Federal Government

The undulating waves of nationalism have been reported in the Press as emanating from the Caribbean. The movement is described as a reaction to the existing political situation which might be characterized as the "exhaustion" of federal principles of government.

When agreement was reached at Manchester in September 1961, it was on the basis of a political association which might be described as the "reform" of the federal principle. The essential feature of this kind of agreement was the recognition of the "principle of equality" among the constituent units. The "principle of equality" meant that the constituent units would be treated equally in all matters except those specifically defined by the constitution of the federation.

This is a perfectly clear principle. The phraseology of the constitution is usually deplorable, but the principle itself is clear. The principle of equality among the constituent units is the essence of a federal association. The idea is for the constituent units to be treated equally in all matters except those specifically defined by the constitution. The "principle of equality" means that the constituent units would be treated equally in all matters except those specifically defined by the constitution of the federation.

You can see how this principle would work. If two constituent units of a federation were to be treated differently in one matter, then it would be a violation of the "principle of equality". The constituent units would be treated equally in all matters except those specifically defined by the constitution of the federation.

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