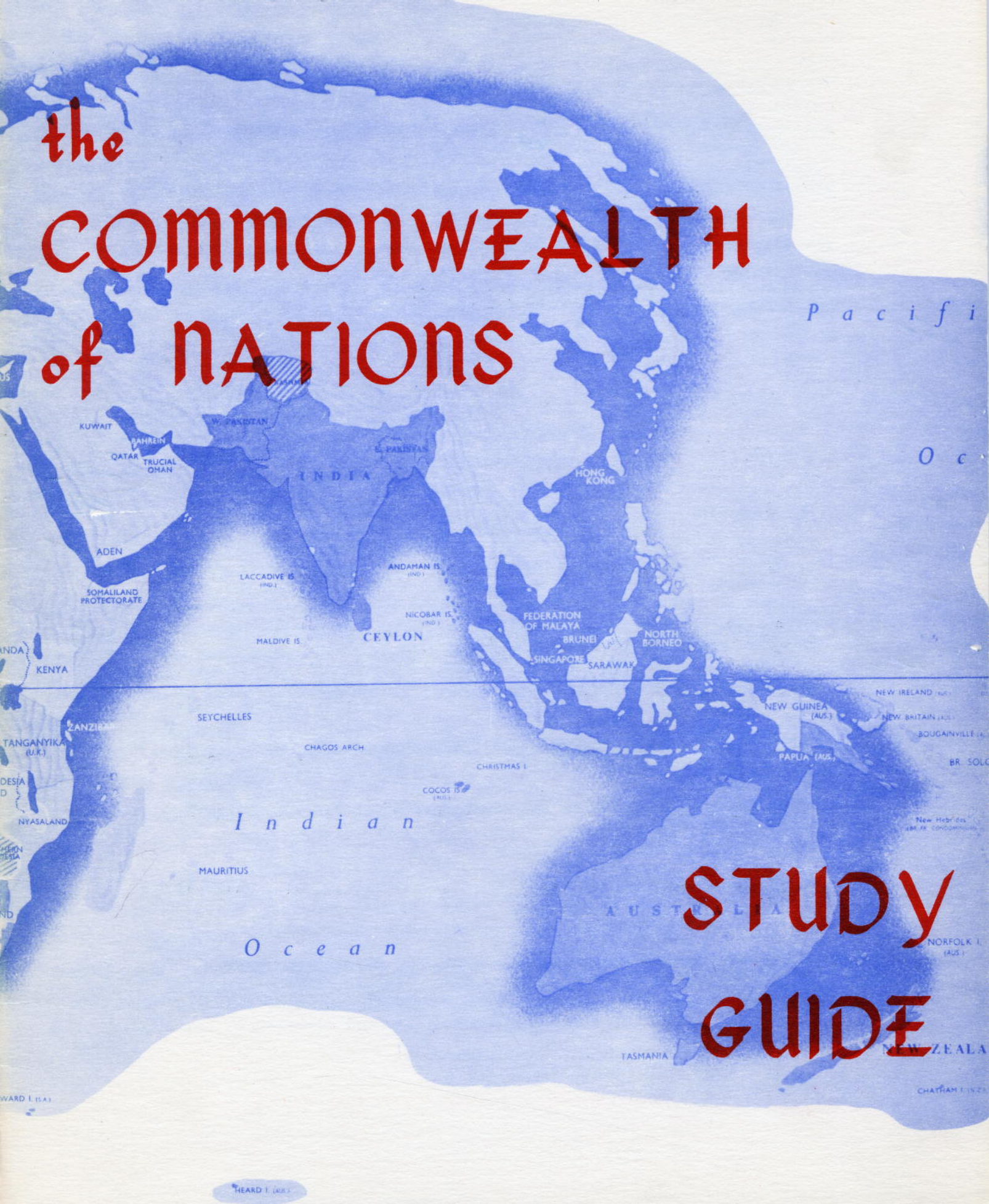


# the COMMONWEALTH of NATIONS



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# STUDY GUIDE

HEARD I. (AUS.)

