

LONDON

LT-Fisher. ~~London~~^{Tue.} Sept. 13 - '66.

Time was - when the sun never set on the British empire. But time - moves on, and today a report from London - telling of the imminent collapse of the last vestige of empire: The British Commonwealth of Nations. And some Britons calling it -- a good thing, at that.

The Commonwealth in dire straits - for one over-riding reason and one reason alone: British inability to satisfy the conflicting interests of all its members - white, Asian and African.

Economists and politicians assert, however, that Britain has little to lose - and much to ~~gain~~ gain from collapse of the Commonwealth. They note that Britain will continue to maintain bilateral trade and diplomatic ties - with most member nations. Further, that they will still be bound together - if unofficially - by language, custom and mutual necessity.

At the same time - a number of potential benefits we are told. For one - Britain would no longer be the

whipping boy - for Afro-Asian abuse. Also -- it would no longer feel obliged to "bribe" reluctant members - with open-handed, open-end aid programs. This in itself - a potentially valuable assist to Britain's ~~xxx~~ current "save-the-pound" program.

In sum - British reaction to the approaching end of the Commonwealth -- perhaps best stated in two words, to wit: "So what!"

BRUSSELS

In Brussels - fourteen remaining ~~xxx~~ members of the Nato Military Alliance - agreed today to move Supreme Allied Headquarters to Belgium. Said move to take place - as ~~soon~~ soon as possible; to beat the deadline set by DeGaulle - April First of next year - for removal of all Nato forces from France.

The new headquarters - to be located at Chievres-Casteau in Southwestern ~~Belgium~~ Belgium. The site originally opposed by American officials - as too remote. However, the Belgians insisting - there was no other choice. In the end - the vote was unanimous.

Cost of the new headquarters - expected to run about fourteen million. Of this - the U S expected to pick up about two-thirds of the tab.