

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL

Charitable Trust No: 272018

Please Reply to:

63 CROMWELL ROAD
LONDON, SW7 5BL
Telephone: 01-373 6761

27th November 1983

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher M.P.
Prime Minister
Britain.

Dear Prime Minister,

Commonwealth - Informed coordinated administration

Through the agreement of the Secretary-General, Mr S.S. Ramphal, and the Chairman, Mrs Gandhi, of CHOGM, the Memorandum of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) was circulated to delegations in the first additional papers, last Friday.

CHEC has much for which to thank India for recognising the pioneering work of CHEC in almost its fullest form; Britain has provided the background from which much of its knowledge base has been derived. I think you will have noted that the Indian Prime Minister summed it all up in her Opening Address in which she suggested Commonwealth might 'harmonise the natural environment with the social institutions, emphasising the role of the individual in the action'. Mrs Gandhi reiterated this human ecology thinking in her NAM address when I was visiting India in March of this year.

But existing Commonwealth structures of support are able to give only very modest encouragement to human ecology. In the Commonwealth Secretariat our voluntary and non-governmental aspects positively count against us, whilst the Commonwealth Foundation, our main support, has to hold these multi-disciplinary programmes, working across the board, strictly in line with those bodies concerned with specialised professions.

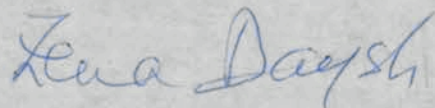
Even so, the dynamic, indigenously based programmes of CHEC are making a major impact in countries like Kenya, where 100,000 nomads are being settled in an ecological, cultural framework of training and small scale industry.

..... /2

The time is ripe for CHOGM to advise the widening of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Foundation mandates, so that they can all cooperate, openly, on an informed base of coordination, sensitised and guided by ecological principles, culturally and socially founded.

Britain's voice, as ever, can influence powerfully the constructive. Without reference in the Final Communique, little further Commonwealth wide progress can be made. The summary attached, of the papers circulated last Friday, point the way to the ways and means which can widen present day administration and action.

Yours sincerely,



Zena Daysh
Executive Vice-Chairman

FIVE 841



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 November, 1983

Dear Mrs. Daysh,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 27 November with which you enclosed the Memorandum of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. The contents of your letter and the accompanying Memorandum have been noted.

Yours sincerely

A. S. Cole.

Mrs. Zena Daysh

Summary extract from the (official) circulated documents, November 26th 1983:

'CHEC - ITS PLACE AND PURPOSE
IN THE COMMONWEALTH'

Over the past twenty years, the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) has filled a gap in Commonwealth activities; the Council has provided informed administrative coordination and stimulated the development of indigenously-based, pioneering human ecology programmes, in the field and at academic and communication levels, supported by national executive administration. Through CHEC's activities in the name of Commonwealth, unique understanding of the relationships between people's culture, social institutions and the changing environment has evolved.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government, 1983, have a pressing opportunity to identify further, national needs in terms of economic objectives and ecological goals. The nucleus of Commonwealth-wide programmes and administration, developed in complementarity by CHEC, await, and depend upon, Governments of the Commonwealth in Delhi agreeing support to enable CHEC to better serve their national and Commonwealth interests.

Measures are required encompassing multiple approaches that are the essence of any national situation. To strengthen the official Commonwealth approaches entails the widening of CHEC's existing multi-level and multi-sectoral networks, crucial to providing expertise and advice to assist the establishment, or strengthening, of existing regional centres, consultant groups and informed members at local levels.

WIDER BASE OF COOPERATION

Because of the Commonwealth Secretariat's role in coordinating much of the funding for mutual aid programmes, it is timely to decide the means of closer integration and coordination of activities between CHEC and the Secretariat. Such an association might follow the lines

adopted in the past for the Commonwealth Science Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme, and should encompass the spanned potential of the Commonwealth Secretariat's new Human Resources development group - whilst basing the programme on the overall and fundamental principles of human ecology, inherent in CHEC's activities.

The present ties with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Foundation's interest in the Professional centres, might also with advantage be incorporated with CHEC's growing regional activities to assist the cooperation envisaged.

