

the same advantages as our Community neighbours and peers. History is littered with examples of once great Imperial Powers, Portugal, Spain, Austria, which missed their opportunities in Europe and declined, becoming the pawns of more powerful neighbours. The relationship between Latin America and Spain is a salutary warning for those who regard the Commonwealth as Britain's power base.

2. ANXIETIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Particular attention should be paid to following categories:-

- (a) Those who believe that the British, who have been victorious in war for ten centuries, have particular virtues which will only be preserved if we continue to stand on our own.

The answer is that Britain's very independence has always depended on taking a full part in European affairs.

- (b) Those who believe we should not let down those with whom we have had a particular relationship in the past - especially those worried about developing Commonwealth countries and about New Zealand.

The answer is that the Commonwealth is not and does not wish to be a political or economic grouping. It is an invaluable association based on historic and cultural ties and its essence will not be affected by our membership of the Community. Commonwealth trade is fast diversifying anyway, largely on the initiative of other members of the Commonwealth. But in the negotiations we have done very well indeed for the developing Commonwealth through the Association offers, sugar deal, etc. On New Zealand we are seeking a fair deal for dairy products; if that is secured, their prosperity will be unaffected.

- (c) Those who believe that by joining the Commonwealth we shall cede sovereignty to faceless bureaucrats in Brussels, lose our sovereignty and our national identity.

The answer on sovereignty is that the main decisions are taken by the Council of Ministers (not the bureaucrats), which will include members of the British Government. In practice, a country's essential interests are not over-ruled. If they were the Community would break up. On our way of life, membership will help us to cope with contemporary challenges on a controlled democratic basis rather than being blown about by the winds of change. Other Community countries like ourselves possess ancient traditions and ways of life to which they are strongly attached.

- (d) Those who fear (e.g. small businessmen) that the removal of trading barriers with the Community will expose Britain to cut-throat Continental competition.