

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. T. G. Martin

Assistant Director

Commonwealth Youth Programme

The Meeting was opened by Mr. T.G. Martin, Commonwealth Secretariat, who welcomed the young Government Ministers, other young leaders and visitors.

In his remarks, Mr. Martin drew attention to the importance of providing opportunities for young leaders to meet together in order to discuss issues of direct relevance to youth. He noted that the Commonwealth Meetings of Young Leaders were unique occasions and that the outcome of the meeting would be studied closely by those who had confidence in the ability of young leaders to meet the challenges facing their generation within the framework of practicality and relevance to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries.

Mr Martin particularly welcomed the lead speakers, Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali Minister for Trade and Shipping, Government of Sri Lanka; Hon. Ali Mchumo, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of Tanzania; and Hon. Hugh Small, Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Development, Government of Jamaica. In doing so he said that the spirit of the Ocho Rios Meeting of Young Leaders in 1977 remained alive in the presence of the Chairman of that meeting, Minister Small. Mr. Martin concluded by thanking the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs in the Government of Sri Lanka, Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe, for agreeing to host and chair the Meeting and, most particularly, the compliment which had been paid to the delegates by the kind agreement of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa, to open the proceedings formally.