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# Introduction

As air travel and intercontinental missiles make our world smaller, international associations become more important to all of us. One international association in which Canada and Canadians play a unique role is the Commonwealth of Nations. It is in our interest and in the interest of all the peoples of the world that Canadians fully understand the Commonwealth and the place that they have in it.

The materials in the Commonwealth Study Kit, together with the "Commonwealth of Nations" series of films, have been prepared to help you conduct an adult discussion course on the Commonwealth, a course that is designed to increase our understanding of the Commonwealth and its significance to us.

## The Materials

Three kinds of materials are provided. These are:

Commonwealth of Nations film series: thirteen half-hour films by the National Film Board, narrated by Edgar McInnis of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. The films describe and explain the Commonwealth, and point out the major problems which face its members. They may be obtained from the National Film Board.

Study Kit: a selection of pamphlets, folders and maps, to provide background information and opinion to aid you and your group in your project.

Bibliography: a list of books, periodicals, films and other materials from various sources which will help you with further study.

## Hints For The Leader

This Study Guide is intended to help you conduct a Commonwealth study-discussion course. However, you and your group will want to work out your own discussion patterns, so we are only providing general suggestions for you to adapt and modify.

The courses: the materials (films and readings) are suitable for at least three different courses, each of which is described below. One of the courses lasts for twelve weeks, the other two for six weeks each. However, the general pattern is the same for each of the courses.

Preparations: before you begin a course, there are certain steps that should be taken. Here is a point outline that may be useful to you:

1. Select the course that is most suitable for your group.
2. Arrange for a suitable meeting place.
3. Arrange for a competent and regular projectionist.
4. See the films yourself and read the study material.

Leading the group: several useful guides to the techniques of group discussion are listed in the Bibliography, but here is a brief outline of one possible technique, which you might wish to adapt to your own needs:

1. Prepare a brief introduction, relating the subject of the film to the group's interests and to topics already covered in the course.
2. Show the film.
3. Open discussion by commenting on the film and getting members of the group to do the same.
4. Continue discussion by introducing specific points or issues arising out of the film.
5. Close the discussion by summarizing the opinions that have been expressed (or by getting a member of the group to do this) and by announcing the topic for the next session.

Your most important job as leader is to encourage people to express their own opinions. Here are a few simple do's and don'ts of group discussion:

don't make a speech or permit others to do so

relax and be informal

don't force agreement

encourage everyone to take part in discussion

don't give answers

don't put members on the spot

The pamphlets etc. in the Study Kit are for reference and information. Some of them are most useful for specific sessions, and you will find these listed with the outline of the appropriate session. Some of them are for general background reading. You should try to read as many of them as you can. And you should let the members of the group see them and read them. If possible, the map in the study kit should be placed on a wall where the group can refer to it during the discussion.

## The Commonwealth Of Nations

### SESSION I

films: Portrait of the Family  
Colonialism: Ogre or Angel?

readings: A Picture of the Commonwealth  
The Commonwealth in Brief

#### Suggestions for discussion:

- is there anything that all the peoples shown in these films have in common?
- the leader can outline the rest of the course, by way of introduction (because two films are shown at this meeting, discussion time will be short)

### SESSION II

film: Ten days that Shook the Commonwealth

readings: The Crisis in the Middle East, October-December 1956,  
L.B. Pearson

#### suggestions for discussion:

- do you agree with Canada's position at the U.N. in the Suez Crisis?
- is India's policy on Kashmir, South Africa and the Suez consistent?
- why did the various Commonwealth countries act as they did? How should they have acted?

### SESSION III

film: Four Centuries of Growing Pains:

readings: The Commonwealth today - McInnis, Chapter I  
Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, Part I

suggestions for discussion:

- How and why did Britain's colonial policy change over the years?
- Were Canadian statesmen correct in their approach to the Empire?
- Was the American Revolution a good or bad influence on the development of the Commonwealth?

