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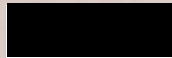
ROLL - 3.

STD - IX A.

DESOUZA'S SCHOOL.

Sector-2, Panvel- 769006, Dist. , INDIA.

DATE OF BIRTH:-



ESSAY CLASS - 'B' Essay No. 4.

NUMBER OF WORDS — 1164

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4. "Every country in the Commonwealth would be worse off if the Commonwealth never existed."
Discuss.

As a new Independent nation, India has to formulate its own national and international policies as best suited to it. One doubt that has emerged in the recent days is its future relation with the Commonwealth. As an ally of the British government and a dependent state, India had been the member of the Commonwealth till the recent past and is now left with its own choice to continue the membership or discontinue. As a sovereign state, India is competent enough to formulate its own independent policies with the least concern about the other extraneous matters.

A lot of dust has been raised in the international spheres and at home also. The doubt that exists in the common mind is that India's continuance in the Commonwealth is an indirect way of accepting the sovereignty of the British crown in the days to come also. No doubt that Great Britain continues to be the head of the Commonwealth of nations and has a guiding role in the development of the Commonwealth, it is formally an equal of each other and has got no power of veto over what the membership of the Commonwealth may be or what may

be decided in its name. The British monarch's leadership of the Commonwealth is merely symbolic, it gives the British government no legal control over either the machinery of the Commonwealth or activities of other members.

As we know, Commonwealth is a free association and we are free to join it or leave it at our will and pleasure and adopt whatever lines of policy seem appropriate to our sovereign state. It is by no means an abridgement of independence or admission of the superiority of Great Britain over other member nations, but a means whereby independent countries can maintain an informal way of their co-operation towards a common interest.

Unlike other world bodies, the Commonwealth has no constitution, and emphasis lies on the consultation, rather than action. Membership is controlled by the majority decision of the members who have equal rights of voting. In fact, unlike the United Nations Organization, every member is equal in status, irrespective of its position as a world power, or donations to the association.

It is rather an assembly of friendly nations, whose Prime Ministers meet at fixed intervals to discover the avenues of common interest for self development and mutual co-operation. Most of these states have followed a governmental system somewhat similar to the British Parliamentary system and judiciary. English being a common language is an added advantage. These characteristics make it much more

difficult to describe, than other more formal associations of the sovereign state. This flexibility gives the association the added advantage of adopting many more changes, as needed by the members.

For example, upto the year 1949, a Commonwealth member would owe allegiance to the British Monarch in ~~the~~ a direct domestic sense and would be also a parliamentary democracy in British model. But the decision of India to become a sovereign republic and still maintain the membership of the Commonwealth compelled it to change its structure and this further helped other nations like Pakistan, Ghana, Nigeria, Cyprus and many other Asian and African countries to become members and maintain their sovereignty. In none of these countries has the British Monarch any domestic significance. Thereafter, the Commonwealth has undergone innumerable changes, in size and character. Our presence in such an august body can well serve our interest. It is the most appropriate forum where we can air our thoughts and feelings so that we can get the sympathy, support and assistance of similar small nations, like ours, which are weak, economically and culturally and lack international recognition and reputation. Many may doubt what such small and under developed countries like ours can achieve there. South Rhodesia was denied entry on the basis that the African majority was under the effective control of a small minority of

European descent. Such an action the Commonwealth could bring forth against the illegal government of Rhodesia was only with the help of many poor and small Asian and African countries.

Let us take the case of a world body like the United Nations Organization where different nations are vested with unequal powers, and where the majority of the members have often proved to be an absurdity. The big world powers like U.S.A, U.S.S.R, China and France use this international arena for their political gimmicks and diabolic activities. What is the use of an organization where the majority decision can be made null and void and all their action turned to be defunct by the veto of a single interested nation, who is often neither correct nor justified. It is only the political power balance that controls the affairs there. Further we know what the UN could do in case of S. Rhodesia and South Africa in the past. The same members who voted for an economical sanction against South Rhodesia was openly supporting the minority racial regime in that country and the result is well known. What has happened in Iran should be another eye opener for us. The world body find itself helpless to deal with the situation, not because it has not got sufficient authority and reserve, but due to different selfish interests of the members, who are politically motivated to keep up their power balance. So it is not the resolution we seek now, but it is the change of hearts we need. The spirit of

political hostility and competitive mentality should give way to sincerity, understanding and mutual co-operation.

The climate within the Commonwealth is more congenial for such an approach. Even though the Commonwealth members like Malta, Gambia, and Malawi would find it hard to exist without the external financial aid given by Great Britain, this is no way restrict or curtail their full association and participation in the Commonwealth as independent countries.

Ours is a state with new born democracy and independence. Such poor countries like ours may find it difficult to fight for further progress and development unaided by other nations. The only way to achieve this objective, without ourselves being identified as an instrument of any political wing, or power block, is to continue in the membership of such an informal body, where nobody can restrict us in making our stand known to other nations, and seek their help and understanding. It is a multi racial forum where different types of governments meet and the associated ideals of free court and free press are still pursued. In any future date, if we find that the general atmosphere prevalent in the Commonwealth and the majority decision, in any way is likely to impire our growth of and the sovereign status of our mother land, we are at liberty to desert the ground, unilaterally, like Eire and South Africa had done.

Commonwealth is very important to the nation.
It is, especially, beneficial for the small countries
to join the Commonwealth.