

Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed to the success of our mission. In particular we wish to record our appreciation to the Director of Elections and his staff, to all the political leaders, church leaders, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police force and others, for their assistance and co-operation. In a special way, we also wish to thank the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, for giving us the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth in its efforts to promote democracy and democratic practices in its member states.

But our deepest gratitude goes to the people of Seychelles, for the warm welcome they extended to us as we moved around their beautiful country. We wish them well as they prepare to face a testing period, and to meet the undoubted challenges of consolidating democracy and achieving national reconciliation in the period ahead.

Finally we wish to thank the Secretariat team led by Mr Max Gaylard, Director of the International Affairs Division. He brought out the best in the team and we are greatly indebted to them.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

Composition of the Commonwealth Observer Group

Mr Henry de B Forde (Barbados, Chairman)

Mr Forde, 59, a distinguished lawyer and politician, is the Leader of the Opposition in the Barbados Parliament. He is a former Minister of External Affairs and Attorney-General. A member of the International Commission of Jurists and of the Privy Council, he has led Barbados delegations to various international organisations, including the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. He also served on a Commonwealth group of experts that examined the vulnerability of small states such as Seychelles. Mr Forde was educated at Cambridge University before being called to the Bar at the Middle Temple, London.

Mrs Barulaganye Machacha (Botswana)

Mrs Machacha is Director of Administration of the Bank of Botswana where her responsibilities include the preparation of the annual budget and control of expenditure, besides general administration. She previously held senior positions in the Ministry of Local Government and Lands. Mrs Machacha received her higher education at the University of Botswana and the University of Madison, Wisconsin, in the US.

Mrs Marion Roe, MP (Britain)

Mrs Roe, a Member of the House of Commons, has had experience in both national and local politics in Britain. Under former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, she held a ministerial post as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment from 1987-1988. Before that, she was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Transport. Mrs Roe has chaired a number of Conservative and all-party Parliamentary committees, and also served on many public and voluntary bodies.

The Hon Jean-Jacques Blais (Canada)

Mr Blais, a former National Defence Minister of Canada under the Liberal Government, was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Zambia in 1991. He has also held the posts of Canada's Minister of Supply and Services, Solicitor-General, and Postmaster-General. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1972, 1974, 1979 and 1980; and has also been a Privy Councillor. He was educated at the University of Ottawa and Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto.

Mr Ionnis Matsis, MP (Cyprus)

Mr Matsis has been a member of the Cyprus delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union since 1981 and substitute delegate to the Council of Europe Assembly since April 1986. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1981, and re-elected in 1985 and 1990. He is the current Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Development Plans and Public Expenditure Control and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He is a barrister who was educated in Cyprus and at Gray's Inn, London.

Mr Ejaz Naik (Pakistan)

Mr Naik observed the 1990 elections in Nepal for the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). He has held senior positions in Pakistan's Civil Service, including that of Secretary-General, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance. As Chief Secretary to the Government of the Northwest Frontier Province from 1970-1973, he organised the 1970 General Elections. Mr Naik has also served as a diplomat – as Minister (Economic) in the High Commission for Pakistan in London, from 1965-1969.

Mr Etienne Kombe (Vanuatu)

Mr Kombe was reappointed principal electoral officer of Vanuatu in 1992, a position he also occupied in the South Pacific island republic from 1982-1983. Earlier, he served as Private Secretary to the President and as Controller of Prices. He has also held senior positions in the Development Bank of Vanuatu and in the Municipality of Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital. Mr Kombe was educated in Fiji, France, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STAFF

Mr Max Gaylard (Australia – Team Leader)

Mrs Patsy Robertson (Jamaica – Press Officer)

Dr Moses Anafu (Ghana)

Ms Zainah Anwar (Malaysia)

Ms Yvonne Dravie-Dixon (Sierra Leone)

ANNEX II

Press Statement Issued on Arrival in Seychelles



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

PRESS RELEASE

SEYCHELLES OBSERVER GROUP: STATEMENT

We have been sent to Seychelles by the Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku following a request for a Commonwealth Observer Group from the Government of Seychelles.

