treaty) marked the first time that a decision had been made to eliminate nuclear-weapons system. They hoped that the super-Powers would continue to make every effort to prevent an arms race in outer space and terminate it on earth. They welcomed the progress made at Geneva towards a draft treaty that proposed to reduce significantly the number of strategic nuclear weapons on either side. This, combined with the steps taken to reduce conventional forces, would contribute to the objective of world peace and security.

15. Most Heads of Government called for an immediate suspension of and complete ban on nuclear testing. All acknowledged the central role of the United Nations as a forum for multilateral discussions and negotiations on arms control and disarmament matters.

16. Heads of Government concurred with the Final Document from the Paris Conference on Chemical Weapons held in January 1989, which advocated the complete elimination of chemical weapons. They welcomed the positive contribution of the Government Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons held at Canberra in September 1989. They urged all parties to sustain the momentum towards concluding a convention on the prohibition of development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons at the earliest possible date.

17. Heads of Government urged all countries without exception to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament.

#### Belize

18. Heads of Government reaffirmed their full support for the efforts of the Government of Belize to maintain its territorial integrity and consolidate its

independence and sovereignty. They welcomed the agreement that had been reached in 1988 between Belize and Guatemala on the establishment of a Permanent Joint Commission which would be responsible for preparing a comprehensive draft treaty that would provide a joint and honourable solution to the dispute. They hoped that speedy progress would be made in achieving a lasting settlement. Renewing their commitment to co-operate in the search for a settlement, they requested 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.

#### Central America

19. Heads of Government welcomed the significant advances in the Central American peace process, including specific progress in terms of disengagement and demobilization of forces and in respect of the strengthening of democracy in the region. They reiterated their appeal to all parties concerned to adopt a constructive attitude so as to generate the mutual trust necessary for achieving conditions of durable security for all States in the region and respect for their sovereignty, independence and self-determination.

20. Heads of Government supported the view expressed at the recent summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade, that the countries of Central America should resolve their problems free from external intervention or interference.

#### Cyprus

21. Recalling the position they had adopted at Vancouver, Heads of Government reiterated their support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-aligned status of Cyprus and recalled, in that respect, the proposal made by the Government of Cyprus for the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus. They condemned the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish-Cypriot leadership in November 1983, and all attempts to consolidate it. They further called upon all States not to recognize any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus.

22. Heads of Government stressed the importance of securing compliance with all the United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and in particular, Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984). In this connection they emphasized the need for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces and settlers from the Republic of Cyprus, the return of the refugees to their homes in safety, the restoration and respect for the human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting for those missing.

23. They also expressed concern over recent statements to the effect of settling the city of Varosha and other parts of Cyprus by people other than their inhabitants and condemned all attempts aimed at altering the demographic structure of Cyprus.

24. Heads of Government welcomed the meetings between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. They expressed their belief that sustained and substantive dialogue within the framework of United Nations-sponsored intercommunal talks was the only way of reaching a just solution by peaceful means on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations resolutions and the high-level agreements. They expressed regret that no progress had been reported in preparing an outline draft agreement as had been expected by the United Nations Secretary-General. They stressed their concern that obstacles to the continuation of substantive talks be speedily removed and called upon all parties to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General.

25. Heads of Government agreed that the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus should continue to monitor developments within the scope of its terms of reference, including in particular, assisting the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General.

#### The Caribbean

26. Heads of Government welcomed continuing efforts to strengthen regional co-operation in the Caribbean reflected in the Grand Anse Declaration and Work Programme for the Advancement of the Integration Movement, issued in July 1988 at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community.

#### Indian Ocean

27. Heads of Government noted the continuing efforts made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean towards agreement on 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. Most Heads of Government emphasized the need for a conference to take practical steps for achieving the objectives of the Declaration in view of the continuing military presence of outside Powers in the Indian Ocean. They reiterated the need to carry forward preparations expeditiously in order to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo, with the participation of all concerned States, including all major maritime users, at an early date but not later than 1990 as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee to the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-third session.

#### Mediterranean

28. Heads of Government expressed their concern at persistent and unresolved conflicts in the Mediterranean region. They renewed their call for restraint, stressing that compliance with United Nations resolutions would make a significant contribution towards the relaxation of tension and improvement of international security. They reiterated the close interrelationship that exists between security and co-operation in the Mediterranean and Europe, as well as other regions. They also noted constructive initiatives towards improving the general situation in the region.



### Middle East

29. Heads of Government expressed deep concern at the dangerous tensions arising from the unresolved problems of the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue. They recognized that a just and lasting settlement should be on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the withdrawal of Israel from territories occupied since 1967, and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their inalienable right to a homeland, as well as the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure borders.

30. They expressed deep concern at the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and their alarm at the constant increase in the number of dead and wounded. They appealed urgently to the Israeli authorities to exercise utmost restraint in the occupied territories, to implement Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and to respect the provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War.

31. In reviewing international developments in relation to the Middle East crisis, Heads of Government welcomed the growing momentum in favour of the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestinians, on an equal footing. They urged the permanent members of the Security Council to intensify efforts aimed at setting in motion the preparatory process for the Peace Conference. They welcomed the continuing dialogue between the United States of America and the Palestine Liberation Organization as a positive contribution in the search for a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

32. Heads of Government expressed their grave concern at the situation that has threatened to rend the very fabric of Lebanon. They reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon. They welcomed the establishment of a cease-fire in Lebanon. They expressed their full support for the efforts of the Arab League Committee of Three in helping to resolve the crisis and called on all parties to co-operate with it.