This cooperation entails:

- i. promoting more active recognition, study and action towards human ecology principles in development at government level, reaching out, with the aid of CHEC, towards more comprehensive public participation;
- ii. enabling government departments and other agencies to organise coordinating centres, collaborating with CHEC, for applying human ecological principles to development.

Cooperation with the United Nations

Germane to this wider support is the invitation of the United Nations ESCAP Environmental Coordinating Unit (Bangkok) to CHEC, to co-sponsor a Ministerial Level Meeting on the Environment, Asia and the Pacific, in 1985.

In line with CHEC's Commonwealth programme of conferences, seminars and workshops, CHEC is considering holding the Seventh Commonwealth Conference on development and Human Ecology, to be a pan-Commonwealth meeting, at Ministerial level, in 1984, preparatory to the ESCAP meeting.

ESCAP are presently seeking collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat to assure that the official Commonwealth plays its important part in support of, and supported by human ecological interests and concepts.

The experience of the Commonwealth Heads of Government is sought urgently to bring together the various levels of Commonwealth interests toward improved action on the human situation and the ecological processes.

26th November 1983
New Delhi

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
London SW7 5BL

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting,
Delhi, 23rd - 30th November 1983

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL
(CHEC)

ITS PLACE AND PURPOSE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

London - September 1983

Add. I & II

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL
(CHEC)

ITS PLACE AND PURPOSE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

An Independent Institution

From the first Commonwealth Conference on Development and Human Ecology in Malta in 1970, to the present time, the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council has been instrumental in promoting the cause of human ecology in the Commonwealth. Immediately after the Human Settlements Conference in Vancouver in 1976, in which CHEC played a leading role, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1977 had before them alternative ways of recognising CHEC and its place in the institutional framework of Commonwealth affairs, namely:

- i. a formal linking of CHEC into the Commonwealth Secretariat as an integral unit to promote human settlements and human ecological policies, research activity, education and dissemination of information, or
- ii. the strengthening of CHEC as an independent institution to work alongside government institutions in the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other world agencies and the non-governmental voluntary bodies.

The second of these alternatives was implicitly followed. The independence of CHEC is its strength, but the intervening years have shown the need of closer liaison with, and increased support from, the official Commonwealth.

In promoting studies and action in human ecology, CHEC acts as a mediator between government and government, government and the professions, and between the academic world and the practical realm of business. Above all, because human ecology makes no sense unless its ultimate practitioners are people, CHEC's non-governmental status enables the Council to harness the interest and cooperation of the lay public in many countries.

Nevertheless, CHEC's close association with the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat is, at the present time, more essential than ever. The fact that the Commonwealth Secretariat has, since CHOGRM, Fiji, 1982, set up its own Human Resources Development Group gives evidence enough of its recognition of the need to place the human being at the centre of development.

Broader Public Participation

The uppermost need today and in the future is, and will be, for broader public knowledge and participation to engender community awareness and facilitate cooperation and combined activities. The human ecology message must be taken to all who, when informed, can best help themselves. All levels of economic activity and social order must be included.

Given adequate resources, CHEC can carry the message in a unique way more extensively throughout the Commonwealth, working directly with governments, as well as with community and non-governmental groups towards a wider and deeper public response and cooperation.

The Next Steps Forward

CHEC is aware of the privilege it enjoys in being accredited to the CHOGRM Meetings over the past decade and is grateful for the support of its work and the confidence shown by governments during this period. The current level of funding of £10,000 per annum is insufficient to meet the needs of the modest planned programme, as described in Addendum I, if the Council is to succeed in its efforts to increase the level of awareness throughout the Commonwealth. Given the urgency of the task before it and the commitment expressed by governments to integrate ecological considerations into economic and social developments, more resources must be made available to the Council if its activities are to have a greater impact.

Because of the Commonwealth Secretariat's role in coordinating much of the funding for mutual aid programmes, it may now be timely to consider the merits of closer integration and coordination of activities between CHEC and the Secretariat. Such an association might follow the lines adopted in the past for the Commonwealth Science Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

The present ties with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Foundation's interest in the Professional Centres, might also with advantage be incorporated with CHEC's growing regional activities to assist the cooperation envisaged.

