

INTRODUCTION

Copyright should be and be seen to be an instrument by means of which the flow of literary and educational materials between countries is eased rather than restricted. This intentionally short and inexhaustive guide to the basic principles and workings of copyright, and to the relationship between author and publisher, has been compiled primarily from the point of view of the needs and aspirations of authors and publishers in developing countries.

The origins of this booklet are contained in a Secretariat working paper on "Copyright in the Developing Countries" presented for discussion at the Commonwealth Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on "Priorities and Planning for the Provision of Books" in Delhi in February 1973. The Seminar recommended that the paper deserved as wide an audience as possible by being published as a booklet, and made suggestions for additional material to be incorporated.*

These and other factors relevant to the situation in developing countries have now been added, and the Commonwealth Secretariat is grateful to Ronald Barker, Secretary of the Publishers Association, S. Gopinathan, Editor, Oxford University Press (Singapore) and Chairman of the Singapore National Book Development Council, and Alexis Koutchoumow, Secretary-General of the International Publishers Association, for their valuable comments and suggestions; and to Martin Ballard, A. J. Brooks and Frank Knox for their contributions to the original working paper.

* "Priorities and Planning for the Provision of Books"
(Commonwealth Secretariat 1973), page 34