

C.152/10/3

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13 June 1979

Dear Eric Hinchel,

In my letter of 22 March I sought views on the Agenda for the forthcoming Meeting of Heads of Government. From the many replies I have received and in the light of the further personal consultations I have been able to have I now enclose a draft Agenda for your consideration. I also attach a list of background papers which the Secretariat will shortly distribute. It remains the general wish of Governments to keep documentation to the minimum. I have therefore sought not only to reduce the number of documents but also to keep them as short as possible. Some Governments have also indicated that they are likely to submit papers.

Heads of Government have concurred that the Agenda should again, as is customary, combine broad political and economic issues with more specific topics including areas of Commonwealth co-operation. In consequence, and in the hope of promoting informality, I have consciously endeavoured to curtail the number of sub-items. Inevitably, however, it has been necessary in the field of Commonwealth co-operation to be more specific. I hope that the following comments by way of annotation of the draft Agenda will prove helpful.

1. OPENING SESSION

Proceedings will begin at 1025 hours after informal photographs have been taken of Heads of Delegation seated around the conference table. The Opening Plenary Session will be televised and will be recorded on video tape and film which will be available for transmission to all Commonwealth countries.

President Kaunda's address of welcome will be followed by a few speeches in reply taking in all about an hour and a quarter. Heads of Delegation will then adjourn for the formal photograph, to be followed by my pre-lunch reception at noon at the National Assembly nearby which is designed to provide an informal opportunity for you to meet representatives of the press,

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of Great Britain.

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most of whom will be in Lusaka specially to cover the Meeting. The ground rules for the reception include no recorders and no cameras except for the Secretariat's officially designated photographer.

2. ORDER OF AGENDA AND FORMAT

As is usual, senior officials will meet on the eve of the Meeting to discuss the Order of Agenda and related matters. Their report will be available for consideration by the Meeting at its first Executive Session.

In addition, Heads of Government may wish at the very outset to consider the suggestions which, as requested at London, I shall be putting forward separately regarding the style and format of the Meeting - suggestions designed to strengthen the tradition of informality of Heads of Government meetings.

3. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

It is intended to embrace under this heading all relevant topics not dealt with specifically in terms of Commonwealth co-operation or proposals for such co-operation. The listing of certain sub-items is not intended to exclude discussion of other topics, some of which are noted below, that might appropriately be raised.

(a) World Political Scene

It is envisaged that under this sub-item Heads of Government, as in the past, will wish to discuss from the particular point of view of their countries some of the many political changes in the world at large which have occurred in the two years since their last Meeting in London, such as the evolution of detente, shifts in the world's power structure and the changing nature of power itself, the problems of the Middle East and the prospect for the future, changes in Iran and current aspects of disarmament. In addition, Heads of Government will wish to consider developments affecting Cyprus, Belize and other areas of more direct Commonwealth concern not covered by separate sub-items.

(b) South East Asia

This heading is intended to cover not only developments in South East Asia and Indo-China but also the wider implications of China's current orientation. While such developments cannot be divorced from the world political scene, Heads of Government have welcomed the proposal to focus specially on this area. A particular problem of concern to many Commonwealth countries is that of the refugees from Vietnam.

(c) Southern Africa

The uncertainties and dangers in Southern Africa

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are no less pressing now than when I wrote to Heads of Government on 22 March. What the situation will be as regards Zimbabwe and Namibia at the time of the Meeting remains impossible to forecast. It is certain, however, that Commonwealth concern with developments in this area will be as intense as ever - as will be continuing antipathy to the policies of South Africa. The hope has been expressed by many Heads of Government that the Meeting itself may provide the opportunity to advance the cause of peace and stability through enduring settlements, enabling the Commonwealth to play a constructive role in relation to these major international problems.

