

Foreword by the Commonwealth Secretary-General

Commonwealth Ministers meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, August 25 – 28, considered the Interim Report “Towards a New International Economic Order” prepared by the Group of Experts appointed by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica in May 1975. The Group was congratulated on producing a unanimous and valuable Interim Report and was requested to complete its work, taking into account the deliberations in Georgetown and in fulfilment of the mandate from Heads of Government for a comprehensive and inter-related programme of practical measures directed at closing the gap between the rich and poor countries.

The proposals contained in the Interim Report, many of which are amenable to immediate implementation, commanded a large measure of agreement. Without necessarily committing their Governments to every aspect of the Interim Report, the Ministers gave it general endorsement and agreed that the early implementation of these proposals would constitute a first step towards achieving the progressive removal of the wide disparities of wealth now existing between different sections of mankind.

Ministers commended the report as a valuable contribution to constructive international dialogue and consensus-building in the critical area of international economic relations. I was accordingly requested to publish the Interim Report and to make it available to the international community, particularly in the context of the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Shridath S. Ramphal

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