### SESSION IV

film: Crisis in Asia

readings: The Commonwealth Today - McInnis, Chapter II

suggestions for discussion:

- Did Britain follow a wise policy in India up to the time of Indian independence?
- Do you consider partition of India and Pakistan to have been a wise move?
- Did the British grant Indian independence too soon or too late?

### SESSION V

film: Can it hold together?

readings: Consultation and Cooperation in the Commonwealth.

suggestions for discussion:

- How can differences that arise within the Commonwealth be dealt with?
- Do you think the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meetings serve a useful purpose? Could they be made more useful?
- Can the Commonwealth continue to survive?

### SESSION VI

film: The Invisible Keystone

reading: Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, Part I

suggestions for discussion:

- Can parliamentary democracy survive in Asia? Can a country like India make democracy work?
- what role does the Crown play in holding the Commonwealth together?
- do you think India and the other Asian countries can solve their problems with a parliamentary democracy? What about China?

## SESSION VII

film: Poverty and Plenty

readings: Change in Asia, 1956  
The Colombo Plan, Nik Cavell

suggestions for discussion:

- Is the Commonwealth doing enough, through the Colombo Plan, to raise living standards among its Asian members?
- Should Canada contribute more or less to the Colombo Plan than it does?
- Do you think we are spending Colombo Plan money in the best way?

## SESSION VIII

film: They called it White Man's Burden

readings: The U.K. Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

suggestions for discussion:

- Has Britain's paternalism helped or hindered the development of the peoples of Africa and Asia?
- Are colonial peoples justified in resenting the white man's paternalism?
- Do you think colonial paternalism increases racial prejudice?

## SESSION IX

film: Storm Clouds over the Colonies

readings: Economic Development in the U.K. Dependencies

suggestions for discussion:

- Do you think Britain's economic development of the Colonies has been, on the whole, selfish?
- Would you consider economic colonialism as a necessary evil on the road of progress?
- How could the Mau-Mau rebellion in Kenya have been prevented?

## SESSION X

film: Black and White in South Africa

readings: Apartheid in Action, McInnis, International Journal

suggestions for discussion:

- Would Canadians act like the South African Whites if they were outnumbered three-to-one by North American Indians?
- Can Apartheid work in South Africa? Is there another solution?
- What should Canada and other commonwealth countries do to solve the problem of South Africa?

## SESSION XI

film: The Colonies Look Ahead

readings: Economic Development in the U.K. Dependencies

suggestions for discussion:

- Which man has the more accurate view of present-day colonialism, Eric Williams of the West Indies, or Sir John MacPherson of the Colonial Office?
- Do you agree with the policy of Colonial development set forth in this film?
- Should Canada help Britain in the training and development of colonial peoples?

## SESSION XII

film: Road to Independence

readings: Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, Part II  
Britain and the Gold Coast -- the Dawn of Ghana

suggestions for discussion:

- Is Britain wise to encourage political nationalism in the colonies?
- Are the British right in not granting immediate independence to all the colonies?
- Were the British right in suspending the constitution of British Guiana when a Communist group won the democratic election?



# From Empire To The Commonwealth

## SESSION I

film: Portrait of the Family

readings: A Picture of the Commonwealth  
The Commonwealth in Brief

suggestions for discussion:

- introduction to the course: How did these countries come to be what they are, and what holds them together?
- Is there anything that all the peoples shown in these films have in common?

## SESSION II

film: Four Centuries of Growing Pains

readings: Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, Part I  
The Commonwealth Today - McInnis, Chapter I

suggestions for discussion:

- Was the American Revolution a good thing for the development of the Commonwealth?
- What do you think of Canada's role in the development of the Commonwealth?
- Is there a pattern in the change in Britain's colonial policy over the years?