(d) World Economic Situation and Prospects

Heads of Government have once again indicated their wish to review the world economic situation and the developments that have taken, and are taking, place in this area including the multilateral trade negotiations, the evolution of the Common Fund, the outcome of UNCTAD V and the continuing recession. Almost all countries are feeling what could be the first tremors of a disintegrating world economic system, and there is widespread disquiet among Heads of Government over the current situation. They will almost certainly wish to address themselves to common economic problems in their global setting. It is equally evident, however, that there is a wide variety of individual preoccupations and approaches which Heads of Government wish to emphasise in the discussions. It seems prudent, therefore, not to try to compartmentalise the discussion by introducing sub-items, but to encourage a discussion which highlights the elements of major concern. Amongst the subjects which Heads of Government wish to raise are the serious balance of payments problems of many countries, inflation, the world energy situation, commodity problems, the renegotiation of the Lome Convention, 'Law of the Sea' issues, and, in one case, housing, urbanisation and the environment. A strong desire has been expressed that the discussion will generate ideas for specific Commonwealth initiatives designed to assist the progress of wider international negotiations on key economic issues.

4. COMMONWEALTH CO-OPERATION

Although at Heads of Government Meetings the spotlight of publicity falls on those major political and economic issues with which Heads of Government are inevitably concerned, a vital element of the Commonwealth is the multitude of co-operative activities undertaken both at the official and unofficial level. In addition to reflections on ongoing activities, there will be the opportunity this year to consider important new proposals for further co-operation in the broad area of economic and social development. Before moving to the individual sub-items, however, Heads of Government may see value in exchanging thoughts on the general theme of Commonwealth co-operation and assessing its significance in wider

terms as well as discussing its regional dimension, particularly the innovation last year of the Heads of Government Regional Meeting so successfully held in Sydney. In addition, the Government of The Gambia has raised the possibility of reviving the proposal for a Commonwealth Human Rights Commission, which was first made at the London Meeting in 1977, and the Government of Cyprus has signified its intention of proposing the establishment of a Commonwealth Film and Television Institute.

(a) Industrial Co-operation

As you will know, Ministers met in Bangalore in March of this year to consider the Report of the Team of Industrial Specialists set up following the Heads of Government Meeting in Kingston. They agreed on a Commonwealth Action Programme on Industrial Co-operation to utilise the complementary resources existing within the Commonwealth in order to accelerate the process of industrialisation in developing member countries. They also agreed that the Programme should be developed and implemented by an Industrial Development Unit to be established by the Secretariat within the CFTC. Ministers asked me to submit their conclusions to Heads of Government together with an elaboration of the structure and scope of activities of the Unit. Given the correlation between development and industrialisation, and the tangible benefits that Commonwealth co-operation can yield in this area, the blessing of Heads of Government for this new endeavour, backed by an appropriate financial commitment for the Industrial Development Unit over the next three years, could be one of the significant achievements of the Lusaka Meeting.

(b) Island Developing and Other Specially Disadvantaged Members

A number of Commonwealth meetings in the past two years have considered the particular and unique problems of the smaller members of the Commonwealth whose number has increased considerably in recent years. Senior Officials at their meeting in 1978, and Commonwealth representatives at a subsequent meeting held in London in April 1979, discussed at length a Secretariat paper which canvassed various approaches to this issue. In the light of these meetings, a revised memorandum is being put forward for consideration by Heads of Government containing proposals specifically designed to help to alleviate the problems of island developing and other specially disadvantaged countries in the field of both development and international representation. There has already been widespread acknowledgement by member Governments of the importance of the subject and of the need for the Commonwealth to give a timely lead in this matter to the international community.

(c) Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

In the course of my visits to a large number of member countries I have been constantly impressed by the tributes paid to the assistance provided by the CFTC and its value in developmental terms. There is, however, a real risk that the future effectiveness of the Fund, which is the pre-eminent mechanism for development-oriented co-operation within the Commonwealth, could be seriously undermined in the absence of greater assurance about its long-term financial strength. I shall, therefore, be submitting to Heads of Government for their consideration proposals aimed at obtaining such a commitment at Lusaka.

