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PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 19 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Canada had the privilege of hosting, at Vancouver, British Columbia, the
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting from 13 to 17 October 1987. I have the
honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade
(annex I), the Okanagan Statement on Southern Africa and Programme of Action
(annex II) and the communiqué of the Meeting (annex III).

I ask that you circulate this letter and its attachments as a document of the
General Assembly under agenda items 12, 18, 21, 24, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 44,
46, 47, 50, 51, 52, 62, 63, 66, 67, 69, 71, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 90, 92, 95, 96,
100, 101, 104, 105, 108, 110, 126 and 129.

(Signed) Stephen LEWIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

THE VANCOUVER DECLARATION ON WORLD TRADE

The Commonwealth leaders representing a wide range of both developed and developing countries note with grave concern rising global protectionist pressures. Continuing implementation of protectionist measures would be counter-productive, would increase the risk of further exchange rate instability and would exacerbate the problems of development and indebtedness. Trade restrictions affect particularly the export and growth prospects of developing countries and their ability to service debt all of which in turn impact adversely on the economy of the industrial countries.

We welcome the progress of negotiations in the Uruguay Round covering a range of important subjects. We will work for a balanced outcome to develop a more open, viable and durable multilateral trading system to promote growth and development. We recognise the growing importance and the asymmetrical position of developing countries in the trading system. Their under-reliance on trade needs special consideration to their interests within the agreed framework of the Uruguay Round. It is important that the Punta del Este commitments on tariff reduction and "rollback" be fully respected and implemented.

We agree on the crucial need for reform of all trade distorting agricultural policies, both domestic and international. We urge early action on agriculture in the Uruguay Round to reduce the uncertainty, imbalances and instability in world markets. This will benefit both developed and developing countries.

A strong, credible working GATT is essential to the well-being of all trading countries and is the best bulwark against mounting protectionist pressures. The functioning of the GATT should be improved through enhancing its role in maintaining an open multilateral system and its capacity in the area of dispute settlement. We hope that the negotiations will make substantial progress on agriculture and other key subjects to enable a mid-term ministerial review of the Uruguay Round as provided for in the Punta del Este Declaration.

We welcome the assistance which the Commonwealth Secretariat is providing to member governments in the trade field, including the re-establishment of a Trade Adviser's Office in Geneva and increased levels of technical support, and we request the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to work in this field. In addition, the larger states of the Commonwealth undertake to assist developing countries, including smaller states, through regular consultations and trade policy training programmes.

Vancouver
15 October 1987

ANNEX II

THE OKANAGAN STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

We continue to recognize the situation in Southern Africa as one of the major challenges facing the world community today. We reaffirm our shared international responsibility to work together for the total eradication of apartheid and the brutality that it continues to inflict on its victims within the neighbourhood of South Africa.

2. We consider that the crisis engendered in this region by apartheid has seriously deteriorated since our last meeting in Nassau. Repressive measures resulting in more suffering and loss of life have been intensified within South Africa, and the toll taken by acts of war and destruction directed against South Africa's neighbours in an attempt to sustain and defend apartheid has continued to rise. Southern Africa desperately needs regional peace and stability.

3. It is therefore our collective view that the urgency of international action against the intolerable situation that exists in Southern Africa has heightened and that as Commonwealth members we have the continuing obligation to make an effective contribution towards the ending of apartheid and relieving South Africa's neighbours of the burden of being forced to devote much of their resources to their resolute and determined efforts to defend their security and advance the cause of freedom and independence in their region. We recognize that these states are making intolerable sacrifices in a cause that concerns all countries and peoples.

4. We have reviewed developments in Southern Africa since our Nassau Meeting which produced the Accord on Southern Africa and reaffirmed our shared commitment to its objectives. We also recall the London Review Meeting in August 1986 which considered the Report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG), 'Mission to South Africa', established under the Nassau Accord. The EPG was to initiate, in the context of a suspension of violence on all sides, a process of dialogue across lines of colour, politics, and religion, with a view to establishing a non-racial and representative government.

5. Hearing for the first time in full Session since the publication of the Report, we warmly commend the work of the EPG and agree that the PPG mission offered a real opportunity for the South African Government to initiate a negotiating process between the Government and the true representatives of the black majority, leading ultimately to a peaceful resolution of the problem of apartheid and to a break in the cycle of violence in the region. Pretoria's rejection of the 'Negotiating Concept', submitted by the EPG, which was underlined by its brutal attacks against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe on 19 May 1986, was nothing less than a tragedy for the region.

6. At Nassau we appealed to the authorities in Pretoria to take a number of steps in a genuine manner and as a matter of urgency if the crisis of apartheid was not to end in even greater tragedy. In spite of the Pretoria regime's increased intransigence since Nassau, we remain convinced that only through negotiations can catastrophe be averted. We are encouraged in this by the obvious yearning for peace with justice which is evident amongst South Africa's peoples of all races as was dramatically highlighted by the recent Dakar Meeting. Accordingly, we again call on the South African Government to accept the 'Negotiating Concept' of the EPG which remains as valid today as it was when

the Group put it forward.

Commonwealth Response - Sanctions

7. With the exception of Britain we believe that economic and other sanctions have had a significant effect on South Africa and that their wider, tighter, and more intensified application must remain an essential part of the international community's response to apartheid.

8. We realize that if the reaction and other measures we have adopted are to have maximum effect, they must be part of a wider programme of international action. While mindful of the widespread view within the international community that comprehensive and mandatory sanctions would be the quickest route to bring Pretoria to the negotiating table, we, with the exception of Britain, believe that, pending the acceptance of such a position by the international community as a whole, genuine efforts should be made to ensure the universal adoption of the measures now adopted by most Commonwealth and other countries including the United States and the Nordic countries. We commit ourselves to continuing efforts to secure a more accelerated application of a global sanctions programme.

9. Further, in the interest of greater effectiveness, we have decided to continue co-ordination by the Secretariat of the implementation of measures as agreed by each member and to identify any efforts to frustrate them.

10. With the exception of Britain, we agree to continue on a continuous basis the application of sanctions in order to assess their impact. Moreover, given the significance of South Africa's relationship with the international financial system and the need for a better understanding of developments and possibilities in this sphere, with the exception of Britain we will initiate an expert study, drawing on independent sources, to examine this aspect of the South African economy.

11. Finally, mindful of our commitment at Nassau which we reaffirm here in Vancouver, we agree that we will continue to take further action individually and collectively as deemed appropriate in response to the situation as it evolves until apartheid is dismantled, in the case of all but Britain that includes sanctions.

South Africa and its Neighbours

12. In addition to our programme of action addressed directly to apartheid itself, we believe that the desperate plight of South Africa's neighbours calls for a comprehensive response from the international community. Substantial and invaluable help is already being provided by several Commonwealth countries through programmes of development assistance and security. However, the capacity of South Africa's neighbours to resist Pretoria's policy of destabilisation and destruction must be strengthened.