Our broad task will be to observe every relevant aspect of the organisation and conduct of the elections to the Constitutional Commission in accordance with the law of Seychelles. A Commonwealth Secretariat Planning Mission has confirmed to us that the parties involved in the elections welcome our presence here.

We have no executive role. Our function is neither to supervise nor act as a commission of enquiry but to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgment based on those observations. Our conclusions will reflect our independent collective judgment and will be submitted in a report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General who will make it available to the Seychelles Government and political parties, and subsequently to Commonwealth Governments.

As part of our work we will be in touch with all the major political parties and will be travelling to different parts of the country before and on election day. We are delighted to be here in Seychelles and are privileged to be present at this historic time.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
18 July 1992

ANNEX III

List of Significant Engagements and Press Release

Saturday, 18 July

- 0615 Arrival of Commonwealth Observer Group (COG)
- 1330 COG Briefing
- 1430 Meeting with Seychelles National Movement
- 1600 Meeting with Parti Seselwa
- 1715 Meeting with Seychelles People's Progressive Front

Sunday, 19 July

- 0900 Two Observers to St Louis to observe Parti Seselwa door to door campaign
- 1130 Meeting with Movement Seychellois Pour La Democratie
- 1400 Meeting with National Alliance Party
- 1730 Meeting with Democratic Party

Monday, 20 July

- 0930 Meeting with Seychelles Christian Democrats
- 1045 Meeting with Mr André Sauzier, Director of Elections
- 1400 Meeting with President Albert René
- 1500 Meeting with Bishop French Chang-Him, Anglican Church
- 1700 Meeting with Seychelles Liberal Party

Tuesday, 21 July

- 1000 Meeting with Father Edwin Mathiot, Vicar-General, Roman Catholic Church
- 1115 Meeting with Mr Tite Morin, Deputy Police Commissioner
- 1530 Meeting with British and Indian High Commissioners

Wednesday, 22 July

- 0830 Three Observers and two Secretariat staff visit Inner Island of Silhouette
- 1000 Visits to Electoral Areas: meet with District Council, Police, local party leaders and supporters, and general public.

Thursday, 23 July

- 0700 Mr Blais to Farquhar and Desroches (polling day)
- 0800 Mrs Roe to Bird, Denis and Fregate (polling day)
- 0925 Chairman, Mr Kombe and Mr Gaylard to Praslin and La Digue to visit three electoral areas
- 1000 Other Observers visit electoral areas in Mahé

Friday, 24 July

- 0730 Mrs Machacha to Alphonse, Marie Louise and Darros (polling day)
- 0800 Mr Naik to Coetivy (polling day)
- 1000 Other Observers visit electoral areas in Mahé
- 1630 Mr Blais to attend Parti Seselwa meeting with polling agents

Saturday, 25 July

- 0730 Mr Kombe to Assumption (polling day)
- 0800 Mr Matsis to Platte (polling day)
- 0800 Mr Blais and Mrs Roe to Silhouette (polling day)
- 0930 Visits to polling stations to check preparations for the poll. Meet with Electoral Officers and assistants.

Sunday, 26 July

POLLING DAY

- 0600 Observer Teams visit selected polling stations to observe opening and compliance, or otherwise, with regulations
Observe polling throughout morning
- 1300 Return to Hotel for interim consultation
Mr Kombe to report by telephone from Praslin
- p.m. Observe polling and procedures at close of poll at selected

polling stations. Observe counting to ensure compliance,
or otherwise, with regulations

1800 Telephone office to report on counting progress

1900 Interim Statement issued

Tuesday, 28 July

1100 Chairman and Mr Gaylard meet with President René

Wednesday, 29 July

1600 Chairman, Mrs Roe, Mr Blais and Mr Gaylard meet with
Sir James Mancham

2330 Departure from Seychelles



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS BEGIN CONSULTATIONS

Soon after arriving in Seychelles yesterday morning, members of the Commonwealth Observer Group began a round of intensive consultations with representatives of political parties. And this morning, they left their hotel to drive around and meet the people and to see what was happening in the elections campaign.