### South-East Asia

33. Heads of Government noted recent significant developments in the region, and the growing recognition of their long-held view that the only means of ensuring a just and durable peace in Cambodia and stability in the region was through a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia question. They reaffirmed their support for the right of the people of Cambodia to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference. They noted that the announced withdrawal by Viet Nam of its troops from Cambodia has not been verified under United Nations supervision and that it does not fall within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement.

34. Heads of Government welcomed the various initiatives, including those of the ASEAN countries, to promote the peace process and to encourage dialogue among the various concerned parties. They noted with regret the lack of progress that had

been made by the Paris Conference on Cambodia in August 1989. They urged that efforts should be continued to intensify dialogue and promote negotiations to achieve a comprehensive political settlement in Cambodia and welcomed the role of Commonwealth countries in seeking to promote this objective.

35. As a further means of ensuring peace and stability in the region, Heads of Government noted with approval efforts to establish in South-East Asia a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality and called upon all States to fully support these efforts.

#### South Pacific

36. Heads of Government acknowledged positive developments in the region. They welcomed the continuing influence of the South Pacific Forum on regional issues.

37. They recalled in particular the resolution adopted at the forty-third session of the General Assembly which noted the positive measures taken by the French authorities to provide a framework for peaceful progress to self-determination of the territory of New Caledonia. They were pleased to see that initial steps had been taken towards increasing self-government by the island's inhabitants in the provincial elections and joined with the United Nations in urging all parties involved in the process to continue the dialogue and the pursuit of their goals through peaceful means. They affirmed the continuing role of the United Nations in ensuring the completion of the decolonization process in New Caledonia.

38. Heads of Government also commended the Tarawa Declaration on Fisheries of July 1989 by South Pacific Governments, which called for the support and co-operation of the international community for the urgent conclusion of an international convention to ban pelagic drift gill-netting from the region as a first step towards a comprehensive ban on such fishing practices. Noting the particular reliance of the small island States of the South Pacific on maritime resources for economic development, they urged the relevant parties and their Governments to heed regional opinion and abandon immediately this environmentally disastrous practice.

39. Heads of Government also commended the efforts of regional States to intensify co-operation for the protection and preservation of marine resources through the development of effective agreements with outside Powers.

40. Heads of Government again acknowledged the importance of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty as a disarmament measure. They noted with appreciation the ratification of the Treaty by Solomon Islands and by Papua New Guinea. They recalled that nuclear-weapon States had been asked to support the Treaty through adherence to the accompanying Protocols and that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China had done so. They expressed the hope that adherence to the Protocols would be without reservation or interpretation. They also noted the fact that the United States and the United Kingdom had stated that none of their activities and practices in the Treaty area were inconsistent with the Treaty or its Protocols.

### The Gulf

41. Heads of Government were encouraged by the acceptance by Iran and Iraq of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and the cease-fire that came into effect on 20 August 1988, following the intensive efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General to promote negotiations between the parties. They reaffirmed their support for the mission of good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General and urged both parties to co-operate with him and to intensify their efforts to achieve a lasting settlement of the conflict.

### Afghanistan

42. Heads of Government reviewed the current situation in Afghanistan. They welcomed the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva Agreements and called for a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

43. Heads of Government expressed their support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General, consistent with his mandate under General Assembly resolution 43/20 of 3 November 1988, for realizing a political settlement in Afghanistan. They called for the early start of an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based government that would enjoy the widest support and in which representatives of all segments of the Afghan people would take part. Such a government would lead to the restoration of peace and normality in Afghanistan, the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees and the free exercise of the right of the Afghan people to determine their own future. They urged respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan.

44. Heads of Government also appealed to the international community for continued humanitarian assistance for the Afghan refugees, as well as the provision of adequate resources to the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for the repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees and the reconstruction of the country.

### Hong Kong

45. Mindful of the now long-established participation by the people of Hong Kong in Commonwealth activities, Heads of Government stressed the importance of Hong Kong's continued success as an international trading and financial centre. They acknowledged the concerns of the people of Hong Kong and agreed that those in a position to do so would assist in any way possible in promoting the continued prosperity of Hong Kong. In this connection, Heads of Government welcomed the reaffirmation by China and the United Kingdom of their commitment to the full implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong, the success of which was vital to the maintenance of international confidence in Hong Kong.

Vietnamese boat people

46. Heads of Government recognized that the continuing exodus of boat people from Viet Nam has imposed an insuperable burden on countries and places of first asylum in the region. They reaffirmed the need for concrete actions speedily to resolve the problem through repatriation, and resettlement. They welcomed the progress towards a comprehensive solution of the question of Vietnamese boat people made at the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees held at Geneva in June 1989, which had adopted a Comprehensive Plan of Action, and subsequent meetings. Countries and places of first asylum faced special difficulties in relation to the flow of boat people from Viet Nam. They believed that, as a matter of priority, there should be a programme for the return to Viet Nam of all those who have been determined as not being genuine refugees. They believed that the Orderly Departure Programme must remain the sole mode of departure from Viet Nam, and urged that Viet Nam expand and fully implement the Programme.