13. South Africa's aims are clear enough. In part, their actions are intended to coerce the Front-Line States into abandoning support for the black majority in South Africa, and to force them into co-existence with apartheid. They are also intended to perpetuate the dependence on South Africa of the majority of these countries whose development efforts are now being undermined by the need to confront Pretoria's actions. Therefore, if assistance for the region's development is to be effective, the international community must also address the security needs of the Front-Line States.

14. The Commonwealth is well placed to give a lead in this field. The Commonwealth has always considered assistance to the region as an integral part of its support for the struggle against apartheid. But so far, such assistance has been directed mainly to efforts to reduce dependence on South Africa. In the face of a systematic campaign to undermine the economies of these countries, the Commonwealth should itself take - and encourage the wider community to take - a broader view of the region's needs; assistance is needed both to advance disengagement from the South African economy and to provide for its security against South African aggression.

15. Against this background, and while acknowledging the continuing value of the forms of bilateral and multilateral assistance now being provided, we have decided to initiate an enhanced programme of co-ordinated Commonwealth assistance consistent with and complementary to the objectives of SADC and other regional organizations collaborating to this end with the region, including the Africa Fund. We see these efforts as directed towards the Front-Line and neighbouring states, particularly Mozambique. We further see these efforts directed to key sectors such as transportation and communications, embracing both their rehabilitation and their physical protection. In this respect we have decided to give priority attention to the Limpopo Line and the Port of Maputo. On a related matter, we propose to examine the question of transit rights of the land-locked states of the region.

16. We see Mozambique in a key geographical position in relation to the Front-Line States. If the region is to cease to be hostage to South Africa, special and urgent attention must be given to the needs of Mozambique. We have therefore decided to establish a special fund to provide technical assistance to Mozambique. We also stand ready, if requested, to embark upon a process of consultations with a view to enabling those of our members in a position to do so to make appropriate contributions to the security needs of Mozambique and the other Front-Line States requiring such help.

Reaching into South Africa

17. We are agreed that the Commonwealth should give support to the victims and opponents of apartheid within South Africa.

18. We encourage individual and collective efforts to provide assistance to the victims of apartheid and we resolve to augment those efforts to the fullest extent possible. We recognize the particular value of the Nassau Fellowship Programme in providing educational opportunities to young South Africans, and intend to expand it.

19. In light of the problems created by the state of emergency and other repressive measures in South Africa, we consider the provision of humanitarian and legal assistance to detainees and their families a high priority, and those in a position to do so undertake to increase their individual efforts in this regard.

20. Recognising its growing importance, we shall also increase our support to the trade union movement in South Africa, in particular, to labour education.

21. We plan wherever possible to increase our individual contributions to economic and social development programmes in such fields as education.

22. Despite having to confirm the conclusion of the EPG that Pretoria is not prepared to negotiate fundamental change in South Africa, we believe that we should take advantage of any opportunity to promote real internal dialogue. In the absence of movement by the authorities in Pretoria, we shall increase our contacts with South Africans of differing viewpoints. We shall make an enhanced effort to give support to the opponents of apartheid through such activities as the organisation of conferences on the future of South Africa, the arrangement of visits and the publication of material related to apartheid. We have agreed to consider means by which these activities could be co-ordinated and their importance highlighted.

23. The need for Commonwealth action to counteract South African propaganda and censorship by exposing the truth about apartheid has been made more pressing by the draconian curbs imposed on the press at the beginning of 1987. These amount to an all out attempt to replace independent reporting of events in the country with its own propaganda. Largely as a result of these restrictions, much of what is happening in South Africa no longer reaches the television, radio and newspapers of the outside world.

24. In view of what is at stake, we are agreed that the Commonwealth should give high priority to counteracting South African propaganda and censorship.

Namibia

25. We are gravely concerned that the impasse in Namibia's progress to independence under the terms of Resolution 435 continues to have assumed the proportions of a permanent stalemate. We again stress the illegality of South Africa's presence in Namibia and we remain unanimously convinced of the view that Resolution 435 provides the only basis for an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibian question.

26. Linking the withdrawal of Cuban forces to a settlement under Resolution 435 - a linkage which we have unanimously rejected - has, in effect, provided an opening for the South African regime to continue to frustrate any progress towards implementation of the Resolution. The challenge, therefore, is to develop an effective process of negotiations leading to the Resolution's implementation.

27. At Nassau we made it clear that the process which we envisaged in the Accord on Southern Africa should be directed squarely towards ensuring South Africa's compliance with the wishes of the international community on the question of Namibia. We also recall that at New Delhi we agreed that if South Africa continued to obstruct the implementation of Resolution 435, the adoption of appropriate measures under the Charter of the United Nations would have to be considered. These continue to be valid conclusions.

The Way Forward

28. The unfolding - but often unseen - tragedy of South Africa impels us to ensure that the world continues to focus its attention on apartheid until we meet again in full assembly. With the exception of Britain, we see great value as a measure of our continuing concern in establishing a Committee of Foreign Ministers able to meet periodically to provide high level leadership and guidance in

furtherance of the objectives of this statement. The Committee will comprise the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and will be chaired by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada.

29. We believe that this Statement provides a framework for a significant Commonwealth initiative to assist the region, and is one to which a number of Commonwealth countries, who hitherto have not been in a position to contribute to multilateral efforts, will be enabled to do so. It will require detailed consultations between both donor Commonwealth governments and the countries in question. We are instructing the Secretary-General to initiate these processes as a matter of the highest priority.

Lake Okanagan
16 October 1987

ANNEX III

COMMUNIQUE

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Vancouver from 13 to 17 October 1987. Of the 45 countries which • tsadsd 31 were represented by Heads of State or Prims Ministers. Thr Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Brian Mulroney, was in the chair.
2. Heads of Government sent a message of felicitation to Her Majesty The Queen as Herd of the Commonwealth. They welcomed with special pleasure thr opportunity of meeting in Vancouver, and expressed deep appreciation of thr excellent arrangements for the Meeting and the generous hospitality sxtsndsd to thsm by the Canadian Government.
3. Heads of Government expressed their dssp grief at ths death Of Prime Minister Errol Barrow of Barbados, and recalled hjs significant contributions to ths Commonwealth.
4. Heads of Governme: Separately issued the Vsncouvar Declaration on World Trade, the Okanagan Statement on Southern Africa, • d s Statement on Fiji.
5. Heads of Government stressed ths importance they attached to sustained and constructive international dialogue and negotiation aimed at creating a world free of insecurity sad tension sad promoting an era of genuine accord in international relations. They • #tssd that the issues facing the world community tovrdr thr and of thr 1980s were ss challenging as svsr. As an association ringing together such a representative group of countries, they were aware that their discussions had • value transcending their own national interests, with the potential to make s constructive contribution to the improvement of international relations. They expressed their resolve to make fulluss of the Commonwealth's capacity to assist thm world community, drawing upon its provsn facility for • nlrr8ing consensus.
6. Herds of Government wars conscious of tha value of co-operation among their governments in their efforts to secure s better life for their people and identified areas in w h i c h joint • ffortr could bring shared benefits. Thy renewed their pledge to uks appropriate resources available t o Commonwealth multilateral undertakings to enable them to □•□□□□□□ • ffrectly to ths nssds sad aspirations of member countries. The views of Herds of Government on A number of issues and problems srs sat out below.