Shortly after arriving at their hotel yesterday morning, the Chairman Mr Henry Forde issued a statement setting out the terms of their appointment and of the task which they were to undertake. He said that all members of the Group were privileged to be present in Seychelles at this historic time.

The Group spent Saturday afternoon meeting with representatives of three political parties. The first representatives were Mr Gabriel Hoarau and Mr Robert Frichot of the Seychelles National Movement. Then the Group drove to Victoria where they had meetings with Mr Wavel Rankalawan and Mr Roger Mancienne of the Parti Seselwa and with Mr Danny Faure of the SPPF.

This morning, three Observers led by Mr Forde drove to St Louis to see some canvassing by the Parti Seselwa and they then drove to Plaisance and Anse aux Pins where they spent time talking with people and listening to their views. In both places, their presence attracted a small crowd of men, women and children who were keen to discuss the current political situation with them.

In the afternoon, the Group met Mr Jacques Hodoul and Miss Marie-Therese Bibi of the Movement Seychellois pour la Democratie and Mr Phillippe Boule, Mr Frederic Savy and Mrs Kathleen Pillay of the National Alliance Party before calling on Sir James Mancham and members of the executive of the Democratic Party at his residence.

The Group will continue to hold meetings with political leaders during the next two days and will meet with President Albert Rene tomorrow (Monday) afternoon at 2 pm. In the morning, they will be calling on Mr Andre Sauzier, Director of Elections.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
19 July 1992

ANNEX IV

Observer Group Checklist and Polling Station Report

PART A

The Observers may focus particular attention on the following aspects of the conduct of the election:

REGISTRATION

1. Unqualified voters on the list.
2. Procedures to challenge by voters of their exclusion from the rolls.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

1. The nature of access to the electronic media available to the opposition parties.
2. The procedure (if any) for the allocation of time for political broadcasts and advertisements on radio and television.
3. The nature of access enjoyed by the political parties to the print media.
4. The tone and content of political broadcasts, advertisement and posters put out by the political parties.
5. The conduct of political meetings.
6. The conduct of house-to-house canvassing of voters.
7. The voter-education programme on radio and television conducted by the Director of Elections.
8. Permits for public meetings.
9. Access to funds and sources of funds.
10. Access to state services.

CONDUCT OF THE POLL

1. The siting of polling stations.
2. The accuracy of the list of voters at the polling stations.
3. The length of time voters waited to cast their votes.
4. The steps (if any) taken to ensure that the secrecy of the ballot is assured.
5. The performance of the election officers at the polling station visited.

6. The procedure followed at the opening of the poll.
7. The adequacy or otherwise of polling stations' facilities.
8. The procedures in place to ensure the proper security of ballot papers, ballot boxes and official seals.
9. The general electoral environment that prevailed at the polling stations visited.
10. The state of readiness of polling stations.
11. Availability of adequate supplies, e.g. ballot papers, sealing wax, etc.

THE COUNT

1. The process of reconciling the number of people who voted with the number of ballots cast.
2. Inspection of seals
3. The determination of invalid ballots.
4. The conduct of the electoral officers and their assistants.
5. The facilities for candidates and their representatives to witness and verify the count.

PART B

Questions that may be put:

Before Polling Day

1. Is electoral register full and correct? People missed off? Are there names of dead people/ people who have moved away included?
2. Are election officials confident about arrangements? Are political parties and local notables (priests, lawyers, etc) satisfied?
3. Is the man in the street satisfied with arrangements? Will he vote? If not, is he afraid to do so?
4. Has the campaign been free of intimidation, etc? Have all parties had full access to media?
5. Is advertising (posters, leaflets, etc) free?
6. How will voters' ID be checked? Will it be possible to vote twice?

