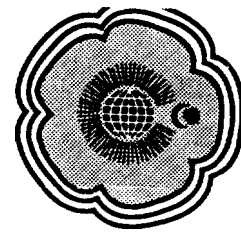


# HISTORIC SUMMIT ENDS



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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — The Commonwealth summit issued a communique today covering a spectrum of events and issues, but the stance adopted on South Africa and the declaration on the environment remained the main achievements of the week-long meeting.

The documents on South Africa and the environment were included in the communique proper which included subjects ranging from political trends to trade policies, from the drug problem to education, and from terrorism to technology management.

Broad agreement had been reached in these areas, and there were also decisions to set up a consultative group to help member countries manage technology, and an equity fund to promote private investments in developing nations.

In an unprecedented move, the summit agreed to set up a high-powered group — under **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** — to appraise Commonwealth roles and structures.

For all that, the Kuala Lumpur Statement, putting forth a stronger stand for sanctions against apartheid than the Commonwealth leaders had ever agreed to before, and the declaration on the environment, reflecting compromise between the developed and developing countries on a touchy subject, were by general consent the major breakthroughs.

Dr Mahathir thought so too and, at a press conference held at the end of the summit, said he wished the environment had received equal attention.

Still, he said, he had no complaints.

“Malaysia has always been strong against apartheid, and the South African question is still unresolved.

“The Kuala Lumpur Statement remains the valid and official Commonwealth consensus manifesting the unity of member nations,” he said, in apparent reference to the explanatory note the British had issued after the official stand had been endorsed.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had no quarrel with that assessment.

The Kuala Lumpur Statement, she told a separate press conference, “has the status now that it had when it was issued.”

As for the declaration on the environment, Mrs Thatcher said it was “excellent” and she had from the start agreed to it except on the question of funding, and this had been resolved.

Dr Mahathir, who had initiated the declaration, was satisfied that there was now a balanced perspective on the problem.

He expressed satisfaction that the developed countries now appreciated that the practices they now criticised they had themselves carried out.

After cutting down their forests, tapping the resources of the land, and gaining from such practices, the developed countries had told the developing nations not to do the same, Dr Mahathir said.

As for disappointment ex-

pressed by some that perceptions on economic issues had been “watered down” in the communique, Dr Mahathir told local newsmen that more had been achieved than was reflected in the document.

At a meeting, he said, a lot was said that could not be put down in a document but was nonetheless understood and would boost co-operation in trade and other areas.

For example, it was generally understood that some of the leaders would help to protect the interests of developing countries at the forums of advanced nations, he added.

He conceded that as conference chairman, he “cannot pick up the cudgels” on the issues no matter how strongly he felt about them.

Still, he said, he had found that the Commonwealth “is not a talk shop? nor is it a genteel club for English-speaking people.”