Global Trends and Prospects

7. Heads of Government were conscious that they were moating at • time vhrn an improvement in super povrr relations was holding out theprospect of a more peecrful global environment. Welcoming recent developments in East-West relations, they called on thr leaders of the Soviet Union sad ths Unltsd States to work with vigour and commitment for continued progress in arms control and disarmament.

8. Heads of Government took the view that greater accord and co-operation between the super powers would contribute to the improvement of the international environment and to resolving political disputes.

9. In reviewing a number of international issues, Heads of Government were acutely aware of the interrelationship of economic and political factors in efforts to ensure international peace and security and of the urgent need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in dealing with both military and non-military threats to security.

10. Heads of Government expressed the hope that the improvement in East-West relations, and prospects for peace and security and greater recognition of interdependence would be reflected in greater international co-operation for development. They called for a clearer acknowledgement of the need for partnership and co-ordinated approaches on the widest possible basis to secure a more robust world economy, and reiterated their commitment to efforts to revitalise international co-operation for development and their support for international institutions which sustain development.

Disarmament

11. Heads of Government welcomed the progress in the Geneva talks on reducing intermediate-range nuclear weapons. Recognising that this represented an important first step they urged every effort be made to achieve agreement on significant reductions in strategic nuclear arms with a view to preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth. They expressed the hope that an INF agreement would provide impetus for progress in other areas of disarmament, particularly for securing a world-wide reduction in conventional forces and achieving an agreement on banning the development, production, stock-piling and deployment of chemical weapons. They believed that further progress on the verification issue would have a favourable influence on all disarmament negotiations.

12. Heads of Government welcomed the recent agreement between the US and the USSR to start negotiations with the aim of agreeing upon effective verification measures which would make it possible to ratify the US/USSR Threshold Test Ban of the Treaty of 1974 and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty of 1976 and to proceed thereafter to negotiating further limitations on nuclear testing. Heads of Government believed that this would facilitate progress towards the achievement of a negotiated and verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In the meantime, most Heads of Government stressed the need for continued efforts to be made for an immediate halt to the testing of nuclear weapons.

13. Noting the conclusions of the recent UN Conference on Disarmament and Development, Heads of Government called for efforts to ensure that progress in arms control was accompanied where possible by a reduction in the budgets for both nuclear and conventional arms.

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

Cyprus

15. Heads of Government reaffirmed the position they had taken at Nassau and their support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-aligned status of Cyprus, and reiterated their condemnation and non-recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish-Cypriot leadership in November 1983. They further denounced all subsequent steps and measures taken in order to consolidate the secessionist "state" in the area of Cyprus which, to their deep regret, still remained under foreign occupation. They noted with satisfaction that no other country besides Turkey had recognised or assisted this illegal entity and called upon all states not to recognise any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus.

16. Heads of Government expressed their concern over the findings of the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the situation in the Republic of Cyprus. They stressed the speedy need for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and settlers from the Republic of Cyprus and in this respect noted with interest the proposal made by President Kyprianou for the demilitarisation of the Republic of Cyprus. Heads of Government stressed the importance of securing compliance with the United Nations Resolutions on Cyprus in general and in particular Security Council Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) calling for the withdrawal of all secessionist actions as well as for the transfer of the City of Varosha to the administration of the United Nations as a first practical step in improving the situation.

19. Heads of Government supported the continuation of the mission of good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General entrusted to him by Security Council Resolution 550 for finding a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem in conformity with the Charter and United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and called on all parties to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General. They also noted the proposal made by President Kyprianou for a United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Cyprus.

18. Heads of Government commended the work of the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus they had set up at their 1983 Meeting in New Delhi and the support it had given to the United Nations Secretary-General's good offices mission. As an expression of continuing solidarity with the Government and people of Cyprus and their colleague, the President of Cyprus they agreed in accordance with the stand taken by the Commonwealth countries that the Group should continue to monitor developments within the scope of its terms of reference including in particular assisting the Secretary-General's efforts.

Belize

19. Heads of Government noted with regret Guatemala's continued non-recognition of Belize's sovereignty and independence, which they viewed as inconsistent with the movement towards peace and democracy in Central America. They urged the parties to pursue negotiations to achieve an early and lasting settlement, based on the acceptance of Belize's right to strengthen its sovereignty and independence and to preserve its territorial integrity and inviolability. 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.

Guyana

20. Heads of Government welcomed the improved relations between Guyana and Venezuela, and the increase in co-operation in several areas between the two countries. In relation to the controversy arising from Venezuela's territorial claim they were encouraged by the continuing efforts and the determination of the two governments to reach an agreement in accordance with the 1966 Geneva Agreement.

South Pacific

21. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the right of the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories of the South Pacific to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter and decolonisation principles and practices of the United Nations. They noted that at the 41st Session of the United Nations General Assembly New Caledonia had been reinscribed on the List of Non-Self-Governing Territories, expressed the hope that the situation in New Caledonia would not be allowed to threaten the stability of the region. They stressed the need to secure an early settlement on the political future of New Caledonia which reflected requirements for a viable political solution and recognised the inalienable right of all the peoples of the territory to participate by means of free and democratic processes in framing the society in which they live. They also noted the unanimous view of the members of the South Pacific Forum that the recent referendum in New Caledonia had been fundamentally flawed and had made no contribution to the resolution of the situation in the territory which could only be achieved through a genuine act of self-determination.

22. Heads of Government expressed their belief that nuclear weapon free zones on the basis, among other criteria, of agreements freely arrived at among states of a region, could constitute an important disarmament measure. They recalled that the adoption of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty by the South Pacific Forum on 6 August 1985 had been an important step in global and regional efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. They noted that the Treaty had entered into force on 11 December 1986, that nuclear weapon states had been asked to support the Treaty through adherence to the accompanying Protocols, and that the number of parties to the Treaty now totalled nine. They expressed the hope that nuclear weapon states adhering to the Protocols would do so without reservation or interpretation. Most of them renewed their strong opposition to the continuation of nuclear tests in this region.

Indian Ocean

23. Heads of Government noted the 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. They emphasized the importance of the Conference in view of the continuing military presence of outside powers in the Indian Ocean. They reiterated the need to carry forward the preparatory expeditiously in order to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo, with the participation of all concerned states, at an early date but not later than 1990 as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee to the 42nd United Nations General Assembly. In this context they called for full and active participation in the Conference by all permanent members of the Security Council and major

maritime users, which was essential for the success of the Conference.

South Asia

24. Heads of Government welcomed the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement recently signed by the President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India as an act of the highest statesmanship. They were happy to note that the Agreement meets the legitimate aspirations of all the people in Sri Lanka within a democratic system of governance. It brings to an end the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, restores peace and normalcy, and ensures the unity, integrity and security of the country. They acclaimed the Agreement as one arrived at bilaterally between two member states of the Commonwealth in a spirit of understanding and accommodation which will ensure peace and stability. Heads of Government wished the two leaders every success in the full implementation of the Agreement. They affirmed their fullest support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

25. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) in which the majority of members were Commonwealth countries. They viewed its emergence as a vindication of the continuing appeal of regionalism and were hopeful that it would contribute significantly to the region's peace, stability and progress.