47. Heads of Government also called upon all resettlement countries to fulfil their commitment to resettle the Vietnamese boat people who are eligible to be regarded as genuine refugees and to increase their off-take in order to cope with the increased in-flow.

Antarctica

48. Heads of Government noted the growing interest of the international community in Antarctica. They recognized that Antarctica has a critical impact on the environment. They noted existing conservation measures. They shared the conviction that every effort should be made to protect and conserve that unique territory. They called upon all States to work towards this end.

Small States

49. Heads of Government reaffirmed their view that because of their particular problems small States merit special measures of support in safeguarding their territorial integrity. They noted with satisfaction that Maldives, in November 1988, with the help of a Commonwealth neighbour, successfully countered an externally mounted coup attempt, and expressed concern about the continued vulnerability of small States. They called for urgent attention at all levels, bilateral, regional, and multilateral, to the establishment of security arrangements that would create an environment that buttresses the territorial integrity and general viability of these States, and expressed their support for the current initiative by Maldives at the United Nations to improve international co-operation in this respect, both within and outside the United Nations.

50. Heads of Government further reaffirmed that small States should continue to have priority in the economic and developmental programmes of the Commonwealth secretariat.

#### Human rights

51. Heads of Government affirmed that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should not exempt States from the protection of the other.

52. They reaffirmed their commitment to the observance of all human rights. They stressed the importance of the work of the secretariat's Human Rights Unit 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 in particular as enshrined in the two International Covenants. They urged those Governments which had not done so to ratify or accede to those instruments. They asked the secretariat to continue to facilitate exchanges of information on law reform, national institutions and domestic procedures for the promotion of human rights in Commonwealth countries.

53. Heads of Government also reiterated their respect for the rules of international humanitarian law and universally recognized humanitarian principles.

#### Terrorism

54. Heads of Government reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or States, and reiterated their determination to combat it by every means possible through bilateral and multilateral co-operation. In particular, they noted the serious terrorist threat posed to civil aviation in the form of both hijacking and sabotage. They recognized the need to enhance measures world wide to increase aviation security and protect air travellers. In this context they welcomed the contribution made by the International Civil Aviation Organization and its work on an initiative to make certain explosives more easily detectable. They urged all countries to strengthen their adherence to relevant legal instruments and to fulfil their obligations under international law, particularly the obligation to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in other States or acquiescing in activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts. In particular, they stressed the need to ensure that terrorists are brought to justice and are denied a safe haven.

55. They called for the immediate safe release of all hostages wherever and by whomever they are held and called upon all States to use their political influence in accordance both with the principles of international law and with humanitarian obligations to secure the safe release of all hostages and abducted persons.

#### Countering drug abuse and illicit trafficking

56. Heads of Government recalled their long-standing concern at the incidence of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, activities which had now grown to the extent that they posed an actual threat to the governance of some countries. They recognized that the drug problem was escalating at an alarming rate so as to represent both a serious obstacle to the processes of social and economic domestic

development and a threat to the international community, to which small States were especially vulnerable. Heads of Government saw the need for an urgent strengthening of the capacity of the relevant international agencies so as to equip them more appropriately to address the problems. In particular, they welcomed initiatives to these ends being taken by the Governments of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in the United Nations and believed that the Commonwealth should take the lead in promoting more effective national and international action on a number of key fronts. In this context, they supported the enactment of appropriate legislation to attack drug-trafficking and money-laundering, including provisions for the confiscation of the illicit assets of convicted drug-traffickers. They agreed to support United Nations expert group studies on all the ways of using the United Nations system to fight the drugs menace. They also attached special importance to measures to promote crop-substitution programmes and, in view of the connection between supply and consumption, to educational programmes among young people designed to reduce demand.

57. Heads of Government welcomed action in Commonwealth countries to implement the Commonwealth Scheme for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and looked forward to the early achievement of effective, Commonwealth-wide arrangements. They acknowledge that efficient arrangements for the extradition of fugitive offenders are central to efforts to combat international crime, and requested their Law Ministers to ensure that the requirements for intra-Commonwealth extradition are no more onerous than those for extradition as between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

58. Heads of Government expressed their pleasure at the successful conclusion of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and urged all members of the international community to accord priority to its early ratification and implementation. Reference was also made to the proposed London conference on demand reduction and cocaine in April 1990 and the hope expressed that Commonwealth Governments would be represented.

59. Heads of Government expressed their strong support for the Government of Colombia in its fight against the drug problem, and stood ready to provide what assistance they could.

#### World economic situation

60. Heads of Government reviewed developments in the world economy. Growth had been uneven. Since their meeting in Vancouver the developed countries had sustained growth, but still faced adjustment difficulties. The developing world continued to experience protracted problems of indebtedness, adverse terms of trade, great poverty and deteriorating social conditions. Low-income and least developed countries had been particularly vulnerable.

61. Heads of Government noted that in the industrial countries sustained growth was now threatened by inflation. While recognizing the need to control inflation, they acknowledged the problems for developing countries inherent in prolonged high

interest rates. They felt determined efforts should be made to avoid a recurrence of recession. They stressed the importance of closer policy co-ordination among major countries, with an appropriate mix of fiscal and monetary policies, keeping in view the impact of developed-country policies on developing countries.

