



A QUEEN AND HER ADVISORS

Queen Elizabeth II is shown above with the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth countries during the annual Prime Ministers' Conference held in London this spring. The Queen always greets her Prime Ministers during each conference.

which she officially opens. The Queen has at one time or another visited each country of the Commonwealth which was represented and is doing a similar duty in her visit to Canada which includes a tour of Prince Edward Island.

The Queen heads greatest association of free peoples

By ROBERT RHODES JAMES
In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Queen Elizabeth II, as the Sovereign, is Head of the State and of every department in the state. She makes peace and war, issues charters, increases the peerage, and is the fountain of honour, office, and justice, though in such matters constitutionally she acts on the advice of responsible Ministers. The Government is "Her Majesty's Government", and Ministers are "Ministers of the Crown", who receive their seals of office from her personally, kiss her hands upon appointment, and surrender their seals to her when they resign from the Government.

She is the head of the armed services; The Royal Navy goes to sea in "Her Majesty's Ships" and every officer in the service holds the "Queen's Commission". She is head of the Church of England (although not of the

established Church of Scotland) and bishops are appointed on her nomination. **PERSONAL INFLUENCE**
In the courts of justice, pronouncements are made in her name and are presided over by Her Majesty's Judges. Her approval is essential for all legislation, and she is the head of Parliament, which consists of the Sovereign, the Lords and the Commons.

Few of the Queen's powers in Britain are in fact her personal responsibility, and her functions are mainly limited to the right to advise, to counsel and, if need be, to warn her Ministers. This influence, which is essentially a personal one, should not be underrated, but it must be emphasized that no real executive power lies in the hands of the Sovereign, and she, and her Ministers, are dependent upon Parliament for the provision of the money necessary for running the country.

She reigns, but does not rule; she has influence, but no power. She is above controversy; the strength of her position lies in the unwritten but unchallengeable doctrine that "The Queen can do no wrong". When a great national triumph is being celebrated the people cheer the Queen; in the hour of disappointment and defeat they turn her Ministers out of office.

In the eyes of some outside observers, this is a curious situation, and the Queen's position as Head of the Commonwealth sometimes arouses even greater bewilderment among strangers, since the Commonwealth of Nations contains six independent Republics — India, Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria, Cyprus and Tanganyika and Zanzibar, who have their own constitutions and Presidents. Malaysia which has its own monarchical Head of State, and Uganda which has its own Head of State, both of which like the

Republics still recognize the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth and fulfill some of the duties normally carried out by the Governor-General, as when she opened the Canadian Parliament in 1937 as Queen of Canada.

Since the accession of Queen Elizabeth II in 1932, each Commonwealth country has had the right to assign its own title to the Queen, and this change has had a subtle but significant result. It is no longer the case that "It is the golden circle of the Crown which alone embraces the loyalties of so many States and races all over the world", as Sir Winston Churchill once declared; the new emphasis is not so much upon the Crown but upon the person of the Queen. She is thus recognized by all the members of the Commonwealth, even by those who do not recognize her as head of their nation, as the head of this unique association

of free and independent nations. Each new nation moving from colonial to independent status has the right to choose its own form of government and its own destiny. Only Burma has not availed herself of the invitation to join the Commonwealth (Southern Ireland withdrew in 1949) and every other new nation has either become a Republic and recognized the Queen merely as the head of the Commonwealth, or has chosen to regard the Queen as the titular head of the State, without in any way diminishing its own absolute, undeterred, independence.

When South Africa withdrew from the Commonwealth in 1961 upon becoming a Republic it was not through the change in her constitution, but as a consequence of the South African Government's policy of apartheid, which made her presence in the Commonwealth an embarrassment to its other members. When the Commonwealth Prime Ministers meet in London — which is the geographical and social centre of the Commonwealth of Nations they sit round the table as equals, the Prime Minister of Britain being only "primus inter pares".

SENSE OF BELONGING
Why is it, if we may be asked, that the anachronism of monarchy still exercises such a powerful hold upon the Commonwealth, with its enormous size, its vast and diverse populations, and its unimaginable potential of wealth and influence?

Sentiment is unquestionably a vital factor; not a sickly, backward-looking sentiment, but rather a healthy, vibrant, living

drive by the Queen will pass through lines of war amputees.

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WELCOME

Queen Elizabeth II
"Long may she reign"

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Welcome

We join with all the Citizens of Prince Edward Island in extending a hearty Welcome to the Royal Couple, and convey our expression of sincere loyalty and devotion on this special occasion.

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