South East Asia

26. Heads of Government viewed with great concern the persisting tensions in South East Asia, arising particularly from the continuing armed conflict in Kampuchea, which posed a serious threat to peace and security in the region and, if left unchecked, would lead to intervention by major powers. They reaffirmed their support for the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference, subversion and coercion. They reiterated the call they had made at previous Meetings for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea and agreed on the urgent need for a comprehensive political settlement which would ensure peace in the region. Noting the recent developments on the issue, they expressed the hope that these developments would lead to such a settlement.

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

Mediterranean

26. Heads of Government expressed their concern at the persistence of unresolved conflicts in the Mediterranean region. They renewed their call for a just and durable settlement to the problems of the region in accordance with United Nations resolutions would make a significant contribution towards the easing of tension and the improvement of international security. They also took account of the close interrelationship between security and co-operation in the Mediterranean and Europe as a whole.

29. Heads of Government welcomed the continuing initiatives by

Mediterranean states to enhance peace, security and co-operation in their region. They noted with interest the results and decisions of the Second Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Mediterranean countries held La Brioni, Yugoslavia in June 1987, and welcomed in particular the expressed intention of these countries to work with the other countries in the region for improving relations, reducing tensions and resolving conflicts through peaceful means.

The Caribbean

30. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the continuing efforts to strengthen regional co-operation in the Caribbean, including the decision at the Eleventh Meeting of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in May 1987 to work towards the political union of OECS member states. They agreed that the Commonwealth should support wherever possible this initiative designed to reduce the vulnerability of small economies about which the Commonwealth had expressed concern at earlier meetings.

Central America

31. Heads of Government were gravely concerned that continuing tension in Central America posed a serious threat to the peace and stability of the whole region with potentially dangerous consequences for international security. They welcomed the Central American Accord signed in Guatemala on 7 August 1987 by the Presidents of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua as a significant attempt to find solutions to the region's problems and noted that the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group had on 9 August greeted the Accord as a decisive step towards ending the conflict. They were heartened by the clear indications of genuine efforts to implement the Accord and appealed to all parties concerned to adopt a constructive attitude to the Accord and 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.

Middle East

32. Heads of Government expressed deep concern at the dangerous tensions arising from the unresolved problems of the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue, which continued to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. Concern was also expressed at the situation in the territories occupied by Israel. They recognised 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.

33. Heads of Government noted the growing support for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices in order to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. They were of the view that the participation of all parties directly concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinians, and the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council, would be a sine qua non for attaining the objectives of the Conference. Most Heads of Government reaffirmed their view that the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as the sole

legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, must be involved on an equal footing in negotiations or a settlement.

39. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern at the violence which continues in various parts of Lebanon. They reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon. They also expressed the hope that genuine efforts would continue to be made towards national reconciliation in Lebanon.

The Gulf

35. Heads of Government were gravely concerned about the increasingly dangerous situation in the Gulf with the continuation of the, Iran/Iraq conflict which had already taken a colossal toll in human lives. They acknowledged that the conflict increased tensions in the wider area posing a threat to international peace and security. In stressing the need to intensify efforts to achieve a settlement, they called upon the parties to accept Security Council Resolution 598 as a first step towards a negotiated settlement and to reaffirm their support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in this respect.

Afghanistan

36. Heads of Government reaffirmed support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Representative to achieve a solution to the problem of Afghanistan which would leave the Afghan people free to determine their own future, guarantee the right of Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour, and which was based on the withdrawal of foreign troops, strict observance of the principles of non-intervention and non-interference and full respect for the independence, sovereignty and non-aligned status of Afghanistan.

Small States

37. Heads of Government reaffirmed their view that because of their particular problems, small states merited special support and should continue to have priority in the developmental assistance given by the Secretariat. They recognised that international developments continued to demonstrate the peculiar vulnerability of these states and noted that, since the publication of the Commonwealth Report, Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society, several initiatives had been taken by small states themselves, as well as under bilateral and regional arrangements, to improve their security. They urged the continuation of efforts towards the achievement, at both domestic and global levels, of an environment conducive to the security and viability of these states.

38. Heads of Government expressed appreciation of the support given by several member governments which had enabled the office facility established in New York for permanent missions to the United Nations of small Commonwealth states to be enlarged. They noted that the enlarged facility, due to be fully functioning in early 1988, would benefit small states from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and welcomed it as an admirable example of Commonwealth co-operation.

39. The conclusions of Heads of Government on the economic problem of small states are set out in paragraphs 71 to 75,

Human Rights

40. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the observance of human rights. They welcomed 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 their main international human rights instruments. They agreed to give active consideration to early ratification of or accession 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.

41. Heads of Government affirmed their respect for the rules of international humanitarian law and universally recognised humanitarian principles. They expressed support for the International Committee of the Red Cross in its efforts to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts on the basis of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols.

Mutual Assistance in Judicial Matters

42. Heads of Government welcomed the Commonwealth Scheme for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters which Commonwealth Law Ministers had adopted at their meeting in Harare in 1986 to establish a framework for greatly enhanced co-operation between courts, prosecution authorities and law enforcement agencies in Commonwealth countries. They pledged to accord urgency to the implementation of the Scheme which had placed the Commonwealth in the vanguard of international efforts in this field.

43. Heads of Government also expressed satisfaction at the adoption by Law Ministers of a scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders within the Commonwealth, based on the desirability of furthering the rehabilitation of offenders and easing their eventual reintegration into society in their own countries.

Terrorism

44. Heads of Government reiterated their deep concern over the incidence of terrorism worldwide and their condemnation of all terrorist activities whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states. They renewed their pledge to counter terrorism by every means possible and to strengthen their co-operation, both formal and informal, in preventing and combating all forms of terrorism. They also recognised the urgent need to encourage universal adoption of the relevant international conventions, to strengthen their adherence to these conventions, and to promote appropriate action through competent international organisations.

45. They urged All countries to fulfil their obligation under international law to refrain from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist activities, or acquiescing in activities

within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts. In particular, they stressed the need to develop effective extradition arrangements and deny terrorists a safe haven. They were also of the view that special attention should be given to the growing and pernicious nexus between terrorist groups and drug trafficking.

Law of the Sea

46. Heads of Government recalled that this year marked the 20th anniversary of the launching by Malta of the proposal at the United Nations on the common heritage of mankind. They also noted with • the considerable progress made in the work of the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea at its last session.

47. They welcomed the registration of India as the first pioneer investor. Most Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance they attached to the Convention as an instrument of international co-operation and development, and renewed their • appeal to all States to sign the Convention and proceed with the ratification process without delay. They hoped that action could be taken on other parts of the Convention, in particular the proposal to • establish regional centres on marine research.

Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa (CCSA)

48. Heads of Government received the Report of the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa, and expressed appreciation of its work. Their main conclusions on Southern African issues were set out in the Okanagan Statement.

Children in Detention in South Africa

49. Recognising that children in South Africa had become specially tragic victims of apartheid, Heads of Government were deeply disturbed by the indictments made by young South African children at the International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in apartheid South Africa held in Harare two weeks before their Meeting. They were disturbed to learn that all the children testifying at the Conference had stated that they had been detained without charge, tortured and grossly maltreated by the South African • authorities and that the distinguished South African lawyers at the Conference had identified serious deficiencies in the legal protection afforded to children.

50. Heads of Government recalled that the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group in its report had also commented adversely on child abuse and that by the regime's own figures large numbers of young children had been detained and many had died • at the hands of the security forces over the years. They called upon the Pretoria regime immediately to open all its places of detention to regular international inspection and to provide an effective legal framework to guarantee to children the special protection to which their vulnerability • entitled them.

WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES

51. Heads of Government reviewed the world economic situation, taking account of the deliberations of Commonwealth Finance Ministers at their meeting in Barbados in September 1987. They reviewed developments at the recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva, as well as the outcome of UNCTAD VII.

52. Heads of Government called on their Secretary-General to bring the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade to the attention of the international community.

Economic Prospects

53. Heads of Government noted that 1987 was a further year of recovery from recession and of low inflation in industrial countries. But they expressed disappointment that the level of growth overall had been lower than hoped for and that the recovery had not reached large parts of the developing world where prospects remained generally poor. They were particularly troubled about the continuing plight of low-income countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and least developed countries more generally. They agreed that successful growth-oriented adjustment and sustained development required, in addition to higher growth in industrial countries, improved market access for developing country exports, and substantially increased financial flows as well as measures to tackle the debt problem. They stressed the importance of domestic adjustment measures in both developed and developing countries and acknowledged their courageous steps being taken by many governments, especially those of low-income states. They warned that, in order for the adjustment efforts of developing countries to succeed, a more supportive economic environment was imperative.

Policy Co-ordination

54. Heads of Government welcomed recent moves to strengthen economic policy co-ordination amongst the Group of Seven leading industrial countries and their agreement at their Summit Meeting in Venice in 1987 to take additional action if world economic growth proved inadequate. They were of the view that current circumstances warranted, inter alia, a higher rate of growth in domestic demand in some countries. They also welcomed the Louvre Accord on exchange rates and stressed the need for continuing efforts to secure a more stable exchange rate regime, based on an appropriate pattern of sound underlying fiscal, monetary and trade policies. They noted with interest the proposals for a more permanent regime of managed floating, designed to ensure maximum non-inflationary stability of key exchange rates. They expressed the hope that continued progress would be made towards securing improved consultations between the major industrial countries and the wider international community in relation to global economic management.

UNCTAD VII

55. Heads of Government were glad to receive a report on the outcome of UNCTAD VII from the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development of Zimbabwe, who had presided with distinction over the Conference. They welcomed

the revival of a spirit of co-operation which had characterized the debate and facilitated agreement on a consensus declaration. They expressed the hope that this would encourage renewed commitment to multilateral dialogue and co-operation between developed and developing countries. They called for expeditious implementation of the conclusions and decisions of UNCTAD VII and hoped that UNCTAD would play an increasingly effective role in promoting harmonious and equitable international relations.

Environmental Issues

36. Heads of Government took note with appreciation of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled "Our Common Future". They agreed that the goal of environmentally sustainable development should be central to national and international policy. They also agreed that, in addition to industrial pollution, much environmental stress originated in poverty and rapid population growth. Remedial action required not merely effective environmental control but also radical measures to improve living standards in developing countries. They welcomed the recent international agreement to counter threats to the stratospheric ozone layer and the proposals to arrest the rapid depletion of tropical forests. They expressed serious concern at the possible implications of man-made climatic change, especially for low-lying and marginal agricultural areas.

37. Heads of Government expressed great interest in the memorandum submitted by the Government of Maldives on Sea-Level Rise and its Predicted Impacts on Low-Lying Areas of the World. They noted the study which the Government of Maldives had already put in hand. They asked the Secretary-General to consider the problems posed for member countries by the apparently growing incidence of natural disasters, especially floods. Specifically, they asked him to convene a group of experts to examine the implications for Commonwealth countries of rises in the sea-level and other natural disasters resulting from possible climatic change. They called for this study to cover the problem of flooding.

Structural Adjustment Issues in Relation to Women

38. Heads of Government reiterated the view, expressed at their 1985 Meeting, that the impact of structural adjustment policies on women required specific investigation. Women, they emphasized, played a vital role in all aspects of the national economy and in particular, in many sectors where structural adjustment measures had a great impact. They endorsed the recommendation of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs that the Secretary-General should, in consultation with Finance and Economic Planning Ministers and Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs, an Expert Group on the Impact of Structural Adjustment on Women. They asked for its report, which they would consider at the 1999 Meeting, to be circulated for comment first to Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs and then to be presented to Finance Ministers.

Financial Flows, Debt and Growth-Oriented Adjustment

39. Heads of Government were deeply concerned at the serious deterioration in, and poor prospects for financial flows to developing countries. There had

been net outflows of financial resources from many developing countries to the developed countries. They stressed the desirability of substantially increased net resource flows from developed to developing countries, to give greater support to growth-oriented adjustment and long-term development.

60. Heads of Government had an extensive discussion of the very serious debt situation facing many low-income countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa. They recalled that the United Nations Special Session on Africa, the Venice Summit and UNCTAD VII had regarded the problems of this region as uniquely difficult and needing urgent treatment. They endorsed the measures proposed by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer to deal with problems of official bilateral debt of low-income countries pursuing appropriate policies. In particular, they welcomed the policy which is leading to agreements at the Paris Club for longer repayment and grace periods on rescheduled debt for debt-distressed low-income countries. They stressed the importance also of reaching early a groamrat to reduce interest rates on such debts.

61. Heads of Government acted with appreciation that some Commonwealth donors had converted official development assistance (ODA) loans into grants. They further noted that some donors, including Australia, had long provided a full ODA as grants. They especially commended the Canadian Government for its announcement at the Meeting that it would write off the official development assistance debt of six Commonwealth African countries. They urged all donors, who had not already done so, to cancel all the aid debt of all debt-distressed low-income countries. They urged that debt relief measures must lead to additional resources and that the increased assistance to debt-distressed countries should not be at the expense of aid to other needy countries.

62. Heads of Government expressed disappointment at current levels of ODA, now far below the United Nations targets, and urged all donors to give renewed priority to reaching them. They were encouraged by the fact that some countries were substantially increasing their ODA.

63. Heads of Government unanimously supported a very substantial enlargement of the IMF's Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) by the end of 1987, following the recommendation of the Managing Director of the IMF for a tripling of SAF's resources as the minimum necessary to deal with the serious debt problems of low-income countries. They emphasized that resources made available by donors should be additional. They noted their recent announcements by Britain and Canada that they would contribute sizeable amounts to the enlargement of SAF and they urged other donors to follow suit as soon as possible.

