

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

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

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

Grenada

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

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

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

Commonwealth Heads of Government.
The New Delhi Communiqué Nov. 1983

Communiqué

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in New Delhi from 23 to 29 November 1983. Of the 42 countries which attended the Meeting 33 were represented by their Presidents or Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was in the Chair.

2. Heads of Government sent a message of felicitations to Her Majesty the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth. They welcomed with great pleasure the opportunity of meeting in New Delhi and expressed their deep appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting by the Government of India and gratitude for the generous hospitality extended to them.

3. Heads of Government warmly welcomed Antigua and Barbuda and St Christopher-Nevis which had become members of the association since their last Meeting, and extended similar greetings to the Republic of Maldives which had become a special member.

4. Heads of Government reviewed a number of important current international issues. They were encouraged to find much common ground between them. In view of the overriding importance of issues relating to security, disarmament and the maintenance of peace, as well as the increasing tendency towards interference and intervention by political and economic means in the internal affairs of other states, they have in their Goa Declaration expressed their grave concern about them. Their views on a number of other problems and situations are set out below.

Cyprus

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

6. At this critical moment for a member country of the Commonwealth, Heads of Government, reaffirming their Lusaka and

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

Southern Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Afghanistan

27. Heads of Government continued to be gravely concerned at the situation in and around Afghanistan and its implications both for the region's peace and stability and for international security. They renewed the call for an urgent search for a negotiated political settlement on the basis of withdrawal of foreign troops and full respect for the independence, sovereignty and non-aligned status of Afghanistan and strict observance of the principles of non-intervention and non-interference, which would leave the Afghan people free to determine their own future. They reaffirmed the right of Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour. Heads of Government noted with approval the discussions through the intermediary of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and urged their continuation.

Central America

28. Heads of Government noted with great concern the escalation of tensions in Central America which posed a threat to the peace and stability of the region, with potentially dangerous consequences for international security. They stressed the urgent need to reduce these tensions and to achieve a lasting peace through dialogue and negotiations. In this connection, they welcomed the efforts of the Contadora Group of states to seek a negotiated settlement to the region's problems. They noted that these problems were rooted not in East-West ideological rivalry but in deep-seated social and economic ills. They urged all the states to refrain from aggression, from the use of force or the threat of the use of force, and from intervention and interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Guyana

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

Belize

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

Indian Ocean

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

South Pacific

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