62. Heads of Government noted that in some developing countries economic performance continued to be strong as a result of successful economic management. They emphasized the importance of adjustment for revitalizing growth in developing countries. They stressed the need to enhance competitiveness and the use of market mechanisms in order to facilitate adjustment and growth. However, despite the widespread adoption of such adjustment policies, many developing countries continued to face severe problems, aggravated by unfavourable external factors, such as high international rates of interest, insufficient resource transfers, low commodity prices and increasing protectionism. They expressed their determination to work for a more supportive global economic environment.

63. Heads of Government emphasized that an important opportunity was offered by reduced East-West tensions to reinvigorate efforts to tackle other major world problems, particularly poverty. They expressed hope that assistance to support economic reform in East European countries should not result in decreased financial flows to developing countries. They called for greater global solidarity in response to the major economic and environmental challenges and for a special effort to improve development co-operation.

64. Heads of Government noted the rapid changes in the world economy. These needed continuing review, especially as regards their impact on economically weak countries. They were pleased to note that Commonwealth Finance Ministers at Kingston had asked for a Commonwealth expert group to examine how recent changes and emerging trends in the world economy affected the interrelationship between developed and developing countries. They asked that major international institutions, including official and private financial institutions, be associated with the examination. They also asked that the expert group report as soon as possible, if necessary confining itself in the first instance to an interim report summarizing the main issues of concern to the world community.

65. Recognizing that existing economic consultations among industrial countries largely reflect the perspective of those countries, Heads of Government believed that this dialogue should be supplemented by appropriate consultations with developing countries. They noted the proposed special session of the United Nations General Assembly on international economic co-operation and reactivation of economic growth and development, and also the Four-Nation Paris Initiative for North-South consultations at summit level.

66. They felt that the Commonwealth might have a particular role to play. They believed that the global political and economic climate was much more propitious for dialogue than for many years. There was broad agreement on the principles necessary to bring about sound development. But developing countries were faced with grave resource constraints in applying those principles. They believed it might be right for the Commonwealth, within which dialogue had not been

interrupted, to take matters forward. The agenda provided by the expert group should be a good basis for doing so.

67. Heads of Government invited Commonwealth Finance Ministers to consider the agenda identified by the expert group as soon as possible. They should then make recommendations as to the appropriateness at that time of the proposal by the Prime Minister of Jamaica for a Commonwealth initiative to bring about a meeting of a representative group of Heads of Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

#### Trade policy

68. Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade, Heads of Government emphasized the importance of an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system for sustaining non-inflationary world growth. Noting that countries had not shared evenly in expanding world trade, they deplored continuing protectionism, which was particularly damaging to some exports from developing countries. There were major costs where protection had been substantial and persistent, as in agriculture and textiles. They deeply regretted the growing recourse by some major developed countries to unilateral action and bilateral pressures to settle international trade disputes.

69. Heads of Government noted that this was the last Heads of Government meeting before the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. They expressed their concern with current progress and emphasized the need to ensure a balance between industrial and developing countries. They called upon all participants in the Uruguay Round negotiations to work to secure its objectives and implement commitments made at Punta del Este and build on those at the Mid-term Review. The Round's failure would have severe consequences for the world economy and the developing countries in particular. They emphasized the crucial importance of rapid and substantive progress to produce a conclusion by the end of 1990 that was balanced and meaningful; strengthened the role of GATT and preserved the multilateral trading system; and led to further liberalization and expansion of world trade, benefiting all countries, especially developing countries. They requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide appropriate levels of technical support to member Governments during the Uruguay Round's concluding phase, including an evaluation of the Round's results.

#### Commodities

70. Heads of Government expressed concern at the negative impact on developing countries of weak and unstable commodity prices. The secretariat report, "Commodity Policy for Developing Countries: Future Directions", had predicted continued long-term weakness in commodity prices. For example, synthetics and other substitutes were eroding the market for natural fibres.

71. Heads of Government acknowledged that the contribution of international commodity agreements to the aim of reducing price and earnings fluctuations had recently been very disappointing, with the notable exception of rubber. They believed that action was required on several fronts, including enhanced market



access for commodities in processed and unprocessed forms, and product development. They noted that the Common Fund for Commodities might make new commodity agreements more feasible and existing ones more effective, and that its Second Account would assist economic diversification. They agreed that renewed attention should be given to strengthening compensatory financing arrangements.

#### Debt and financial flows

72. Heads of Government gave special attention to the continuing problem of developing country indebtedness and welcomed recent steps, especially the agreement reached at Toronto and the Brady Plan, to reduce debt and debt-service, recognizing that many developing countries faced great difficulties in growing out of debt. Special assistance should continue to be given to countries which are genuinely not in a position to repay their debts. They also stressed that the resource needs of countries which had been servicing their debt fully under difficult circumstances should be taken into account.

73. They welcomed the steps taken by a number of aid donors to write off debts stemming from past development assistance.

74. Heads of Government noted the progress made under the Toronto initiative for the poorest debt-distressed countries. They called for a further strengthening of these efforts, and for the initiative to cover other countries in similar circumstances outside sub-Saharan Africa. They also emphasized the continuing need for action to reduce the commercial debt of low-income debt-distressed countries.

75. Heads of Government believed that debt owed to multilateral institutions, which cannot be rescheduled, presented special problems. They agreed that ways be explored to assist those heavily indebted countries which have a large proportion of multilateral debt.

