

a ruler, she provides the element of continuity in the administration, and the importance of her influence would be hard to over-estimate.

The Queen is represented in each of the Member countries—except India, Pakistan and the Federation of Malaya—by a Governor-General, appointed on the recommendation of the Government of the country concerned. Throughout his term of office he acts on the advice of that Government, and is wholly independent of the Government of the United Kingdom. He is often a citizen of the country in which he holds office.

Neither the addition of sovereign States which have newly achieved independence, nor the secession of others, nor yet, as in the cases of India and Pakistan, the choice by two of the Members of a republican constitution, alters the basic pattern and the fundamental ideals. In the future more and more of the dependent territories will doubtless join the numbers of fully self-governing States, since the United Kingdom's colonial policy is to help the dependent territories to attain self-government within the Commonwealth.

A Way of Life

NATIONALISM is not a rational but an emotional phenomenon. Or, to put it in another way, nationalism is like a heavy wine. Taken in moderation it can not only make glad the heart of man but give him health and strength to accomplish great tasks. But taken in excess it incapacitates him and makes him an easy prey to the designs of others.

The Commonwealth stands for a free, democratic way of life in which each nation has full liberty to express itself. It stands also for international co-operation in the defence of these freedoms. Within the United Nations we hope that we may prove to be a cohesive force and perhaps even an example of how, while retaining their individuality, the nations of the world can live and work together for the welfare of mankind.

—From a lecture given by Sir Ashley Clarke, British Ambassador in Rome, at Florence, in May, 1957.

The Black Sash and the Republic

THE Central Executive of the Black Sash wishes to correct any erroneous impression that might have been created by the statement appearing in the leading article in the February issue of the Black Sash magazine that the Black Sash "would accept a democratic republic provided that a clear majority of the people—of all the people—desired it."

The policy of the Black Sash is as stated in the following resolution taken at a National Conference of the organization held in October, 1958: "While acknowledging that some members are not opposed, in theory, to Republicanism, the Black Sash, recognising the realities of the situation at the moment, emphatically rejects the demand for a Nationalist Republic."

This was amplified by the press statement issued at the end of the conference which read:—

"The Black Sash has considered the republican issue and emphatically rejects the proposals of the Government for a republic now, on the grounds that members of the Government have, through the Senate Act and other laws, proved that they respect neither the spirit underlying the Constitution nor the freedom of the individual,

nor the rights of minorities.

"We believe that any new Constitution, which requires the allegiance of all South Africans, must safeguard the rights of all, and should not be brought into being without the support of the overwhelming majority of all the peoples of South Africa. Whether this support is indeed a fact cannot be ascertained unless the exact proposals for the new Constitution are made public and time given for consideration thereof."

The Black Sash, as a movement, is not concerned with approving or rejecting, in theory, republican or monarchical forms of government. What it does say is that it would be politically immoral to make a change to a Republic (or any other form of government) without the explicit sanction of a clear majority of all the people of South Africa; further, that no such change could be politically moral unless it guaranteed civil rights and liberties to every citizen. The Black Sash would neither approve nor reject a republic which incorporated such principles; Sash members, as individuals, would support it or not according to whether they were monarchist or republican by conviction.