

The enlargement of the group of Commonwealth members by three—India, Pakistan, and Ceylon—raised a number of practical questions, mainly concerning the mechanics of consultation. The principle had long been acknowledged that membership of the Commonwealth would be open to India when she achieved self-government, and little prior consultation upon the admission of India and Pakistan took place among the members of the Commonwealth. Upon Ceylon's entry consultation was necessarily more detailed, especially among the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, who were most directly concerned and whose range of obligations must ultimately be extended by the admission of Ceylon to the full Commonwealth association. The New Zealand Government made clear their willingness to give their full co-operation to these three new members of the Commonwealth. In February of 1948 it was possible for New Zealand to be represented at the impressive ceremonies which marked Ceylon's attainment of full self-government.

The members of the British Commonwealth have never found it necessary to provide machinery to deal with possible disputes between them. At the same time, despite their separate membership of international bodies, it has been the practice to regard Dominions' relations *inter se* as being of a special "family" nature and as such not the concern of the international community. This conception has, however, become increasingly difficult to maintain; and it was with considerable embarrassment that the Government saw two disputes between members of the Commonwealth brought before the United Nations. Upon one, which was considered by the General Assembly, New Zealand, as a member of the United Nations, could not avoid taking a position; but that position was one of endeavouring to ensure that the claims of both parties were fairly examined in as impartial an atmosphere as possible. The facts of these two cases are noted below.

2. NEW ZEALAND AND THE STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER

In November, 1947, the New Zealand Parliament, without division, adopted sections 2 to 6 of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, and also consented to and requested the adoption by the Imperial Parliament of legislation enabling New Zealand to amend its Constitution. The Imperial Parliament legislated accordingly in December, 1947.

This legislation did not affect New Zealand's practical standing in Commonwealth and world affairs, since New Zealand practice had for many years been in advance of the legal forms: the legal subordination of the New Zealand Parliament to the Parliament of the