

CALL FOR A MUSLIM COMMONWEALTH

“VISION FOR THE FUTURE”

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

WOKING, MARCH 19

The Prime Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, told more than 2,000 Muslims at Woking, yesterday: “It is my desire to form a Commonwealth of all the Muslim countries somewhat after the pattern of the British Commonwealth.”

Speaking at the *'Id al-Fitr*, the feast that marks the breaking of the fast, at the Shah Jehan Mosque, he said: “We believe that Muslims, wherever they are, are brothers, so there is every reason for the Muslim countries to come together to discuss their problems.

“I have a vision for the future. It is of the time when we can meet together not with the intention of forming one block to fight another block but to discuss things for the common good.”

Applause greeted his remarks, which followed prayers in a marquee over which flew the flags of the Muslim countries. The Prime Minister suggested that they should bring pressure on their own governments to persuade them to form such a commonwealth of Muslim nations.

On South Africa, he said that with her departure the Commonwealth had come to stay as a living force in world politics. “Man has to live as man, not divided because of his colour, race or creed.”