7. How will those away from home or ill in bed be able to vote?

On the day

1. Before polling starts, are the ballot boxes empty? Are they properly sealed?
2. Are all procedures agreed beforehand being adhered to?
3. Are all parties represented at polling stations? Are they satisfied with process?
4. Are IDs being properly checked?
5. Are voters apparently voting freely? Are they enthusiastic? Do they talk freely? Do they exhibit signs of fear or intimidation?
6. Do voters understand procedures properly? If not, are they being explained fully and impartially? Are attempts being made to suggest how they should vote?
7. Is only one person at a time allowed into the voting booth? Do their ballot papers go straight into the sealed box?
8. How long are voters waiting to vote? If a long time, are some being put off?
9. Who will run the procedures on the day? Will they be ex-Party People? How were they chosen?
10. Will all parties be present at polling stations throughout voting and count?
11. Will foreign observers have free access to all stages of process?
12. Are voters being asked suspicious questions after leaving the ballot box?

After Voting

1. Are the boxes kept safe until opened? Are all parties/observers present at opening?
2. Does the number of used ballot papers tally with the record of those who have voted?
3. Are the papers counted properly? Are any valid ones being spoiled during counting, intentionally or not?

Polling Station Report

Name/Team:

Polling Station Visited:

Time:

ACCESS

Comments

(if necessary)

Were you allowed full access to the polling station?	Yes	[]	
	No	[]	

OFFICIALS

Were you received well by officials?	Yes	[]	
	No	[]	
Did they have any comments or complaints?	Yes	[]	
	No	[]	

MOOD

Was the mood	Orderly?	[]	
	Tense?	[]	
	Violent?	[]	
	Excited?	[]	
	Happy?	[]	

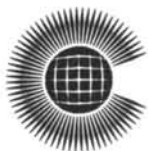
IF YOU SPOKE TO VOTERS

- were they happy to talk?		[]	
- generally satisfied?		[]	
- did they have any complaints?		[]	
were any of these:	intimidation?	[]	
	harassment?	[]	
	unfairness?	[]	
	confusion?	[]	

GENERAL COMMENTS ON APPARENT FAIRNESS:

ANNEX V

Interim Statement of 26 July, 1992



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

INTERIM STATEMENT

The successful conclusion of the first stage in the transition to multi-party democracy has been achieved by the people of Seychelles. The election held over the past four days throughout the islands, has enabled all the people to exercise their right to select the representatives who will guide their country back to constitutional democracy and multi-party Government.

This election has been for a Constitutional Commission and our independent Group was invited on behalf of the Commonwealth to observe all relevant aspects of the arrangements for and the conduct of the election in accordance with the laws of Seychelles. We were also mandated to form a judgement on whether the election was free and fair. Our judgement up to this point is that it was free and fair. Despite some shortcomings, this election allowed the people of Seychelles to fulfill their right to vote in a peaceful and orderly manner and without hindrance.

This judgement was based on our detailed observation of the entire electoral process during the past week. It was an open process. We were able to obtain as much information as we required for all of its stages. We remained in close and continuous contact with the Director of Elections and his staff, and we were fully briefed by them on all aspects of their work. We scrutinised the method by which the Voters Registration List has been compiled and satisfied ourselves that it was credible.

We consulted as widely as possible. We had frank discussions with President Albert Rene and the leaders of all the other political parties contesting the election and we also met with the Police, church leaders and a cross-section of voters. We have expressed to them our concern that violence could mar the start to an orderly transition process. In this context, we have urged political leaders in particular to encourage restraint by their supporters and to prevent clashes with law enforcement and security agencies. We have suggested that the adoption of a Code of Conduct would greatly facilitate this.

Where the agencies are concerned, we strongly emphasise the need for them to demonstrate discipline and restraint in the responsible exercise of their powers, particularly in this fragile process of transition to multi-party democracy.

