

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 1971
Commemorative Stamp Issue

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will be held in Singapore from 14th to 22nd January 1971. The Meeting in Singapore will be the first full Meeting to be held outside London and is, therefore, an event of great significance - historically for the Commonwealth, and politically for Singapore.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting has its origin in the former Imperial Conferences dating as far back as 1911. Since the last War, however, the composition and the character of the Commonwealth has changed, resulting in a preponderance of Asian and African membership. The present Meeting will be the 18th in the post-war series which were previously titled "Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting". For reasons of historic association, the Commonwealth Heads of Governments had always met in London. However, in January 1965 they met in Lagos, Nigeria to discuss what was then the controversial issue of the Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence.

The Commonwealth is not a military alliance. It is a voluntary association of independent nations consisting of Britain and those countries which were formerly in the British Empire or had been Protected States in Treaty relations with the British Crown. It has a total membership of 31. The countries that would be participating at the Meeting are as follows:-

Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Britain, Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Western Samoa and Zambia.

About 450 delegates from these countries are expected to attend the Meeting.

In agreeing to host the Meeting, Singapore has demonstrated her faith in the useful role the Commonwealth can play in forging the bonds of friendship amongst her members in particular and strengthening the course of world peace in general. For Singapore, it is an opportunity not only to focus attention on her position on the political map of the world but also confirm her organising ability, the quality of her infrastructure and the range of services she is able to offer.

Stamps

To mark the occasion, the Postal Services Department of the Ministry of Communications will issue a set of 4 commemorative stamps - 15¢, 30¢, 75¢ and \$1 - on 14th January 1971. Technical details of the stamps are as follows:-

Values .. 15¢, 30¢, 75¢ and \$1
Date of Issue .. 14.1.71.
Stamp Size .. 50mm x 34mm (15¢, 30¢, 75¢)
70mm x 34mm (\$1)
Process .. Delacryl
Printer .. Thomas de la Rue
England
Designer .. Mr. William Lee

Special Postmarks

A special postmark will be used at the General Post Office only to cancel the stamps on First Day Covers. Those who are interested in this special postmark should either post their fully addressed and fully prepaid First Day Covers into the posting box at Sub Post Offices or call at the General Post Office for the special postmark cancellation.

First Day Covers

Specially designed First Day Covers at 10¢ each, will be put on sale on 28.12.70.

Advance Orders

The public may place bulk orders for the stamps and First Day Covers at the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O. or by post.

The Bureau will also service First Day Covers at a fee of 20¢ per set. Such covers will be affixed with the required stamps and datestamped.

Postmaster-General,
Postal Services Department,
Singapore.

Date: 23.12.70.