

PREFACE

Over recent years, the Ombudsman has become very much a feature of Commonwealth jurisdictions. Increasingly, Commonwealth countries have been establishing the Office, either by legislation or by incorporating it in the provisions of new Constitutions. Although the Office has an historic and honourable place as a Scandinavian institution, its adoption in Commonwealth countries on such a broad scale has made the Ombudsman a landmark on the legal Commonwealth scene.

Such has been the scope of its development that the Commonwealth Secretariat considered it timely to produce this review of the position Commonwealth-wide.

It has been prepared and typed by the International Ombudsman Institute, Centre of Law, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on commission from the Secretariat.

The International Ombudsman Institute was established in 1977 with the following objects -

- (a) to promote the concept of Ombudsman and to encourage its development throughout the world,
- (b) to encourage and support research and study into the office of Ombudsman,
- (c) to develop and operate educational programmes for Ombudsmen, their staff and other interested people,
- (d) to collect, store, disseminate information and research data about the institute of the Ombudsman,
- (e) to develop and operate programmes enabling an exchange of information and experience between Ombudsmen throughout the world,
- (f) to provide scholarships, fellowships, grants and other types of financial support to individuals throughout the world to encourage study and research into the institution of Ombudsmen,
- (g) such other matters as are necessary to further the above objects.

October, 1980