Before the poll, members of our Group visited all 22 electoral areas on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue as well as the Inner Island of Silhouette. In our meetings and consultations leading to today's poll, we paid particular attention to the arrangements to ensure that the ballot was secret and to those factors which could mar the election.

Over the first three days of polling, we accompanied electoral officers by aircraft and by boat to witness the people of the scattered Inner and Outer Islands casting their votes for the 23rd electoral area.

On polling day in Mahe, we were on the scene in polling stations before the scheduled time for opening, to check whether all the procedures as laid down by law were carried out. We spent the day visiting stations, observing the conduct of the poll, examining the registers, making contact with other observers and party agents and speaking with voters as they waited to cast their ballots. We considered it our duty to be as visible as possible, so as to minimise any risks of intimidation or of voters being prevented from exercising their rights. We trust that our presence and advice have contributed to the promotion of multi-party democracy in Seychelles.

The poll itself was carried out efficiently and courteously by electoral officials who were scrupulous in undertaking their duties in a proper manner according to the correct procedures. The counting which is now taking place is still being observed by members of our Group. While initial reports indicate that it is progressing according to the rules and without incident, we will reserve final comment on this for our full report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku later this week.

In that report we will be expressing our concern about certain aspects of the transition process to multi-party democracy. While all political parties have confirmed to us their commitment to this process we consider it our duty to spell out the formidable challenges which lie ahead. These will include for example, the separation of the institutions of State from any particular political party, changing the role of the Government-owned news media, and the fashioning of a new role for the law enforcement and security agencies.

Finally, we would like to record our deep gratitude to the Government and all the people of Seychelles for inviting us to play a role in the historic process now unfolding in their country. As we moved around this past week, we have become aware of their fears and hopes and we offer our continued support and that of the Commonwealth to them in their courageous efforts to restore democracy to these beautiful islands.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
26 July 1992

ANNEX VI

Correspondence on Code of Conduct and Press Release of 24 July, 1992



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

24 July 1992

Dear Mr. Sauzier,

You are probably aware by now of an incident last night involving members of two of the political parties and the Militia, and intervention by the Police. This was brought to our attention late in the evening by the leader of one of the parties involved, after which I spoke by telephone to Deputy Police Commissioner Tite Morin. I thought you should be aware of this.

Since these incidents have the potential for violence and can impact adversely on the remainder of the campaign, everything should be done to diffuse them. It occurs to us that the potential for further incidents in the short time remaining until the poll on Mahe on Sunday, might be minimised through voluntary adherence to a code of conduct which would encourage restraint on the part of the political parties and law enforcement authorities.

There is clearly no time now to develop and agree such a code specific to Seychelles for this election. However, if you see merit in the idea, we are attaching copies of a code of conduct for the February 1991 elections in Bangladesh, which could be distributed quickly to all those involved. This might help to achieve our shared objective of ensuring that the election is conducted in the most peaceful and orderly manner possible.

I should welcome your early response.

Yours Sincerely,
H. de B. Forde

H. de B. Forde
Chairman
Commonwealth Observer Group

Mr Andre Sauzier
Director of Elections
Victoria



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

24 July 1992

Dear Mr. Berlouis.

Following reported incidents over the past few weeks and more recently an incident on the evening of 23 July 1992 involving members of some political parties and of the Militia, and subsequent intervention by the Police, I wrote earlier today to the Director of Elections, Mr Andre Sauzier.

I noted to Mr Sauzier that such incidents can impact adversely on the election process. I suggested to him that the potential for further incidents in the short time remaining until the poll in Mahe on Sunday might be minimised through voluntary adherence to a Code of Conduct encouraging restraint on the part of the political parties and law enforcement authorities. Such Codes can be of particular assistance to the latter in undertaking their tasks in a non-partisan and impartial manner.