76. Heads of Government welcomed the current approach to the problem of countries in arrears to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and commended the role played by Commonwealth countries in this process. They urged a continuation of this approach as well as adequate and timely donor finance.

77. Heads of Government regretted the severe contraction of financial flows to developing countries, and for several countries, a negative net transfer of resources. They emphasized the importance of efforts to increase all flows. In particular, they called for a renewed commitment and effort to meet the United Nations target for official development assistance (ODA).

#### International financial institutions and growth-oriented adjustment

78. Heads of Government emphasized the pivotal roles of IMF and the World Bank in promoting systemic stability, providing balance-of-payments support, and enhancing development finance. They called for increased support and resources to enable these institutions to fulfil further their respective roles.

79. Heads of Government observed that there was much support for greatly enlarged quotas in IMF under the Ninth Review of quotas. They supported an increase substantial enough to meet the expanding needs of members into the 1990s. They also believed that the Managing Director's recommendation for a fresh allocation of special drawing rights deserved further consideration.

80. Heads of Government noted that discussions on the ninth replenishment of international development assistance (IDA) were reaching completion. They commended the role of IDA in the provision of concessional resources to low-income countries and supported a substantial increase in its replenishment.

81. Heads of Government welcomed the increased support provided by IMF and the World Bank, as well as by bilateral donors, for structural adjustment. They emphasized the importance of having a medium-term framework, of adequate consultation with the recipient country Governments, and of the availability of adequate external finance to support adjustment programmes.

#### Poverty alleviation

82. Heads of Government recognized the possible adverse social consequences of adjustment policies and their implications for the viability of democratic institutions and political stability. They recognized the need to pay more attention to the social costs of adjustment and their impact on vulnerable groups. They welcomed the World Bank's recent focus on poverty alleviation in its lending policies and also noted the concern of IMF in this respect. They called upon Governments and international institutions to mitigate the painful consequences of adjustment through careful and well-targeted programmes for poverty alleviation.

#### Equity fund

83. Heads of Government noted that, at their recent meeting at Kingston, Commonwealth Finance Ministers had welcomed the proposal to launch a Commonwealth equity fund. They noted with approval the secretariat's catalytic role in preparing the fund in the last year. They further noted that, for the future, it was proposed that full executive responsibility for the fund would be carried by commercial interests, who would therefore bear all financial and legal obligations for it. In these circumstances, they reaffirmed the warm welcome of Finance Ministers for an initiative that will facilitate the flow of private institutional investment to Commonwealth developing countries and that will seek out potential investment opportunities in small and low-income countries. They considered that Commonwealth Governments could review sympathetically relevant national provisions which affect the operations of the Fund in their countries. They looked forward to an early launching of the fund, with the first capital issue being named "the Hibiscus Issue", to reflect the symbol of this Heads of Government meeting.

#### Management of technological change

84. Heads of Government took note of the fact that technological change was continuing at a rapid pace and that great attention to science and technology

management was a requirement of all countries. In this connection, they reiterated their support for the activities that the secretariat was undertaking in pursuing the recommendations of the report, "Technological Change: Enhancing the Benefits", which had been presented to their Nassau meeting.

85. Heads of Government endorsed the Malaysian Government's proposal for the establishment of a Commonwealth Consultative Group for Technology Management, based on the approach of the Commonwealth Project on Strategic Management and Planning of Science and Technology and its Integration in National Development (COMMANSAT) with a small support unit within the secretariat. They noted that this unit would draw on and develop the work of the Commonwealth network of specialists and managers in the field of technology management and would enable the secretariat to provide an advisory service to Governments, with particular reference to technology and environment assessment and management, and the interrelationship between these issues and economic policy. They asked the Secretary-General to take early steps to implement the proposal, consulting COMMANSAT as necessary and taking resource availability into account. They expressed appreciation to those Governments which had announced offers of financial support.

#### Women and structural adjustment

86. Heads of Government discussed the report entitled "Engendering Adjustment for the 1990s", prepared by the Expert Group on Women and Structural Adjustment, which they had established at their Vancouver meeting. They expressed great appreciation for the work of the Group. While accepting the need for structural adjustment, they were concerned that economic and adjustment difficulties in several countries were adversely affecting the already disadvantaged position of women.

87. Heads of Government commended for serious consideration the approach to adjustment recommended in the report, designed to protect and support the vital roles that women perform in society. They stressed the importance of adopting policies that facilitate women's full participation in public and private sectors. Emphasizing the urgent need to redress the socio-economic inequities facing women, they stressed the importance of the total integration of women into the development process, including equitable access to education, training, credit, land and employment.

88. Heads of Government commended the report for serious consideration, particularly the six general areas highlighted for action by Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations. They endorsed the recommendation for more intensive and early discussion of the report at regional levels and for the Commonwealth to promote an intergovernmental meeting, involving relevant international institutions, to focus on broader adjustment strategies that take into account the needs of women. They recommended that Commonwealth Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs give further consideration to the report at their meeting to be held in Ottawa in October 1990.

Child survival, protection and development

89. Heads of Government welcomed the progress being made for the survival, protection and development of the child, especially with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization. They called upon member countries to support the concept of "Adjustment with a Human Face", in order to protect investment in social sectors such as health and education. They also noted that most major health problems and premature deaths are preventable through changes in human behaviour and effective and low-cost actions for child survival and development, such as immunization and oral rehydration therapy, which are already saving millions of young lives world wide.