64. Heads of Government also reviewed the debt situation facing middle-income countries, some of which were covered neither by the Baker Plan nor by the Lawson initiative. They welcomed the renewed attention being given to ways of making the debt problem manageable within the context of growth-oriented solutions. They commended for serious consideration by the international community the proposal put forward by the Prime Minister of Jamaica on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to deal with the problems facing countries with large and uncomfortably bunched debts to the international financial institutions.

65. Heads of Government agreed that the World Bank had an important role to play in expanding flows of finance for developing countries, both directly and indirectly, especially given the poor immediate prospects for a revival of private lending to these countries. They strongly endorsed the recommendation of

Commonwealth Finance Ministers for a very substantial *capital* increase for the World Bank and urged rapid completion of the relevant deliberations. They welcomed the completion of the IDA VIII replenishment negotiations, and hoped that the replenishment would be made fully effective at a very early date.

66. Heads of Government also emphasized the important role of private inflows of finance to supplement domestic savings in accelerating development. They welcomed the efforts by the International Finance Corporation to promote direct and portfolio investment. They also commended the practical work being done by the Commonwealth Secretariat in the areas of private investment and capital markets, and urged that this should continue to be given priority. They endorsed the request made to the Secretary-General by Finance Ministers in Barbados to examine ways in which Commonwealth capital-importing countries could improve their access to private capital, including the possibilities for venture capital and portfolio investment. They suggested that particular attention be given to the role of surplus economies in producing more, and more varied, private flows.

67. Heads of Government reviewed the conditionality policies of the IMF and the World Bank. They agreed that such conditionality must be responsive to growth and other development objectives and that performance criteria in IMF programmes should be sufficiently flexible to reflect these objectives. They were particularly concerned that the impact of adjustment policies on women, children and vulnerable social groups should be taken into account fully by international financial institutions. Noting that a review of adjustment policies was underway in the IMF, they welcomed the proposals by the Managing Director to revitalise the Extended Fund Facility and to make greater use in Fund programmes of contingency mechanisms to avoid such programmes being thrown off-track by unpredictable external factors. They renewed their earlier call for improved access to the IMF Compensatory Financing Facility as a source of finance for temporary export shortfalls. At the same time they adopted recent proposals for incorporating broader contingency factors in compensatory financing arrangements, and recommended that these proposals should be given further consideration.

Commodities

68. Heads of Government expressed concern over the continuing instability as well as the current weakness in the purchasing power of most commodity exporters. They noted with concern the worsening terms of trade of the countries concerned, which limited their capacity to import. In this connection they noted the way in which synthetic materials and other substitutes were eroding the position of commodities such as natural fibres. They also viewed with concern the effects of heavy subsidies on commodity production and markets, and particularly on the exports of commodities from developing countries, and agreed on the need to counter unfair trading practices and protectionist measures affecting commodities. They also agreed on the importance of co-operation among producers of commodities.

69. Heads of Government requested the Secretariat to bring together and update the results of studies analysing the causes and effects of depressed prices for many commodities of particular concern to Commonwealth developing countries, especially low-income countries, and to consider new approaches to commodity problems. In the meantime, they called for renewed efforts, including greater technical and financial help to secure more stable commodity markets and

greater diversification of developing countries' . They noted the outcome of the discussion of commodities, and particularly of the Common Fund, in UNCTAD VII.

Economic Problems of Small States

70. Heads of Government expressed appreciation of the continuing work done by the Secretariat on the economic problems of small states. They urged the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to these countries' needs. They thought it important to improve co-operation among the small states themselves and for the Commonwealth to maintain recognition of these states as a group and to ensure that their problems were given adequate attention in international fora generally.

71. Heads of Government noted that the question of graduation from eligibility for World Bank and IDA funds was of special concern to the Commonwealth and particularly to its smaller members. They called on the World Bank to ensure that countries were not prematurely graduated and that the graduation process took into account not only per capita GNP but also the circumstances of individual countries, including their ability to tap alternative sources of finance.

72. Heads of Government also noted those particular difficulties faced by small states in international trade, especially in view of their greater reliance on international markets and their need to diversify from highly specialised commodity exports. They deplored the severity of trade barriers confronting small states, and called for more attention to the special needs of states within the framework of more liberal trading arrangements.

73. Heads of Government recognised the crucial importance of maritime resources for the small states concerned, especially island developing countries, and the need for greater assistance to them to protect and maximise their utilisation of these resources.

74. Heads of Government expressed particular appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government of Canada for organising the Commonwealth Small States Exposition being held currently in Vancouver (and thereafter in Toronto) which had as a prime objective the promotion of investment as well as of trade and tourism, in small states.

Least Developed Countries

75. Heads of Government emphasised the need for full and expeditious implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and of the recommendations of the Mid-term Review as adopted. They recognised, inter alia, that, while the LDCs bear primary responsibility for their overall development, the developed countries should attain the internationally agreed targets for ODA to these countries as expeditiously as possible. They welcomed the decision of the United Nations, in General Assembly Resolution 40/205, and in the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, to convene a United Nations Conference at a high level on the LDCs in 1993 to review and appraise the implementation of the SNPA.

Food

76. Heads Of Government expressed grave concern over the continuing food emergencies in certain countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the adverse effects on food production of floods and drought elsewhere, especially in Asia. As an immediate measure, those Commonwealth countries in a position to do so resolved to help the affected countries in all possible ways and requested other donor nations and multilateral organisations to increase their relief efforts. In the quest for enduring solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition which still afflict much of the Third World, they agreed that the countries concerned should intensify their efforts to increase food production - including livestock and fisheries - by completing the necessary adjustments in their agricultural structures, and developing and implementing appropriate food management and security systems.

77. Emphasising the importance of a helpful external environment to this process, Heads of Government recognised the need for the Secretariat's existing technical assistance programmes to be strengthened, especially in the areas of food management and security and where they can complement the activities of other agencies.

Shelter for the Homeless

78. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that the United Nations General Assembly had celebrated the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987. They also noted that the United Nations Declaration on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless envisaged international measures under a programme of action up to the year 2000. They expressed their appreciation of action already taken in the context of Commonwealth programmes of functional co-operation and invited the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve the shelter and neighbourhood of all the poor and disadvantaged throughout the Commonwealth by the year 2000.

Child Survival and Development

79. Heads of Government noted with appreciation the Memorandum on Child Survival and Development, submitted by the President of The Gambia.

Next Meeting

80. Heads of Government warmly welcomed the invitation from the Government of Malaysia to hold their next meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

COMMONWEALTH FUNCTIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. Heads of Government reaffirmed the value they placed on functional co-operation as a vital expression of the Commonwealth spirit of partnership. They expressed satisfaction that the decision they had taken in Vancouver to promote co-operation in distance education would add a significant new dimension to collective Commonwealth endeavours. They agreed on the importance of maintaining the level of activity of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) in view of its role as the primary Commonwealth agency for development co-operation. They were pleased by the continuing evidence of the Secretariat's responsiveness to emerging needs within the limits set by resource constraints and the quality of its contribution in service to the Commonwealth.