Given that there is no time now to develop and agree such a code specific to Seychelles for this particular election, I further suggested that a Code of Conduct applicable to the February 1991 general election in Bangladesh be distributed here to all concerned. Mr Sauzier agreed that there was merit in this and has asked me to forward copies to the leaders of all eight political parties contesting the election. I am therefore forwarding under cover of this letter a copy of the document in question to you and your seven colleagues.

It is hoped that the foregoing proposal will be put into effect as soon as possible.

James D. Forde
H. de B. Forde

H. de B. Forde
Chairman
Commonwealth Observer Group

Mr Ogilvy Berlouis
Seychelles Liberal Party
VICTORIA

Similar letter sent to:

1. Mr Gabriel Hoarau
Seychelles National Movement
2. Fr Ravel Rankalawan
Parti Seselwa
3. Mr Jacques Hodoul
Movement Seychellois Pour La Democratie
4. Mr Philippe Boule
National Alliance Party
5. Sir James Mancham
Democratic Party
6. Mr André Euzice
Seychelles Christian Democrats
7. President France Albert René
Seychelles People's Progressive Front



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

PRESS RELEASE

COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS PROPOSE CODE OF CONDUCT

During the past week, information about a number of incidents, which have the potential for violence and can impact adversely on the remainder of the campaign, has been drawn to the attention of the Commonwealth Observer Group.

The Group has written to the political parties suggesting to them that they should voluntarily adopt a Code of Conduct in order to ensure that between now and election day incidents of a confrontational nature will be avoided. The Group has also written to the Director of Elections Mr Andre Sauzier on this matter.

Similar Codes have been voluntarily agreed by political parties in many Commonwealth countries and there is evidence that adherence to them has helped to minimise incidents, encourage restraint on the part of supporters of political parties and prevent clashes with the law enforcement authorities.

The recommended Code would cover such matters as the organisation of the campaign to ensure a congenial and peaceful atmosphere, the exercise of restraint in speeches or comments, the condemnation of violence, appeals for cooperation with law enforcement agencies and respect for campaign literature. Such Codes also assist in guiding the law enforcement agencies in undertaking their tasks in a non-partisan and impartial manner.

Speaking today, the Chairman Mr Henry Forde said that he hoped the suggestion would be taken seriously by the parties and the law enforcement agencies.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
24 July 1992

Code of Conduct Adhered to by Political Parties in Bangladesh Presidential Elections, February 1992

Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Election, 1991 Code of Conduct to be Adhered to by Political Parties

The code of conduct, finalised after discussions with the representatives of 67 political parties including major ones, is aimed at maintaining a peaceful atmosphere during the election campaign and on polling day.

The Election Commission hoped that if all political parties faithfully abide by the code, they would greatly contribute to the holding of a credible election in the country. Legitimacy of a representative government elected through such an election will not be questioned.

Code of Conduct

- (i) Existing election laws and rules must be adhered to.
- (ii) All political parties and contestants will have to extend all necessary help and co-operation to the law-enforcing authorities.
- (iii) Everyone should be aware of not only his own rights, but should also respect the rights of others.
- (iv) All political parties and candidates participating in the polls will extend full co-operation to the election officials and ensure their safety and security until the polls are over.
- (v) Election campaigns should be so organised that a congenial and peaceful atmosphere prevails during polling.
- (vi) Nothing should be done that will create tension and disrupt the congenial atmosphere of the election. All parties should exercise restraint in speech and show respect to the opinions of others so that electioneering does not turn into war of words.
- (vii) It is expected that criticism of opponents will occur during electioneering. However, indecorous and provocative speeches/statements, taunting, ridiculing and innuendos should be avoided. Parties should be careful so that statements or comments do not cause unnecessary tension. In case a situation for the possibility of a clash arises because of a misunderstanding between contesting parties, then an Election Co-ordination Committee composed of representatives from the concerned parties shall allay tension and settle the dispute.