(d) Commonwealth Youth Programme

In the past, Heads of Government have affirmed their belief in the need to improve the opportunities available to Youth and some years ago established the Commonwealth Youth Programme. However, pledges to the Programme have fallen far short of the one million pounds that the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council envisaged in 1976 as being necessary for the range of activities then agreed. The ravages of inflation have further curtailed the Programme's effectiveness and the Committee of Management have advised that unless substantial additional funds are rapidly forthcoming the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council will have to consider severely reducing the scope of the Programme, with its attendant implications for the three Regional Youth Centres. Such an outcome will clearly be a setback to many years of effort, and Heads of Government will wish to consider how it can be avoided.

(e) Commonwealth Foundation

At Kuala Lumpur last November, Senior Officials commended the work of the Commonwealth Foundation which now finds itself with insufficient resources to meet adequately its existing commitments, let alone undertake the expanded role which was the subject of discussion in Kuala Lumpur. The Chairman and Trustees will therefore be inviting Heads of Government to make it possible for the Foundation to discharge its mandate effectively, due regard also being paid to certain new areas of activity which might commend themselves to Governments.

(f) Studies Mandated by the Heads of Government Meeting 1977(i) Relationships between the Official and Unofficial Commonwealth

As indicated in my letter of 22 March the Report of the Advisory Committee on Relationships between the Official

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and Unofficial Commonwealth was the subject of discussion by Senior Officials in Kuala Lumpur last November. Heads of Government may wish to pursue the matter to a conclusion by taking decisions on the recommendations that were made by the Advisory Committee.

(ii) Women and Development

At their Meeting in London in 1977 Heads of Government considered the question of women and development and charged me with certain responsibilities. I shall be reporting on the work undertaken in the Secretariat and inviting Heads of Government to consider what further activities they would wish to see pursued.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

This agenda item is intended to allow for consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole on any matters, other than the draft communique, that may have been sent to it for preliminary consideration.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There are one or two matters which it seems appropriate to include under this heading.

Some Heads of Government wish to raise the concept of special membership of the Commonwealth which Heads of Government agreed in 1968 could be made available to meet the special requirements at that time of Nauru and subsequently also of Tuvalu which achieved independence in 1978. This subject was discussed by the meeting of Commonwealth representatives referred to at 4(b) above. I have received an indication that the Government of Nauru would welcome the matter being considered afresh.

There are two further topics so far noted. The first relates to the wish of Commonwealth Ministers of Health at their recent meeting in Geneva to bring to the attention of Heads of Government two resolutions which they passed on health matters. The second is a similar wish expressed by Commonwealth Youth Leaders that the outcome of their meeting in Colombo should also be brought to the attention of Heads of Government.

Each Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting provides many challenges and opportunities. I hope these annotations

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 - b) South East Asia
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 - d) World Economic Situation and Prospects
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HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

LUSAKA 1-8 AUGUST 1979

DRAFT AGENDA : DOCUMENTATION

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4. COMMONWEALTH CO-OPERATION
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4. d) Commonwealth Youth Programme
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- e) Commonwealth Foundation
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- (ii) Women and Development
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5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6. OTHER BUSINESS

 Resolutions of Ministers of Health and
 Commonwealth Youth Leaders (HGM(79)15)

7. COMMUNIQUE

 Other papers are expected to be submitted by
a) the Government of Cyprus on the proposed Commonwealth
Film and Television Institute and b) the Government of Fiji
on Alternative Sources of Energy.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 June 1979



CHGM, Lusaka

You have seen a copy of the Prime Minister's reply, dated 11 June, to the Commonwealth Secretary-General's letter of 22 March about the agenda for the forthcoming CHGM in Lusaka. Mr. Ramphal has now written to the Prime Minister again, setting out an annotated agenda for the meeting. I enclose a copy of his letter.

I should be grateful for early comments on Mr. Ramphal's proposals: it would be helpful to the Prime Minister to have at least a preliminary view on them before Mr. Ramphal calls on her on 18 June at 1715.

I am sending copies of this letter to Martin Hall (H.M. Treasury), John Chilcot (Home Office), Garth Waters (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Andrew Duguid (Department of Industry), Tom Harris (Department of Trade) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

BBC

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



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