Governments may wish to consider how best the strength of CHEC can be utilised in carrying this important programme forward, so that the Council can serve them and their peoples to even better purpose by:

- i. promoting more active recognition, study and action towards human ecology principles in development at government level, reaching out, with the aid of CHEC, towards more comprehensive public participation;
- ii. enabling government departments and other agencies to organise coordinating centres, collaborating with CHEC, for applying human ecological principles to development and to do so by:
 - (a) applying to CHEC direct, and
 - (b) making specific requests to the Commonwealth Secretariat for CFTC aid.

CHEC Secretariat,
63 Cromwell Road,
London SW7 5BL.

September 1983

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL

C H E C

P R O G R A M M E 1984 - 1986

Elements and Activities

Introduction

The Commonwealth today is well-placed to launch an international initiative using existing CHEC machinery to stimulate, coordinate and forward global ecological and environmental awareness and action.

The Council has a Commonwealth-wide base from which this objective can be achieved. The accompanying paper entitled 'CHEC - Its Place and Purpose in the Commonwealth' states the case and suggests the means.

Programme Elements

CHEC is concerned to assist the broadening and strengthening of Commonwealth activities to ensure that human ecological issues are taken into account during decision-making at government and non-government levels.

The Council suggests that the following elements form the basis of its on-going programme:

- i. An autonomous human ecology institution, closely associated with the present official Commonwealth administration and possibly having a similar relationship to that enjoyed by the Commonwealth Science Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme with the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- ii. Linkages to be maintained and further developed with the Commonwealth Foundation.
- iii. National groups to identify and coordinate CHEC concerns.
- iv. Local community groups assisted by local government to initiate projects and disseminate information.

- v. Studies, reviews and assessments of the ecological components of development.
- vi. Community-based projects to improve human conditions, whilst maintaining an ecological balance.
- vii. Courses, training programmes and appropriate curricula concerned with human ecology, for all levels of educational institutions.
- vii. Information and knowledge on human ecological issues as they affect social, economic and cultural development.

Programme Activities

1. Human Ecology Networks

CHEC aims to strengthen its present Commonwealth-wide linkages, networks and human ecology programmes. At the present time CHEC has a base in twelve Commonwealth countries which embrace all regions; the Council intends to fulfil its mandate by establishing further centres where they are needed.

With a strengthened CHEC headquarters, the interaction between the national, regional and inter-regional activities will be made more effective.

Estimated cost: Rising to £50,000 p.a.
after three years

2. Project Development

This category includes research, studies, reviews and assessments of the human ecological situations in various contexts. Examples of the work envisaged are:

- (a) The assessment of the ecological implications of development at any level.
- (b) The identification of advances being made in integrated projects for wider application and the review of constraints in terms of understanding the subtle inter-dependence inherent in healthy ecological development.

Building on CHEC's and others' existing experience, community-based projects are crucial elements in these activities and are implemented according to the urgency of people's needs. Projects are developed in a cultural/ecological setting. They are basically concerned with education and training to promote: self-reliance through

cottage industries; soil husbandry and increased production; tree cultivation; cooperative marketing and other ecological mechanisms.

Estimated cost: Rising to £65,000 p.a.
after three years

3. Education and Training

Courses in human ecology have already been established in collaboration with CHEC in four major Commonwealth universities which have regional and international functions. The Council's work is linked to thirty further Commonwealth universities through which CHEC will continue to advise on curricula at university and school levels and will assist in the development of appropriate training courses. CHEC will continue to support these and other more community-oriented training courses to increase skills and capabilities at the local level, particularly those based upon local expertise.

Estimated cost: Rising to £50,000 p.a.
after three years

4. Information and Communication

CHEC will enlarge its work in disseminating information through the CHEC Information Service and related activities. It both sponsors and publishes research findings, conference and seminar proceedings, bibliographies, journals and books. The Council is now involved in the production of a series of human ecology films by leading international film-makers.

Estimated cost: Rising to £20,000 p.a.
after three years

5. Administration

CHEC headquarters will be strengthened to enable it to carry out the specific projects in this programme, catalysing and supporting action through regional and national human ecology units and continuing to collaborate fully with Commonwealth Governments and other Commonwealth organisations, the United Nations and other national and international agencies.

Estimated cost: Rising to £40,000 p.a.
after three years

TOTAL BUDGET: RISING FROM £100,000 FIRST YEAR TO
£200,000 THIRD YEAR

THE COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL
(CHEC)

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) emerged in the 1960's as a pioneering organisation of institutions and individuals committed to promoting a human ecological approach to development. The basic objectives are concerned with linking knowledge from different sectors to development actions which embody the principles of human ecology; human responsibility and the harmonious inter-relationship of human beings and the environment. On a practical level these mean understanding the connections between people's livelihood, natural resources, environmental protection, public health, social welfare and religious and cultural traditions.

As a non-government organisation, CHEC seeks to influence those in government and other organisations to ensure that ecological issues are fully considered during the planning and implementation stages of development programmes and projects. The Council operates flexibly at both government and non-government levels and important areas of involvement include:

- community based projects and research;
- education and training programmes and the development of appropriate academic curricula;
- dissemination of information throughout the Commonwealth and beyond;
- establishment of contacts for the promotion of human ecological concerns.

Members of the council are active in a wide range of academic and applied disciplines and are representative of the Commonwealth. The Executive Vice-Chairman, based in London with a small administrative team, maintains the impetus for continuing progress in the increasingly important field of ecologically aware development.

Sir Hugh W. Springer, KCMG, CBE,
Chairman

Mrs Zena Daysh,
Executive Vice-Chairman

CHEC Secretariat,
63 Cromwell Road,
London SW7 5BL.

September - 1983

From: Zena Daysh, Executive Vice-Chairman

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL (CHEC)

*HUMAN ECOLOGY INFORMED COORDINATED ADMINISTRATION

Ecology seen from a cultural standpoint

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) has for twenty years filled a gap for Commonwealth, providing informed administrative coordination, stimulating the development of human ecology programmes, at field, academic and communication levels, supported by national executive administration.

Through CHEC's activities, in the name of the Commonwealth a unique understanding of the relationship between people's culture and the changing environment has evolved, and pioneering programmes have been established.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government, 1983, have a pressing opportunity to identify further, national needs in terms of economic objectives and ecological goals. The nucleus of Commonwealth wide programmes and administration developed by CHEC await, and depend upon, the Governments of the Commonwealth in Delhi agreeing support to enable CHEC to better serve their national needs.

Measures are required encompassing multiple approaches that are the essence of any national situation. To strengthen the official Commonwealth approaches entails the widening of CHEC's existing multi-level and multi-sectoral networks, crucial to providing expertise and advice to assist the establishment of, or strengthening existing, regional centres, consultant groups and informed members at local levels.

* Extracted from the circulated documents of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, London SW7 5BL.

WIDER BASE OF COOPERATION

Because of the Commonwealth Secretariat's role in coordinating much of the funding for mutual aid programmes, it is timely to consider the merits of closer integration and coordination of activities between CHEC and the Secretariat.

The close ties which exist between The Commonwealth Foundation and CHEC and the recent creation of the Secretariat's Human Resources Development Group, open the way for wider-based cooperation which will arm the future Commonwealth to embrace and serve the fundamental principles of human ecology.

These deal with the interdependence of and the interaction between human activity, religious precepts and cultural traditions, natural resources, public health, education and environmental protection.

Germane to this wider support is the invitation to CHEC of the United Nations ESCAP Environmental Coordinating Unit (Bangkok), to co-sponsor a Ministerial Level Meeting on the Environment, Asia and the Pacific, in 1985.

In line with CHEC's Commonwealth programme of conferences, seminars and workshops, the Council is planning a pan-Commonwealth Meeting, at Ministerial Level, preparatory to the ESCAP meeting - Seventh Commonwealth Conference on Development and Human Ecology, in 1984. India may host.

ESCAP are presently seeking collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat to assure that the official Commonwealth plays its proper part, in support of, and supported by human ecological interests and concepts.

A decision is urgently required to be taken now, to allow an attack on the problems world wide, in a human and cultural ecological framework. Integration of administration of relevant Secretariat parts, CHEC and relevant programmes of the Commonwealth Foundation.

(Sgnd. Zena Daysh)

23 November 1983

Media Centre
CHOGM, New Delhi