## SESSION III

film: Crisis in Asia

readings: The Commonwealth Today - McInnis, Chapter II

suggestions for discussion:

- What do you think of Britain's policy in India up to the time of Indian independence?
- Do you consider partition of India and Pakistan to have been a wise move?
- How do you explain the differences in policy between India and Ceylon?

#### SESSION IV

film: The Invisible Keystone

readings: Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, Part I.

suggestions for discussion:

- Is parliamentary democracy the strongest bond holding the Commonwealth together?
- Why does the parliamentary system work in so many different countries? Or does it?
- Can India and the other Asian countries solve their problems through parliamentary government?

#### SESSION V

film: Poverty and Plenty

readings: Change in Asia, 1956  
The Colombo Plan, Nik Cavell

suggestions for discussion:

- Is the Commonwealth doing enough, through the Colombo Plan, to raise living standards among its Asian members?
- Should Canada contribute more or less each year to the Colombo Plan?
- Do you think we are spending Colombo Plan money in the best way?

#### SESSION VI

film: Road to Independence

readings: Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, Part II  
Britain and the Gold Coast - the Dawn of Ghana

suggestions for discussion:

- Is Britain wise to encourage political nationalism in the colonies?
- Are the British right in not granting immediate independence to all the colonies?
- What do you think the Commonwealth will be like fifty years from now?

# Problems And Solutions In The Commonwealth

## SESSION I

film: Ten Days that Shook the Commonwealth

readings: *The Crisis in the Middle East, October-December, 1956*,  
L.B. Pearson

suggestions for discussion:

- Why did the various Commonwealth countries act as they did in the Suez Crisis? How should they have acted?
- Do you agree with Canada's position in the Suez Crisis?
- Could the Commonwealth split in the Suez Crisis have been avoided?

## SESSION II

film: They called it White Man's Burden

readings: *The U.K. Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.*

suggestions for discussion:

- Has Britain's paternalism helped or hindered the development of the peoples of Africa and Asia?
- Are colonial peoples justified in resenting the white man's paternalism?
- Do you think colonial paternalism increases racial prejudice?

## SESSION III

film: Storm Clouds over the Colonies

readings: *Economic Development in the U.K. Dependencies.*

suggestions for discussion:

- Do you think Britain's economic development of the colonies has been, on the whole, selfish?
- Do you consider economic colonialism a necessary evil on the road of progress?
- How could the Mau-Mau rebellion in Kenya have been prevented?

#### SESSION IV

film: Black and White in South Africa

readings: Apartheid in Action - McInnis, International Journal

suggestions for discussion:

- Can Apartheid work in South Africa? Is there another solution?
- Will the South African situation split the Commonwealth?
- Can Canada and other Commonwealth countries do anything to help solve the problem in South Africa?

#### SESSION V

film: Can it Hold Together?

readings: Consultation and Cooperation in the Commonwealth

suggestions for discussion:

- How can differences within the Commonwealth be solved?
- Do you think the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conferences serve a useful purpose? Could they be more useful?
- Can the Commonwealth continue to survive?

#### SESSION VI

film: The Colonies Look Ahead

readings: Economic Development in the U.K. Dependencies

suggestions for discussion:

- Do you agree with the policy of colonial development set forth in this film?
- Should Canada help Britain in the training and development of colonial peoples?
- Which man has the more accurate view of present-day colonialism, Eric Williams of the West Indies, or Sir John MacPherson of the Colonial Office?

# SYNOPSIS OF THE COMMONWEALTH FILMS

**TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE COMMONWEALTH:** The Suez Crisis of the Autumn of 1956 breaks upon a Commonwealth of Nations that is already suffering from stresses and strains -- India and Pakistan over Kashmir, India and South Africa over racial problems, etc. The film traces the Anglo-French action in Egypt and shows the Suez debates in the United Nations. British, Indian and other Commonwealth delegates are seen presenting their country's very different positions. But the film also shows friendly relations among Commonwealth leaders continuing despite the Crisis.