- (viii) All political parties shall be vocal against violence. No party shall give indulgence to any kind of violent activity to demonstrate party strength or to prove supremacy. All political parties will extend co-operation to the law-enforcing agencies for recovery of illegal arms. No party will take any initiative for the release of any person arrested by police with arms during election campaign or in the polling centre during voting or in the vicinity of the polling centre during polls.
- (ix) All parties and candidates will have equal opportunity for publicity. Meetings, processions and other campaign activities of opponents cannot be interfered with.
- (x) Assistance of the nearest law-enforcing agencies will have to be sought to resist and check any sort of election offence.
- (xi) Any attempts to influence voting through money or allurements and to hire or use any kind of transport to carry voters other than for self and family are election offences. Everyone should be aware of these offences.
- (xii) Political parties will reach an understanding to resist attempts to procure votes by forcible occupation of polling centres or through illegal activities in the polling centres. Votes thus obtained illegally will be of no use as the Election Commission will cancel polling in such centres.
- (xiii) No candidate can commit covertly or overtly any contribution or grant to any institution in his constituency until election day for the purpose of election campaigning and obtaining votes.
- (xiv) The congenial and peaceful atmosphere for election cannot be disturbed by spreading untrue and motivated rumour or by taking recourse to conspiracy.
- (xv) Election camps cannot be set up within the prohibited area or close to the polling centres and no campaign shall be allowed inside the polling centres.
- (xvi) In addition to the election officials, only the voters are entitled to enter the polling centres: the political parties should make sure that their workers do not enter the polling centres and loiter therein. Only the polling agents will remain seated at their designated seats in the polling centre and discharge their responsibility from there.

ANNEX VII

Letter to Director of Elections and Chairman's Press Statement of July 25, 1992



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

25 July 1992

Dear Mr. Sauzier,

Thank you very much for your note received earlier this afternoon concerning the incident in the town centre of Victoria around midday.

You should know that I was in the vicinity at the time accompanied by Mr Gaylard from the Commonwealth Secretariat, in the process of visiting the four polling stations within the precincts of Victoria. As we were proceeding towards the town from the Mount Buxton polling station en route to the English River station, we heard the sound of gun fire and quickly found ourselves on the fringes of a melee, with the Police Mobile Unit clearly in evidence and taking the offensive against the crowd. A tear-gas canister was fired by a PMU member within feet of us and similar actions were taking place down the street.

I note and agree with your observation that the symbolic display of the cow could have been construed as provocative by some citizens, in the context of the strained atmosphere. In some countries, it would merely merit a passing and humorous response.

At the same time I must say that from what we saw the PMU intervention was unnecessarily heavy handed and probably aggravated the situation. From all we have seen and heard during our visit to Seychelles, there is clearly an urgent need for better training, discipline and control for the Police Force including the PMU, if it is to play the responsible and critical role expected of a law enforcement agency in the delicate process of transition to multi-party democracy. Sensitive treatment of these confrontational situations is so important if the fragile democratic plant is to be properly nourished.

We welcome your renewed call for restraint.

Yours sincerely,
H. de B. Forde

H. de B. Forde
Chairman
Commonwealth Observer Group

Mr Andre Sauzier
Director of Elections
VICTORIA



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

PRESS RELEASE

Statement by Hon Henry Forde, Chairman of the
Commonwealth Observer Group

At around midday today, in the course of a visit to polling stations in Victoria, I witnessed at first hand an incident in Victoria in which tear gas was fired into the crowd by the Police Mobile Unit.

This incident was an ugly one and could have developed into a major fracas. Political campaigns call for restraint on the part of party supporters and sensitivity and restraint on the part of law enforcement officers. Mistakes made at such times can damage well-intentioned political goals and delay the achievement of genuine multi-party democracy.

Yesterday I had publicly encouraged political parties to adhere to a Code of Conduct which would help minimise incidents of a confrontational nature. I take this opportunity to reiterate that suggestion and join the Director of Elections, Mr Sauzier in calling for a climate of peace and order on polling day tomorrow.

I would like to add that it is particularly important for law enforcement agencies to show wisdom, discipline and restraint in the exercise of their powers, particularly in this transition to multi-party democracy that is so critical to the future well-being of all the people of Seychelles.

