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us very far. Yet I wonder whether this kind of criticism isn't misplaced. . .

It is a wonderful thing that from the tremendous diversity of the modern Commonwealth there emerges as much unity as does emerge. Bear in mind also that every member country of the Commonwealth values these conferences. Nobody—except perhaps South Africa—doubts that it is worthwhile attending them. Perhaps we instinctively look to such a conference for resounding declarations—unless, of course, they are going to be followed by action—of much use? May we not think there is much greater value in the quiet, unpublished talks of our Commonwealth's leaders than in the feverish oratory and the striking of attitudes which are characteristic of the United Nations? Of this latest conference we may feel glad, as our own Mr Macdonald has said, that there is just the same degree of Commonwealth understanding and cordiality as there was before the Suez affair. In Mr Macdonald's words, "There was no rancour or animosity by anybody." When that can be said of other international conferences we'll be a long way further along the road. . .

The Conference unanimously agreed that Malaya . . . will become a full member of the Commonwealth—the tenth. Do we pause to think how rapidly the Commonwealth has changed? When Malaya becomes a member five of its ten members—half—will be countries which have become independent since the war. Of the five, four are Asian and one African. It is important to note also that Malaya will have a Head of State, who is to be a Sultan—a Malay, with a Malay title. The Malays are in the majority, but not by very much. There's no doubt they want to maintain political ascendancy, and I wonder how this desire can be reconciled with the efforts which are being made to make every Malay and every Chinese think of himself as a Malayan citizen. It's a great experiment, and it's important that, in any way we can, New Zealand should help it to succeed. We will be helping by sending a battalion of troops, but every man in it will have to be an ambassador as well as a soldier. Never has it been so important as now that Europeans in Asian countries should command respect by their personal conduct, by which I mean not merely decent behaviour, but political understanding and human sympathy. If our battalion does as well as the S.A.S. unit now in Malaya we'll have reason to be proud of it.

—E. V. DUMBLETON, July 6, 1957.

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 26, 1957.

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