

COMMONWEALTH CO-OPERATION

Following the discussions on pluralism and development, a plenary session was convened to identify action programmes that might be initiated in an effort to promote and advance the social and economic development of island communities with plural societies.

Dr. Maraj prefaced the discussions by briefly outlining the resources of the Commonwealth Secretariat under its regular budget, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and the Commonwealth Youth Programme. Information sheets and brochures had previously been distributed to participants. Attention was drawn to the nature and scope of the assistance which was available and participants were invited to propose lines of action which might be adopted, with or without support.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- i. A research study should be mounted on the role of education in fostering social integration in plural societies;
- ii. A research study should be conducted on the role of legislative reform in developing social integration;
- iii. A handbook, based on a case-study approach, should be prepared on the application of intermediate technology in island communities;
- iv. Consideration should be given to the establishment of an "island consortium" to examine the potential of exploration and farming of the sea and to investigate related matters such as shipping;
- v. At the national and community levels social development projects should be undertaken by groups of young people cutting across divisions of race, religion, language and culture;
- vi. A second seminar on the same theme should be organised for continental countries with plural societies;
- vii. An issue of the Commonwealth Youth News should be devoted to the theme of pluralism and development in order that discussions might be continued and awareness of the factors involved maintained;
- viii. The scope of the Commonwealth Youth Programme's activities should be widened, and should include closer co-operation with non-governmental organisations;
- ix. The Commonwealth Youth Programme's resources for the support for national programmes should be increased;
- x. In conclusion the Seminar recommended that the Commonwealth Youth Programme should be extended for a further period.

It was agreed that the Commonwealth Secretariat should follow up the Seminar along the lines indicated.