Distance Education

2. Heads of Government warmly welcomed the Report of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Lord Briggs and commended it as an imaginative and constructive approach to meeting urgent educational needs in member countries. They recognised that its proposals could usher in a new era of Commonwealth co-operation in education and would significantly widen learning opportunities for young people and adults throughout the Commonwealth. They were much attracted by the Report's central proposition that "any learner anywhere in the Commonwealth shall be able to study any distance-teaching programme available from any bona fide college or university in the Commonwealth" and pledged to work towards this end.

3. Heads of Government acknowledged the valuable role of existing programmes of bilateral co-operation in education. They believed, however, that a multilateral initiative, working through a network of existing institutions, would widen the range of resources on which individual countries could draw as well as offer important economies of scale in meeting common needs.

4. Heads of Government agreed to create a Commonwealth institution to promote co-operation in distance education, which may become the University of the Commonwealth for co-operation in distance education. They endorsed in principle a Canadian proposal to establish a Commonwealth University and College Network for distance education. The Canadian proposal was for a headquarters in Canada and various units for example in Britain, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa, West Africa, South Asia and the Pacific and any other appropriate place. Canada undertook to provide 12 million from federal and provincial sources towards the capital costs and in addition 11 million towards recurrent costs over a five-year period. India offered 11 million over a five-year period and Nigeria 1.5 million over the same period, together with television services and free physical facilities. A number of other countries including Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Britain, Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand and Zimbabwe promised to contribute to the programme at an early stage. Malta also offered itself as a centre and promised physical facilities.

5. Heads of Government believed that, in due course, the new institution would be able to generate further funding by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, through contract work and by support from the private sector. Once the institution had been proven successful and sufficient resources were available it might be possible to proceed with the University of the Commonwealth.

6. Encouraged by the tangible expressions of support already received, Heads of Government requested the Secretary-General initially to convene a working group to develop the financial and organisational framework, establish appropriate guidelines and set priorities for the institution with view to ensuring the relevance of programmes and the appropriateness of educational technologies to countries' particular situations and needs. The working group would include representatives of the main donor countries and others with substantial experience and interest in distance education. Once the group's work was completed the Secretary-General, having reported to member governments, would consult with them and establish a Governing Board and associated Planning Committee for the Network, consisting of selected government representatives and distinguished independent members. The aim would be to start the first co-operative programmes as early as possible.

7. Heads of Government remained mindful of the crucial importance of student mobility within the Commonwealth to which they saw distance education as a complement. They endorsed the hope expressed by Education Ministers that all member countries would, in due course, give consideration to the possibility of a favourable fee-regime for Commonwealth students. They expressed their appreciation of the work of the Standing Committee on Student Mobility, and invited it to continue its work with an enlarged mandate as recommended by Education Ministers.

Commonwealth Fund For Technical Co-operation

8. In reviewing Commonwealth functional co-operation, Heads of Government paid particular attention to the work of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC). They expressed concern that the CFTC's ability to maintain its level of activity be not eroded. They appreciated the special effort made to improve the CFTC's resources position and pledged their best efforts to ensure that the CFTC was able to maintain a satisfactory level of activity.

9. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance they placed on the work of the CFTC and expressed their appreciation of the effective way in which it was meeting urgent needs for sports and training in a wide variety of developmental fields, helping to set up industries and upgrade existing industries, and assisting countries to increase their foreign exchange earnings through improved export performance, through, for example, the Commonwealth Small States Exposition organized at the time of their Meeting in Vancouver. They commended the further development of the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System and the advisory services available to countries involved in rescheduling their external debts.

10. Heads of Government were also impressed by the support the CFTC was providing to small and disadvantaged member countries and to the food-deficit Commonwealth countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Women and Development

11. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring women's full participation as agents and beneficiaries of development. They welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Second Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs and the practical impetus they had given to the integration of women and development issues into policy and planning at national

and Commonwealth levels.

12. Heads of Government endorsed both the national and Secretariat measures in the Commonwealth Plan of Action forwarded to them by Ministers. They stressed that sustained and comprehensive efforts were still required to incorporate women's issues into policy planning in all sectors. In this context they emphasized the critical importance of the national initiatives outlined in the Plan to the achievement of Commonwealth objectives on women and development, and pledged support for their implementation as a matter of urgency. They agreed to review the progress achieved at subsequent meetings.

13. Heads of Government commended the progress being made by the Secretariat in addressing women and development issues and welcomed the Secretary-General's statement that he would report regularly to them and to Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs on the Secretariat's progress in implementing the Plan.

14. Heads of Government endorsed the proposal of Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs to meet again in 1990 and at three year intervals thereafter.

Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

15. Heads of Government, recalling their invitation at Nassau to Commonwealth Law Ministers to explore measures to counter the international traffic in illicit drugs, welcomed the Commonwealth Scheme for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters adopted by Law Ministers in Harare in 1986. They noted that it established a framework for greatly enhanced co-operation between courts, prosecution authorities and law enforcement agencies of Commonwealth countries and how its provisions for the international forfeiture of the proceeds of crimes covered drug trafficking. They agreed to give urgency to the implementation of the Scheme, while noting that some governments had already taken legislative action to deal with the transnational forfeiture of the proceeds of drug trafficking.

16. Heads of Government reiterated their concern at the serious threat created by the marked rise in drug abuse and illicit trafficking and the problem caused to states which had been made into transit points for the illicit drug trade. They supported the recommendation made by the meeting of Commonwealth delegations held before the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Vienna in June 1987 that in association with other international agencies, the Secretariat should assist Commonwealth countries in organising training in such areas as customs and law enforcement investigative methods, the collection of epidemiological data on drug dependence, the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, and the implementation of the relevant international convention. Heads of Government requested the Secretary-General to arrange occasional informal meetings of Commonwealth delegations attending meetings of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to explore ways to enhance Commonwealth co-operation.

17. Heads of Government welcomed the successful conclusion of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and their full support for the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities adopted unanimously by it, and requested the Secretariat to provide appropriate assistance to facilitate the implementation of its recommendations. They committed themselves to maximize international co-operation and in particular to

work for the early conclusion of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Aids

18. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern over the global AIDS situation and stressed the importance of international co-operation in combating AIDS. They welcomed WHO's global leadership in the campaign against AIDS and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to facilitate regional AIDS control activities in collaboration with WHO and other international organizations. They offered support at national level to the Secretariat's initiatives to enable regions to develop human and material resources for combating AIDS, including epidemiological data, community education, research and policy formulation on the management of the disease. Recognising that Australia and Uganda had joined WHO in organising regional conferences, Heads of Government welcomed the convening by Britain and WHO of a World Conference on AIDS prevention, in London in January 1988.

Commonwealth Youth Programme

19. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance they attached to the work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, which remained the only significant vehicle of international co-operation in the field of youth development. They noted the value placed on the Programme's potential by the Expert Group on Youth Unemployment.

