

From the London End**Commonwealth *versus* Common Market**

HOW does the Common Market issue stand on the eve of the largest and, perhaps, the most crucial Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference in history? Fifteen Prime Ministers from independent Commonwealth countries and advisers from colonial territories are meeting to discuss what effect British membership of the European Economic Community will have not only on the economy of individual Commonwealth countries but on the Commonwealth as a whole. The remarks of Pandit Nehru on his arrival in London are of particular significance. When asked whether the Commonwealth would still be a force for world peace if the U K joined the Common Market, he said: "It depends on how far the Common Market is a force for peace. If it is just an extension of the NATO alliance, it becomes a party to this world conflict". The Governments of both Australia and New Zealand have never hidden their concern that British membership of the Common Market might lead to a weakening of Commonwealth ties. Mr Diefenbaker has brought to the conference a scheme (details of which are still a closely-guarded secret) for an economic alternative to Britain joining the Common Market.

The pathetic inadequacy of the "package" agreement reached at Brussels in August is becoming increasingly obvious. It is no secret that not one of the Commonwealth Premiers is satisfied with the arrangements envisaged in the agreement. In the circumstances, it is increasingly being asked what purpose the present Commonwealth Conference can serve and whether it might not be necessary, (as suggested by the Canadian Prime Minister) to hold another Conference after the full implications of British membership are known. At present the deal between UK and the E C M is very much "a thing of shreds and patches", not adequate to cover the holes that have been made in Commonwealth relations by U K's offer to surrender Commonwealth Preferences by 1970 and apply the Com-

munity's Common External Tariff by stages, beginning immediately on entry, against vague promises of future international commodity agreements and trade agreements to be concluded by the E C M with Asian members in 1966. Commonwealth Prime Ministers are naturally perturbed and can hardly be expected to feel that their interests have been adequately safeguarded.

Opposition in Britain Grows

In the meantime, opposition within Britain is growing by leaps and bounds. A study of the Opinion Polls shows the following picture: In April 25 per cent of the people were against joining the Common Market; in May this figure rose to 30 per cent; in June the figure was 10 per cent and at the end of August it had risen to 52.2 per cent. At the recent Trade Union Congress the disquiet among the rank and file was evident and, although the pro-Common Market group is making much of the fact that the motion categorically opposing British entry was defeated, it is significant that the pro-Market group did not dare to put their Policy to vote for fear of an overwhelming defeat.

The Labour Party has been sitting on the fence for long; but it now appears possible that before very long they may come out on the anti-Common Market side. The resolution passed by the Conference of Commonwealth Labour Parties, called on the initiative of the British Labour Party, categorically states that the terms provisionally agreed to at Brussels are inadequate to safeguard Commonwealth interests. It insists that these must be converted into "more precise agreements". It demands that Commonwealth preferences should be fully retained until international commodity agreements are reached and trade agreements with India and Pakistan are signed and adequate safeguards are provided for New Zealand.

The Macmillan Government is in a minority of one among Commonwealth Governments. Quite a large section of the Conservative Party is against any move which undermines Commonwealth relations and the 'Six' themselves can hardly be said to be over-enthusiastic over Britain's entry—De Gaulle and Adenauer are going ahead with forging and strengthening the Paris-Bonn axis with a cynical disregard for Britain. De Gaulle's recent triumphal tour of Western Germany and his talk of "organic" co-operation between the two countries should give the Tory Government much food for thought.

Against this unpropitious background, Macmillan is determined to force Britain into the Common Market at any price however humiliating — and his determination to do this was described by one of the Commonwealth delegates as "diamond hard". His immediate preoccupation will, therefore, be to see that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, severally and jointly, do nothing to hamper Britain's progress into E C M. He hopes to succeed in this by adroit handling of the agenda and the arrangements of the Conference in such a manner as to keep the emotional tempo as low as possible and prevent any "ganging" up against Britain.

"Britain Her Done Her Best"

The positions of individual Commonwealth countries on the L C M issue can be summarised as follows: Australia and New Zealand maintain that until full details of the plan for temperate zone foodstuffs are made available, no judgment is possible. The details of the plan which are known are certainly not acceptable to them. Mr Diefenbaker will put forward his plan for an alternative to British entry. Strong and unequivocal statements of the Indian case have



She believed
 she made
 a good first impression

An ideal receptionist, attractive,
 always eager to help—but her
 carelessness ruined her first impression
 on the visitor. She wore a lovely outfit,
 but it seemed ill-fitting, shrunk!
 She overlooked the fact that only
 cottons that bear the label
 'Sanforized' would keep their fit
 even after many washings.