90. Heads of Government called for the adoption of a United Nations convention on the rights of the child at the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly and for its early entry into force. They urged member countries to further the cause of survival, protection and development of the child, in order to sustain the gains achieved in the 1980s and accelerate them during the 1990s. They welcomed the proposal for a world summit for children as a means of providing a greater stimulus for national and international action for this purpose.

Environment and climatic change

91. Heads of Government issued the Langkawi Declaration on Environment providing for a programme of action.

92. They discussed the subject of climate change on the basis of the Commonwealth expert group's report. They asked the Secretary-General to identify a group of experts on the environment who could monitor and evaluate developments concerning climate change, taking account of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and deal with other environmental issues as needs arise.

93. Heads of Government noted with appreciation the generous offer from the President of Guyana to set aside a part of Guyana's Amazonian tropical forest for a pilot project under Commonwealth auspices to study utilization of the forest on a sustainable basis and the conservation of species. They asked the Secretary-General to organize a high-level exploratory mission to pursue the offer with the Guyanese authorities.

94. Heads of Government welcomed the invitation from the Prime Minister of Australia to developing Commonwealth countries to participate in a technical assistance programme to provide training for assessing the effects of climate change on rural land productivity. They looked forward to a positive response to the letter that the Australian Prime Minister would be writing to all Heads of Government and thanked Australia for its willingness to fund the participation of trainees in this programme.

95. Heads of Government also welcomed the announcement that, to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of the modern Commonwealth, Canada will offer 40 scholarships a year for five years as an additional contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical

Co-operation (CFTC). In recognition of the adoption of the Langkawi Declaration, Canada suggested that these scholarships could most appropriately be dedicated to environmental studies.

96. Heads of Government noted the positive role that non-governmental organizations (including the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council) and others could play in maintaining and increasing awareness of environmental issues, in particular, climate change. They encouraged the development and strengthening of consultative arrangements between non-governmental organizations and Governments to help in clarifying environmental issues.

97. Heads of Government asked the secretariat to strengthen its ability to assist Governments, on request, in the environmental field through policy development work, and through CFTC technical assistance, so as to give effect to the programme of action of the Langkawi Declaration. They requested the Managing Director of CFTC to report to the next Commonwealth Senior Officials meeting on the extent of support which can be offered through the Fund to programmes that address environmental concerns.

#### Natural disasters

98. Heads of Government recorded their deep concern at the high level of vulnerability of so many Commonwealth countries to natural disasters. They acknowledged the useful contribution of the secretariat's work in the area of hazard assessment and mitigation with particular reference to floods and hurricanes. They welcomed the decision by Finance Ministers that the secretariat should undertake a study of the economic consequences of disasters.

#### Least developed countries

99. Heads of Government expressed serious concern at the deteriorating socio-economic condition of the least developed countries. They also expressed concern that full and effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for least developed countries was far from achieved. They noted that these countries faced the most formidable structural constraints to development. They recognized that, while the least developed countries bear the primary responsibility for their overall development, the developed countries should attain the internationally agreed target for ODA to these countries as expeditiously as possible. They committed their full support to the development efforts of the least developed countries and called upon the international community to ensure a successful outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in September 1990 in Paris.

#### Regional economic co-operation

100. Heads of Government noted the progress towards a Single Market in the European Community (EC) in 1992 and strengthened free trade between Canada and the United States, which would encourage economic expansion in member countries, and, through their trade-generating potential, could have a favourable impact on the world at

large. They acknowledged, however, that there could be dangers in the growing regionalization of trade through the establishment of trading blocs. They cautioned against the possible diversion of trade as well as increased trade restrictions against third countries, particularly developing countries. They welcomed the assurance of the Canadian Government that the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement does not restrict access for Commonwealth developing countries. They also welcomed the assurance from the Government of the United Kingdom that it would endeavour to maintain access into the EC for exports from Commonwealth countries.

101. Heads of Government exchanged views on efforts to enhance economic co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region, especially the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference to be held at Canberra in November 1989. They expressed the hope that such efforts would promote trade expansion and strengthen an open, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system.

102. Heads of Government recognized the contribution that regional integration can make to economic development and noted the efforts being made to expand trade and investment through development of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) as a single economy, as expressed in the Grand Anse Declaration.

103. Heads of Government also recognized the contribution of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in promoting mutually beneficial co-operation in many fields, which would contribute to peace, stability and progress in the region.

104. Heads of Government looked forward to a successful outcome of the renegotiation of the Lomé Convention. They called upon the EC to agree on changes to the Convention that would improve trade and financial flows between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the EC. Account should be taken of the interests of Commonwealth developing countries outside ACP.

#### Shelter for the homeless

105. Heads of Government recognized that more than 1 billion people were without shelter fit for human habitation and that demographic and urbanization trends were likely to aggravate the problem. They recalled with satisfaction the impact of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987). They called for action programmes at national and international levels, under the "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", to provide adequate shelter for all by the year 2000, with the main focus on the poor and the disadvantaged.