20. Heads of Government noted that the Programme's financial difficulties were eroding its capacity to fulfil the purposes for which it had been established. There had been cutbacks in regional activity and, contrary to the original intention of governments, an almost complete breakdown of pan-Commonwealth activity.

21. Heads of Government agreed that an appropriate balance would need to be struck between the financial capacity of governments and the requirements of a sound and viable Programme. To this end, they agreed that, for the next biennium, the Programme's Committee of Management and the Youth Affairs Council should review the Programme's structure and activities, bearing in mind the level of resources pledged as well as current priorities. In the meantime, each government would endeavour to raise its pledge to the level suggested by the Secretary-General using the assessed contribution to the Secretariat's budget as a guideline, but without reducing the percentages of those countries already paying more.

Commonwealth Health Development Programme

22. Heads of Government affirmed the importance of strengthening Commonwealth co-operation for health development. Recognising the need to increase skills and experience in all Commonwealth countries if the priority health problems of the developing countries were to be dealt with effectively, they welcomed the concept of a Commonwealth Health Development Programme and encouraged Health Ministers and the Secretariat to develop the initiative further and report on progress in due course.

Commonwealth Scientific Co-operation

33. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the work of the Commonwealth Science Council in promoting scientific co-operation. They expressed appreciation of the Council's assistance to member countries in establishing a firm scientific and technological capability for sustainable development. They noted the consolidation of the Council's expanded programme and the modest success achieved in attracting external funds for specific projects. They hoped that this effort would continue, supplemented by an endeavour to mobilise resources from the private sector.

24. Heads of Government acknowledged that to be able to raise external funds, the Council would need to provide seed money at an appropriate level. Noting the assistance given by the CPTC and other sources, they welcomed the multiplier effect achieved by the Council in recent years. Consistent with the importance of strengthening scientific and technological capability for economic development, they hoped that the Council would be assisted to carry forward its expanded programme to the greatest practicable extent. Individual countries would make their best endeavours to fund specific projects of interest to them as well as to lend national support for the further development of project networks.

Conservation for Sustainable Development

25. Heads of Government noted the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat in the areas of desertification and deforestation and welcomed the report "Conservation for Sustainable Development", as a timely complement to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. They endorsed its recommendations and requested the Secretary-General to develop and coordinate a long-term programme of action on conservation and development and to pursue the project proposals contained in the study. They requested Commonwealth Agriculture Ministers to consider the study at their November 1987 Meeting and examine what practical assistance could be extended to the programme with the objective of building institutional capacities in formulating and implementing environmentally sound conservation and land-use plans.

Employment, Labour and Technological Change

26. Heads of Government discussed the Report "Jobs for Young People: A Way to a Better Future", prepared by the Expert Group on Youth Unemployment, which they had established at their Nassau Meeting. They expressed appreciation of the work of the Group. They noted with concern that it had assembled that unemployment among young men and young women was significantly worse than among the working population as a whole and that, in developing countries at least, the problem was intensifying. They concurred with the welcome Employment and Labour Ministers had given to the concept of a Youth Entitlement, which provides a framework within differing national circumstances for ensuring that the education and training needs of young people were met.

27. Heads of Government welcomed the increasing attention the Commonwealth was giving to the problem of youth unemployment. They confirmed the endorsement by Employment and Labour Ministers of the Group's recommendation for Commonwealth action. They requested the Secretariat to make an early start in collecting and disseminating material on member countries' youth employment.

policies. They also asked for priority attention to the proposal to support exchange visits, including tripartite missions (comprising representatives of governments, employers and labour) to encourage exchanges experience. Recognising that some of the Group's other recommendations would need detailed elaboration by the Secretariat, they asked the Secretary-General to put the necessary preparations in train.

28. Heads of Government reiterated their support for the work of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council (CTUC) in training activities and noted with interest the memorandum submitted by the CTUC. They affirmed their support for CTUC programmes for trade unions in South Africa and Namibia as well as for the training of women workers throughout the Commonwealth. They endorsed the recommendations of Commonwealth Employment and Labour Ministers that funding for such programmes should be provided by as many countries or donors as possible.

29. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction with the activities the Secretariat was undertaking in pursuit of the recommendations of the Report on the Management of Technological Change, presented to their Nassau Meeting. They expressed their support for continuing Secretariat activities in this area.

Consular Co-operation

30. Heads of Government noted that the very substantial increase in international travel was imposing an increasing burden on consular staffs. They agreed that, in the framework of Commonwealth co-operation, Commonwealth governments had a shared responsibility to look after the interests of Commonwealth nationals abroad. They noted the progress made by the Secretariat in preparing a Manual on Consular Co-operation in the Commonwealth and looked forward to full co-operation from governments so as to achieve a comprehensive compilation of the necessary information.

Contributions to Commonwealth Budgets

31. Heads of Government acknowledged the serious adverse effects which outstanding contributions and pledges to the Secretariat and other Commonwealth budgets were having on Commonwealth programmes and activities. They agreed to make an urgent effort to eliminate outstanding contributions.

32. As circumstances had changed since the scale of assessed contributions to the Secretariat budget was first determined, they requested the next Senior Officials Meeting to review the existing scale of contributions, taking into account their system of determining priorities enjoined on the Secretariat by governments.

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

Commonwealth Foundation

34. Heads of Government expressed appreciation of the increased role of the

Commonwealth Foundation in promoting the work of the unofficial Commonwealth and collaboration between the professional community, NGOs and governments. They noted with satisfaction the progress made in establishing a network of national Commonwealth Liaison Units. They were gratified by the range of schemes and projects launched to further professional and NGO co-operation, welcomed the progress made with the programme of Foundation Fellowships to Promote Commonwealth Understanding and commended their newly-launched Commonwealth Writers Prize. Heads of Government expressed the hope that membership of the Foundation would soon expand to include all Commonwealth countries.

Non-Governmental Organisations

35. Heads of Government expressed renewed appreciation of the contribution made by non-governmental organisations to national life in member countries and to Commonwealth understanding and co-operation. They agreed that official organisations at all levels should endeavour to seek the maximum benefit to be derived from collaboration with NGOs; they were confident that the Commonwealth Liaison Units being established with the support of the Commonwealth Foundation would assist this process.

36. Stressing the value of promoting commitment to Commonwealth objectives among young citizens, Heads of Government welcomed the NGO initiative which had led to a Commonwealth Conference of Young Leaders in Ottawa in September 1987 and noted its recommendations with interest.

Cultural Co-operation

37. Heads of Government expressed their continued support for the work of the Commonwealth Institute in promoting the Commonwealth to the British public particularly to those engaged in the field of education. They welcomed the outcome of the Review recently conducted by the British Government and urged support for the modernisation and reconstruction of the Exhibition Galleries in a way which would reflect the contemporary Commonwealth. They expressed approval for the role of these galleries in projecting the Commonwealth.

Report of the Secretary-General

38. Heads of Government commended the Eleventh Report of the Secretary-General, noting with appreciation the Secretariat's wide-ranging contribution to the collective work of the Commonwealth.