

Prime Minister *MR 27.*
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Mr Coles *AA 27.*

FROM: PUS
DATE: 25 November 1983

CC: Sir R Armstrong
Mr Ainscow

COMMONWEALTH FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION

The Committee of the Whole yesterday discussed the items of Functional Cooperation which had been remitted to us, and after fairly extensive discussion agreed a report to Heads of Government which should be received from the Secretariat today, or which may be made available in Goa.

On most of the items discussed there was some predictable pressure for increased expenditure. We successfully resisted this, and the report as agreed by officials does not present any problems. Some points were difficult to resolve, and in case some Heads of Government try to reopen them in Plenary Session, the Prime Minister may like a brief explanatory note.

On Student Mobility, there was continued criticism of the high level of fees, though recognition of the action taken by Britain (£46,000,000 over three years) to alleviate this. The main discussion centred on the financial implications of the Secretariat proposal to establish a Commonwealth Higher Education Unit. The Committee eventually agreed on a sentence stating that such a unit "could be staffed, on present calculations, within existing resources". The Secretariat undertook that if "unexpectedly" they did require extra resources, they would make a case to Governments through the Finance Committee before taking any decisions.

There was extensive discussion on "Women and Development" - a subject to which African delegations, notably Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria obviously attached importance. The debate centred on whether to hold a special meeting of Commonwealth Ministers in 1984 in preparation for a 1985 World Conference on the subject already scheduled for Nairobi. The consensus, as reflected in the report, was that, to minimise expense, there should simply be a meeting of

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officials in London in 1984, to be followed by a meeting of Ministers in Nairobi on the eve of the 1985 Conference.

On the Commonwealth Foundation, there was a general consensus around a Canadian proposal to set a target of £1.46 million for 1984/85 and 1985/86. The Foundation had asked for £1.6 million, and we had proposed £1.3 million. £1.46 million is the figure which the Foundation calculate they would need to take account of inflation since their present budget of £1.1 million was fixed in Lusaka. Contributions to the Foundation are voluntary, and we have traditionally contributed 30 per cent of the total of other contributions, not 30 per cent of the target income. Nobody expects the target of £1.46 million to be achieved next year. On that basis, we can agree to a £1.46 million target, though I made it clear (and asked this to be noted in the record) that our maximum contribution in 1984/85 would be 30 per cent of £1.3 million.

On culture, we (with Canadian and Australian support) resisted pressure from the Indians and a number of Africans to set up some cultural machinery funded by Governments. The Committee eventually agreed to recommend against the establishment of any new machinery for financial reasons, but some Heads of Government might try to reopen this question.

The penultimate paragraph of the Committee's report on this item expresses the Committee's strong hope "that the practice of holding a Festival of Commonwealth Arts at the time of the four-yearly Commonwealth Games should continue". The Secretariat's original draft asked Heads of Government "to ensure, through the active support of relevant agencies", that this practice "is continued without interruption". We could not have accepted this, since the next Commonwealth Games are to be held in Edinburgh in 1986, and although we hope to stimulate cultural activities funded by private bodies, there is no provision for Government finance, and we cannot, therefore, guarantee now that cultural manifestations will be possible.

Finally, there was discussion of a proposal by Commonwealth Employment and Labour Ministers to establish a Working Group on "The Management

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of Technological Change". This would cost at least £60,000, of which we would have to pay 30 per cent. We see no need for a Working Group, and would have some difficulty in finding money for it. The Committee's report sensibly suggests that resource constraints may rule it out.*

The only item of Functional Cooperation not referred to the Committee of the Whole was the Commonwealth Fund for Technological Cooperation (CFTC). This is covered in brief No B20, and presents no particular problems for us.

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* M^r Hawke apparently attaches importance to Trades Union matters & the work of Commonwealth Labour Ministers, so may raise this.



COMMONWEALTH
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
NEW DELHI 1983

23 November 1983

... Following consultations between the Chairperson and
the Secretary-General the attached copy of a memorandum
on the Council for Education in the Commonwealth is
circulated to Heads of Delegation for their information.

Hugh Craft

Hugh Craft
Conference Secretary

Commonwealth Secretariat
Vigyan Bhavan
Delhi

Council for Education in the Commonwealth

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MEMORANDUM BY THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING NEW DELHI NOVEMBER 1983

Many Commonwealth countries are finding their industrial and commercial development severely retarded by a lack of appropriate education and training resources of their own and difficulties of access to those of other countries. We urge that education and training for commerce and industry should be a major thrust of a Commonwealth programme for higher education.

In the light of this Council's conference on 5th July 1983 on 'Education & Training in the Commonwealth for Commerce & Industry', and after studying some relevant conclusions of the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Student Mobility, we wish to commend to Heads of Government a programme that features, inter alia,

1. expansion of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and of the fellowships and Training Programme of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation in such a way that more awards are specifically related to professional, managerial and technician manpower needs of commerce and industry; and a new scheme of Commonwealth awards to fund placements in commerce and industry for practical training complementary to appropriate courses of education;
2. support for regional initiatives by member governments or by the educational institutions themselves to strengthen particular departments or disciplines in selected national institutions;
3. the vigorous exploitation, in consultation with manufacturers, of new information and communication technologies that can be harnessed to the existing infrastructure and experience of Commonwealth countries to bring about dramatic developments in education through distance teaching and learning techniques

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AB 12.9.83

[Handwritten initials]

FROM: A K Goldsmith
DATE: 21 November 1983

~~FUS~~ o/a

cc: Mr Ainscow
Delegation Secretary

Cabinet Secretary o/a

CHOGM INITIATIVE: VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UN DECADE FOR WOMEN

1. The point to make in paragraph 4 of PMVE(83)B24 refers to a further British contribution to this fund (background in paragraph 9 of the brief). The Minister for Overseas Development has agreed that if she felt it appropriate the Prime Minister might like to announce this further contribution to other Heads of Government at an appropriate point in the discussion on "Women and Development". If the Prime Minister does do this it might be worth making something of the announcement in a press notice. We will, as necessary, keep the ODA informed so that they may subsequently give the decision appropriate publicity in London.

Terry Byrne

[Signature]
A K Goldsmith

Mr Coles

brief annotated.

AK 22/11