#### Election of the Secretary-General

106. Heads of Government paid warm tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. Shridatah Ramphal, for his exceptional services to the Commonwealth over a decade and a half. His contribution to the strengthening of the Commonwealth would be long remembered. They elected Chief Emeka Anyaoku of Nigeria to succeed him.

Next meeting

107. Heads of Government accepted with great pleasure the invitation from the Government of Zimbabwe to hold their next meeting at Harare in 1991.

II. COMMONWEALTH FUNCTIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. Heads of Government reaffirmed the value they attached to functional co-operation as a vital element in Commonwealth collective endeavours. They believed that the establishment of a Commonwealth equity fund and a consultative group for technology management would give a further impetus to such endeavours. They also reviewed progress in a number of other areas.

Drug abuse and illicit trafficking

2. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern at the serious threats posed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and the special problems caused to those States which had become transit points for illicit trafficking. They asked the secretariat, in collaboration with the appropriate United Nations agencies, to continue to organize training in such areas as customs and law enforcement, investigative methods, the collection of educational information on drugs, the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, and the implementation of the relevant international conventions. They noted the untapped potential of young people and women that could be mobilized for the fight against drug abuse as highlighted at two Commonwealth meetings on drug abuse held in Kuala Lumpur in June 1989 and in London in May 1989, respectively, and asked member Governments and the secretariat to consider the recommendations from the meetings carefully and to take necessary action. They gave high priority to the implementation of these proposals and requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate action, facilitated by the provision of additional resources if necessary.

Education

3. Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the significant progress that had been made by the Commonwealth of Learning since its inauguration less than one year ago. They noted the wide range of collaborative activities that had been initiated and were also able to see something of the data base that is being built up on study opportunities in distance education throughout the Commonwealth. They reaffirmed their belief in the potential of the new institution to accelerate human resource development through distance education techniques and commended the Board of Governors and all who were responsible for giving the new institution an encouraging start.

4. Heads of Government also acknowledged the organization's need for adequate resources and in this context called for increased contributions to the Commonwealth of Learning's core budget, especially from those countries which had not yet contributed, and for greater flexibility in the use of other resources. They strongly endorsed the Board's call for making education and training materials more readily available throughout the Commonwealth.

5. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance that they attach to higher education co-operation in the Commonwealth as a contribution to human resource development and to increasing the scientific and technological capability of member countries. They were conscious that higher education faces critical challenges at the present time as member countries strive to accommodate the rising demand for higher education opportunities and the need to uphold quality against a background of severe resource constraints. In this context they received with appreciation the report of the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Student Mobility and Higher Education Co-operation with its proposal that Commonwealth Governments should establish a collaborative support scheme to strengthen key aspects of higher education development particularly books, learning materials and libraries, management and staff development, as well as to harness for these purposes the potential of new information technology. Heads of Government requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of principal donor agencies and selected representatives from developing countries to consider the possibilities in more detail and submit a report for consideration by the next Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 1990.

6. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, which celebrated its thirtieth anniversary this year, and urged member countries not currently contributing to the Plan to do so. They noted with appreciation the proposed increase in the already substantial contribution of the United Kingdom to the Plan, to take account of Pakistan's re-entry to the Commonwealth.

7. Heads of Government expressed great concern at the evidence adduced by the Standing Committee that intra-Commonwealth student mobility continues to decline overall, despite signs of modest growth in some individual countries. They invited the principal host countries in particular to consider, in time for the next Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, and in the light of the Standing Committee's report, how the present downward trends might be reversed. They also invited the Standing Committee to continue its important work.

#### Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

8. In reviewing Commonwealth functional co-operation, Heads of Government paid particular attention to the role of CFTC as the pre-eminent Commonwealth agency for development co-operation. They expressed their satisfaction with the report of the Secretary-General advising that the serious resource constraints that confronted the Fund in 1987 had been alleviated by renewed pledges of support by a large number of Commonwealth Governments. Heads of Government noted that at the most recent meeting of the Fund's Board of Representatives, on which all Governments are represented, the increased capacity of the Fund had been warmly welcomed and that Governments continued to express their satisfaction at the substantial progress that had been made in Commonwealth development co-operation over the 18 years since the Fund was established at the Heads of Government meeting in Singapore. They agreed on the importance of strengthening and expanding the technical assistance and training activities of the Fund and of ensuring that the Fund is fully able to meet existing demands and new challenges as they emerge.



### Women and development

9. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring women's full participation as agents and beneficiaries of development. They welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Women and Development by national Governments and the secretariat, and noted with satisfaction that progress had been achieved in some areas. They recognized, however, that more sustained efforts, including efforts to exchange society's perception of women in the development process, would be necessary if Commonwealth objectives on women and development were to be realized and urged all member Governments to respond more promptly to secretariat questionnaires on this subject. Heads of Government renewed their commitment to the implementation of the national and secretariat initiatives outlined in the Plan of Action, and agreed to keep the matter under review.

### Commonwealth scientific co-operation

10. Heads of Government considered a proposal by the Commonwealth Science Council for a meeting of Commonwealth Ministers responsible for science and technology and recognized that the major development issues of the 1990s would not only place substantial demands on indigenous research and development but also require determined new initiatives through international co-operation. Heads of Government agreed that Commonwealth scientific co-operation could make an important contribution in this regard and that a meeting of Commonwealth Ministers responsible for science and technology could give a stimulus to national scientific systems and link them more effectively with economic planning and sustainable development. They noted with gratitude Malta's willingness to host such a meeting in conjunction with the next biennial meeting of the Commonwealth Science Council. In this context Heads of Government welcomed the Caribbean Oceanographic Resources Exploration Project as an initiative of considerable scientific and economic significance and urged the Ministerial Meeting to identify more such projects.