**PORTRAIT OF THE FAMILY:** A quick profile of the peoples and geography of the nations of the 'Inner Commonwealth' -- Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and South Africa.

**FOUR CENTURIES OF GROWING PAINS:** The history of the Empire and the Commonwealth. We see the United States emerge as an independent nation, and we see the gradual emergence of the Dominions to full sovereignty -- Confederation in Canada, the First World War and full national independence in 1931 by the Statute of Westminster. The major role that Canadian statesmen have played in developing the Commonwealth is clearly shown.

**CRISIS IN ASIA:** Here the emergence of India, Pakistan and Ceylon to freedom is shown. The emphasis is on the history of India from its conquest by the British to the present day. We see the development of nationalism in India, independence in 1947, and the partition of India and Pakistan. Newsreels shots follow the activities of Gandhi and Nehru as they worked for India's independence.

**CAN IT HOLD TOGETHER?** This film shows some of the most serious differences within the Commonwealth -- such as India's dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir -- but it shows, too, the forces that hold the Commonwealth together -- Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, friendly visits by statesmen of one member to another member and frank exchange of opinion. Canada's role in the Commonwealth for example, explaining American policy to India and vice versa, is clearly shown.

**THE INVISIBLE KEYSTONE:** The development of the British legal system and of parliamentary government is shown. We follow these institutions from the Magna Carta to the general elections in India. We see elections in such countries as *England, South Africa, Australia and Ceylon*. Turning to Canada, we see how the rights of individuals and of minorities -- such as the French-Canadians, -- are protected by the spirit and machinery of parliamentary democracy.

**POVERTY AND PLENTY:** A study of the Colombo Plan through which the advanced members of the Commonwealth are giving practical assistance



to the Eastern members. We see Canadian agricultural specialists teaching new techniques to Asian farmers. And we see some of the machines -- such as locomotives -- that Canada has provided to her backward sister Commonwealth members. Canada and Canadians appear often in this film, but equal contributions to the Plan by other advanced Commonwealth members are also shown.

**COLONIALISM: OGRE OR ANGEL:** This film shows the various ways in which Britain acquired her colonies -- by purchase, conquest or treaty. And we are given a rapid round-the-world survey of the colonial peoples -- in the West Indies, East Africa, Malaya, Singapore and the South Pacific.

**THEY CALLED IT WHITE MAN'S BURDEN:** A picture of British 'paternalism' in the colonies. How white men helped the colonial peoples overcome famine, disease, plagues and other problems of primitive people. We see many other examples of humanitarian assistance by British colonial officials to backward peoples.

**STORM CLOUDS OVER THE COLONIES:** The development of economic colonialism is traced and the problems that have arisen from it are pointed out. We see Britain through the years extracting luxury goods, agricultural produce and finally minerals from the colonies. Eric Williams of the West Indies calls this extractive process exploitation for the benefit of the British middle classes. The positive and negative sides of economic colonialism are balanced.

**BLACK AND WHITE IN SOUTH AFRICA:** This film depicts the very real and appallingly complicated racial problems in South Africa. The history of black-white relations in the country leads up to the present Apartheid policy. The film shows the striking contrast between the living standards of the blacks and the whites in South Africa. Apartheid is explained, but no easy solution is offered.

**THE COLONIES LOOK AHEAD:** This is a progress report on economic development, education and race relations in the colonies. Changes in the relationship between Britain and the colonies. On the positive side, we see inter-racial education teaching people to cooperate with each other. On the negative side, we see Britain's military repression of the Mau-Mau uprising in Kenya.

**ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE:** A survey of self-government in the colonies. The planned process by which Britain is helping the colonies achieve self-government is shown. Recent development in Nigeria, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and the emergence of the nation of Ghana as the ninth full member of the Commonwealth point the way to the future.

# NOTES





**NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA**

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION**