

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY COUNCIL

Charitable Trust No: 272018

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

The Rt. Hon, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

1 October 1985

Dear Prime Minister,

R3

CHOGM - Bahamas, October 16 - 22, 1985

..... I have pleasure in sending you the Paper of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), "Human Ecology: The Bond of Purpose and Progress"; submitted to CHOGM 1985, through the offices of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

CHEC has been encouraged that the British Government is supportive of certain environmental issues, particularly in regard to wildlife and resource development, and is collaborating with the official Commonwealth in these matters.

We know, also, that though not explicit in its proposals to Commonwealth, the British Government is responsive and supportive to the wider, overall social, ecological and participatory aspects of social and economic development.

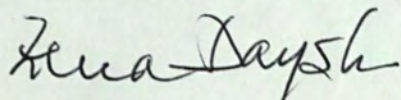
Human ecology programmes have the potential (proving so in many areas of the Commonwealth), to bring about more direct and effective cooperation between government and non-government and voluntary movements and to improve human well-being in the widest context.

CHEC's proposals in its Action Programmes and Action Centres in the enclosed Paper, backed up by 25 years of work in the Commonwealth, in education, applied research and community programmes of improvements, are congruous with and supportive of the aspirations of both the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

...2/.

Your decisive personal support to guide future Commonwealth administration and support toward cooperation on this wider base would be of the utmost importance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zena Daysh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Zena Daysh (Mrs.)
Executive Vice-Chairman

enc.

Cb



FILE

67

cc: ODA
FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 October, 1985

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 October, and for sending her the Council's paper "Human Ecology, The Bond and Purpose of Progress".

I understand that you would be interested to discuss your paper with the Prime Minister in Nassau. I am afraid that the Prime Minister's time will be entirely taken up with the Heads of Government meeting. But if you would like to make contact with the British Delegation at the Nassau Beach Hotel, Room 656, they will try to arrange for you to have a word with a senior member of the Prime Minister's delegation.

(C.D. Powell)

Mrs. Zena Daysh.

d

CHEC

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN ECOLOGY
COUNCIL

CHOGM, BAHAMAS, 1985

HUMAN ECOLOGY: THE BOND OF PURPOSE AND PROGRESS

Eight years ago, in 1977, CHEC made a proposal to CHOGM, London, which in the light of subsequent events and the opportunity today for the Commonwealth to give a lead in international cooperation and environmental renaissance, has proved a remarkably sound prophecy.

The proposal in 1977 enunciated the need to secure the future by:

- (i) Taking human ecological considerations into account in the provision and establishment of human settlements and all other aspects of development policies in the Commonwealth;
- (ii) Administrative and executive machinery within the Commonwealth to promote and facilitate these considerations;
- (iii) Joint action by governments and non-governmental organisations at national and international levels in the interests of human ecological and human settlements policies;
- (iv) A coordinated outlook and action between the world agencies (UN, WHO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, FAO) and non-governmental agencies concerned with human ecology;
- (v) An informed but essentially non-professional body to coordinate the professions in the Commonwealth in the interests of human settlements and ecological objectives;
- (vi) The Commonwealth playing its full part in worldwide regional development in the interests of ecological understanding and advance.

I. CALL FOR ACTION

The tides of world opinion, generated and moved by the current crisis in development and worsening of human environmental degradation, reinforce and widen the call for action made in 1977. In particular, CHEC would call the attention of CHOGM to:

A. THE CASE FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION

The pressing case for cooperation in policy making and action between non-governmental and voluntary organisations and governments now declared by:

- (1) The Commonwealth Secretary-General on June 18th 1985 in London;
- (2) The Commonwealth Foundation and its current proposal for regional liaison links of non-governmental organisations;
- (3) The policy for non-governmental recognition made by unofficial Commonwealth Associations meeting at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London;
- (4) The United Nations Declaration made by ESCAP, Bangkok, to enable progress to be made in environmental policy;
- (5) The call of the World Health Organisation for the promotion of community health care;
- (6) The renewed drive for improved human settlement policy by HABITAT;
- (7) The participation aims of the World Commission on Environment and Development;
- (8) The urgent need for more flexible economic policies in the Third World as urged by the World Bank.

B. ACTION TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

declared by:

- (1) ESCAP, Bangkok, 1985;
- (2) World Commission on Environment and Development;
- (3) The paper from the British Government to the Commonwealth senior officials' meeting 1985, on international cooperation and environment concerned with wild life and resource development;
- (4) World Health Organisation's 'Health for All' by AD 2000 and Health Through Human Ecology Programmes;
- (5) HABITAT's renewed drive for action and policy of human settlements.

C. ROLE OF COMMONWEALTH IN WORLD AFFAIRS

The need for international cooperation between developing and developed countries in economic development and environmental enhancement which, in the light of the current United Nations crisis, the Commonwealth can meet.

II. A BOND OF PURPOSE AND PROGRESS

Each of these acknowledged needs could lead to self-defeating policies and actions for want of an all-embracing bond of purpose to guide and sustain progress.

CHEC believes that bond could and should be provided by human ecological aims and policies. The Commonwealth Governments acting jointly with non-governmental organisations should seize the initiative and give the international lead now looked for.

III. ACTION PROGRAMME

Commonwealth action should have wide expanding horizons, and within them, an immediate programme.

Suggested Action

- (i) To overhaul all economic development policies and identify or reappraise the impact of them on the use of natural resources and on the condition, participation and response of the community immediately affected.
- (ii) To review all environment policies, if any, and reassess the aims and the degree to which local, non-governmental intelligence has been used in framing and fulfilling them.
- (iii) To record and monitor the number and functions of non-governmental organisations concerned with the well-being of the environment and human living conditions and the quality of life.
- (iv) To determine the extent to which past and present development plans and projects have aimed at immediate, short-term economic benefits and disregarded long-term environmental and human ecological damage.
- (v) To modify the established practice of categorising nations into 'developed' and 'underdeveloped' and 'developing'; and to introduce into the categories the criterion of human ecological health.
- (vi) To encourage local communities to become self-reliant and independent of central government largesse, control and command over local affairs.

- (vii) To review teaching and training so as to provide a place in curricula for the ideas and application of human ecology related to orthodox teaching courses and training methods.
- (viii) To identify, register and monitor all non-governmental organisations and their activities - including corporations, charities, private companies and institutions - so as to understand how, when and where they affect human environmental development and conditions.
- (ix) To investigate how traditional institutions, determining land tenure, family relationships and the social and political chains of command affect the use of human and other resources.

IV. ACTION CENTRES

An action programme on these lines would cohere in all its parts by virtue of the human ecological bond of purpose and would carry the participation of voluntary and non-governmental bodies into policy-making and execution. It should be based upon Commonwealth regional Human Ecology Centres. These would advise and assist in the making and execution of policies, international linkages and the promotion of education and research. We suggest that the first of these experimental centres should be set up in the South Pacific and in Malta.

CHEC held its first Commonwealth Conference on Development and Human Ecology in Malta in 1970 (following seven years of research, cultural, social and economic, in the now well-known Malta Case Study), and from that time forward, using the base of this national work, Malta has been an active crucible of ideas and actions, worked jointly by government and non-governmental interests.

CHEC's fifth Commonwealth Conference on Development and Human Ecology, held in New Zealand in 1975, laid a basis for regional cooperation in the South Pacific. This led the way for human ecological considerations in relation to urban development and community programmes of participation.

CHEC's long experience and innate wisdom of the human ecological imperative and the special relevance of the Council's work to the character and aims of such a programme, and, in particular, CHEC's long association with Malta and the South Pacific, underlie these proposals.

Therefore, CHEC would propose that these two areas, Malta and the South Pacific, should be the initiating locations for Human Ecology Centres. Such an initiative would fit into the proposed regional linkage programme of the Commonwealth Foundation and provide firm foundations for the Commonwealth Secretariat's aim to widen the Small Island Studies programmes.

CHEC Secretariat
63 Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BL

24 September 1985



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Charles,

Letter from the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth
Human Ecology Council

You wrote on 3 October, enclosing a letter to the Prime Minister from the Mrs Zena Daysh, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. We have also seen a copy of Sir Percy Cradock's minute of 4 October, saying that Mrs Daysh was seeking a brief meeting in Nassau with the Prime Minister or the senior FCO official accompanying her there.

I enclose a draft reply to Mrs Daysh offering her the opportunity to talk to an official in the British Delegation at Nassau. We will ask Sir Crispin Tickell whether he would be willing to take this on when he returns from a visit abroad.

I am copying this letter to Jonathan Lingham (ODA).

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PS/No 10 ~~letter~~

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Mrs Zena Daysh
 Executive Vice-Chairman
 Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
 63 Cromwell Road
 London SW7 5BL

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 October, and for sending her the Council's paper "Human Ecology, The Bond and Purpose of Progress".

CAVEAT.....

I understand that you would be interested to discuss your paper with the Prime Minister in Nassau. I am afraid that the Prime Minister's time will be entirely taken up with the Heads of Government meeting. But if you would like to make contact with the British Delegation at the Nassau Beach Hotel, Room 656, they will try to arrange for you to have a word with a senior member of the Prime Minister's delegation.

EDJ

Enclosures—flag(s).....

[CF. Please bring a copy of this enclosure to Nassau].

M/s 2. DAYSH
14/10



SM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

ack 3 October 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council.

I should be grateful for a draft reply.

(C.D. Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

PR