*Make certain you get the full measure
 of value of the material you buy—*

Look for



*on the label
 and your clothes will never shrink out of fit!*

Issued by Cluett, Peabody & Co., Inc. (Incorporated in the U.S.A. with limited liability) proprietors of the registered trademark 'SANFORIZED'. The trademark proprietors use the trademark SANFORIZED, or permit the said trademark to be used by registered users authorized to use the trademark, only in respect of tested fabric which meets the trademark proprietors' strict requirements as to residual shrinkage.

For information: 'Sanforized' Service,
 95 Marine Drive, Bombay 2

The trademark 'SANFORIZED'—registered and trusted in 129 countries of the world—is a vital force for the export of Indian textiles.

kept the British public in no doubt that India is extremely dissatisfied with the terms offered to her, The Brussels agreement will harm Indian exports — particularly of manufactured goods, thereby adversely affecting the Third Five Year Plan. Pakistan has voiced her frank dissatisfaction with the treatment to be given to Asian cotton textile exports--How far will Britain go to meet these complaints? The forthright criticism by the Premier of Nigeria, an - Associated State, came as something of a shock—so far only Ghana had attacked the neo-colonial implications of Associated Territory status. It is surely

no accident that Mr Goka has been selected to represent Ghana. It will be remembered that he was one of the moving spirits behind the organisation of the African Common Market of the Casablanca group of countries — Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea and Mali.

The British Government appears to be adopting a 'take it or leave it' attitude in regard to the offer of Associated Territory status to the African Members of the Commonwealth. It believes that it has fulfilled its commitment to these countries by persuading the Six to accept them as Associated Terri-

tories. If the Commonwealth countries are not prepared to accept the offer, nothing can be done to help them.

In the same way, the Macmillan Government believes that as far as India is concerned the promise of a comprehensive trade agreement in 1966 is as far as the E C M can go. Indeed, at a recent luncheon in London organised by the Indian Journalists' Association, Mr Heath made it abundantly clear that in his opinion no further concessions could be obtained for India and that it would be a waste of time to go back and ask for more.

Capital View

The Isolationists

Romesh Thapar

FOR once, during the Prime Minister's absence in Europe, we have not been deluged with speculation as to who Meads' the Government and who 'presides' over Cabinet meetings. Morarji Desai is absent, too — and the local press barons have lost interest in the succession business. Or, perhaps, these days we are so confused by the multitude of problems which surround us that we don't really know what issue to focus on.

Speculation has been intense about the repercussions of Britain joining the European Common Market. Those thinking of closer trading tie-ups within Asia and Africa have been sadly demoralised by the Indonesian Government's encouragement to anti-Indian demonstrations in Jakarta and the possible bearing these will have on the proposed second Bandung-type conference.

Meanwhile, the upset over the steel retention price has thrown stork market speculators (and these include a number of Government officials) into the dithers. It is not the Government rejection of the recommendation of the Tariff Commission, however, which caused the greater upset. What did was the story appearing in the leading national dailies, believed to have emanated from Government

sources 'as usual', which the newspaper-readers believed, judging from past experience. Who could be interested in letting it out on Friday morning that the Government was going to raise the retention price by Rs 30, when on the same day, the Minister for Heavy Industry announced in the Lok Sabha an actual price rise of only Rs 10.50 nP? Speaking to the AIMO in Bombay, Shri Subramaniam made angry references to this 'press speculation' and asked for an enquiry into it. He is in the Government and not the AIMO. Will he ask the Government to investigate? Ask me another.

And to top it off, there is that other big question mark — the possible reshuffle which will take place in the Cabinet following the return of the Prime Minister from his foreign trip.

Keep Off the Newly-Freed.,

Increasingly in the Capital these days one hears the kind of talk which heralds the elaboration of isolationist ideas on foreign policy. The theorising is extremely interesting and contains pointers about possible future developments, It is fashioned largely by a marked reluctance to get involved in the radicalism of the newly-freed nations of Asia and Africa, a radi-

ealism which brings us into collision with western interests and endangers the foreign aid upon which the structure of our planning rests.

These inhibitions are powerfully strengthened by the fear prevailing in the ruling circles that any other form of planning will imply austerity measures of a type which are likely to destroy the mixed economy of India, the sensitive and profitable marriage between private and public sector enterprise. The fertile mind of official India believes that the crises engendered by this marriage can be resolved if we are able to ignore the pressures put on us by our so-called foreign friends who, it is argued, are only interested in using us for their own narrow ends.

In other words, we are asked to Neutralise our neutrality", refuse our participation in Bandung-like Conferences, confine our attention to local problems and so prepare the way for easing the flow of economic aid from abroad. It is maintained that only when India is able to stand on her own feet should she think of taking up positions in international affairs, for then no pressures could be used to force us into embarrassing compromises. This 'philosophy' is not only confined to the Swatantra Party, which has already called for