### Commonwealth Youth Programme

11. Heads of Government noted that the Programme's financial situation had improved considerably since their last meeting, with a little over half of the member countries having increased their contributions to the target levels suggested by the Secretary-General. They expressed the hope that at the next pledging session all Governments would reach the target levels proposed for them, thereby enabling the Programme to play its role as the only significant vehicle of international co-operation in the field of youth development.

12. Heads of Government welcomed the change of direction that the improved resource position had permitted in the Programme's activities, and looked with confidence to a strengthened Programme emerging from the current review being undertaken by the Committee of Management and the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council.

Contributions to Commonwealth budgets

13. Heads of Government acknowledged the serious adverse effects that outstanding contributions to the secretariat and other budgets were having on Commonwealth programmes and activities and agreed to make an urgent effort to eliminate outstanding contributions.

14. They also agreed to a revised formula of assessed contribution to the secretariat budget.

15. Heads of Government agreed that, in view of the conditions of financial stringency in most countries, expenditure should be strictly governed by priorities and that meetings of Commonwealth Ministers should therefore be regularly apprised of the need to match new demands on the secretariat to available resources.

16. Heads of Government requested the Secretary-General to consider improvements to the form in which his proposals for programmes and expenditures are presented to Governments and asked Senior Officials at their 1990 meeting to place the subject of a revision of budgetary and programming procedures on their agenda.

Commonwealth secretariat accommodation

17. Heads of Government discussed the report entitled "Commonwealth Secretariat Accommodation" prepared by a Committee of High Commissioners in London, examining the secretariat's long-term accommodation needs.

18. In the light of this discussion, Heads of Government endorsed the recommendations of the High Commissioners' Committee in paragraph 16 of the report and recommended that the results of the secretariat's negotiations be referred to the Committee of High Commissioners for further consideration and reference to Governments.

19. Heads of Government expressed the hope that a refurbished Marlborough House and the proposed new building would provide the secretariat with a suitable long-term base for its future operations.

Commonwealth co-operation in the area of human rights

20. Heads of Government, noting that Commonwealth States have many shared values and traditions that would lead to co-operation in the area of human rights, requested the Secretary-General to convene a governmental working group of experts on human rights. The working group would be charged with the responsibility of reviewing Commonwealth co-operation in the area of human rights to date and of recommending possible avenues for enhanced co-operation and action in the future, in such areas as education, training and technical assistance upon request of member States. These recommendations would be made to the Secretary-General and, where appropriate, to the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their next meeting.

#### Commonwealth games

21. Heads of Government welcomed the opportunity to recognize the important role played by the Commonwealth Games and by Commonwealth sport in general as a public manifestation of Commonwealth friendship. In so doing, they affirmed the significance of the Commonwealth Games as a highly visible and important symbol of Commonwealth unity, and they looked forward to a successful Games in Auckland in 1990.

22. They acknowledged that lack of adequate resources in some member countries had limited the occasions on which they had been able to bid to host the Games, and expressed the strong desire to see all regions of the Commonwealth hosting the Games. Heads of Government therefore requested the Secretary-General to invite sports administrators, representatives of the Commonwealth Games Federation and suitably qualified government nominees to form a working party to examine these and other problems outlined in the Canadian Government Memorandum. They expressed the hope that the working party would be able to start work in time to report to the next Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting, and finally to Heads of Government in 1991.

#### The Commonwealth Foundation

23. Heads of Government noted with pleasure that two more member States had joined the Foundation since their last meeting and hoped that the remaining States would do so at the earliest opportunity. They commended the work of the Foundation in promoting stronger links with the large, diverse family of non-governmental organizations through the establishment of Commonwealth Liaison Units and acknowledged the increased potential that this created for sharing their Commonwealth relationships. They noted the increased efforts of professional cadres to promote wider intra-professional co-operation and consultations.

24. Heads of Government particularly welcomed the proposed establishment of a regular Commonwealth Forum of non-governmental organizations to provide focus for the many forms of consultations that continue at all levels of Commonwealth contact. They asked the Director of the Foundation to report to the next Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting with a view to considering ways in which the activities of the Forum can be reported to the next Heads of Government Meeting.

25. In recognition of the growing importance of the varied programmes developed to promote better Commonwealth understanding, Heads of Government approved an increase in the Foundation's target income over current levels by an aggregated 10 per cent over the next two-year period 1990/1991-1991/1992.

#### Cultural co-operation

26. Heads of Government expressed their continued support for the work of the Commonwealth Institute in explaining the Commonwealth to the British public and especially its new emphasis on education about the Commonwealth, particularly for the secondary age range and young adults.

Commonwealth Trade Union Council

27. Heads of Government expressed appreciation for the continuing close co-operation between the Secretariat and the Commonwealth Trade Union Council (CTUC), particularly in labour and employment matters, and training and support for trade unions in South Africa and Namibia. They looked forward to the further development of co-operation between the secretariat and the CTUC.

Report of the Secretary-General

28. Heads of Government commended the twelfth report of the Secretary-General.

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