The Commonwealth Observer Group hopes that all well intentioned Seychellois will work to ensure that the process is free of these incidents and that tomorrow's voting will be a peaceful affair.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
25 July 1992

ANNEX VIII

Chairman's Statement on Eve of Polling Day, 22 July 1992



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

**EMBARGO: NOT TO BE USED
BEFORE 7 PM -
WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 1992**

**STATEMENT ON THE EVE OF THE ELECTION
BY THE HONOURABLE HENRY FORDE
CHAIRMAN OF THE OBSERVER GROUP**

On the eve of the first multi-party election in Seychelles in 15 years, I would like, on behalf of the Commonwealth Observer Group and the Commonwealth at large, to express the hope that the process which begins tomorrow will be peaceful and successful. My colleagues and I have spent a great deal of time during the past few days, talking and listening to the leaders and representatives of all political parties, the leaders of the Churches, to Government officials including the police and to members of the public.

The view has been expressed that our Group's presence will help to ensure that the election will be conducted in a free and fair manner and in particular, that the secrecy of the ballot will be preserved.

We are pleased to report that such concerns on these matters as have been expressed to us, have been conveyed to all eight political leaders. We have had their assurances and the assurances of all officials in charge of the electoral process that everything will be done to ensure a peaceful, and secret voting and a free and fair election.

Mr Sauzier, the Director of Elections, has also confirmed to us that it has been impressed on every official involved in the process that the law requires absolute secrecy and all arrangements to achieve this have been made and will be fully honoured.

I am also happy to report that in our discussions with the President and the other seven leaders of the political parties, we have sought and obtained their firm assurances and commitments to

accepting the outcome of the free expression of the people. Your leaders have also re-confirmed to us their undertaking to honour the process leading to multi-party democracy and the final election of a Government under the new Constitution. The Commonwealth accepts and takes these assurances seriously.

Voting begins on the outer islands tomorrow and will be completed by the main elections in Mahe, Praslin and La Digue on Sunday. The Commonwealth Observers will, as part of their role, be observing every aspect of the election -- on the streets, at the polling station and at the count. We pledge to discharge our duties in an impartial manner in the best interests of all the people of Seychelles.

We are happy to assure you that as you enter this momentous, challenging and exciting phase of your national life, the prayers and support of the entire Commonwealth family are with you.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
22 July, 1992

ANNEX IX

Correspondence of 21 July, 1992, and Press Release
of 22 July, 1992 on Security Consultations

Republic of Seychelles
Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
And of the DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
National House
Victoria
Tel: 24041/25476. Fax 25476
25476
25063

Please address all correspondence to the Registrar of Political Parties

21st July 1992

Mr James Michel
Chief of Staff SPDF

Dear Mr Michel,

At the meeting I had with the Commonwealth Observer Group yesterday morning they expressed concern about the arrangements we had made to allow army personnel to vote on polling day. They suggested that it should be arranged that army personnel on duty should vote at a polling station near their camp but it would not be right to see military vehicles moving across the country on polling day.

I have given that problem some thought and I believe the following arrangements would be made to satisfy everyone.

- (a) Polling stations for SPDF personnel on duty would be as follows: Grand Anse (Mahe), Takawaka, Pointe Laune and National House.
- (b) Every effort should be made for them to be in civilian clothes (I am issuing a directive about ordinary citizens not to wear distinctive clothes showing affiliation to a political party. Military uniform may be a provocative garment).
- (c) If that is possible, the use of military transport should be avoided.

3. I would be grateful if you will give this office a list of those members of SPDF who would vote at the respective stations mentioned in 2(a) above. The NIN number and (if possible) the district in which the soldier is registered, should be included. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
A. Scrimgeour



Republic of Seychelles
Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
And of the DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
National House
Victoria
Tel: 24041 / 25476. Fax 25063

Please address all correspondence to the Registrar of Political Parties

21.7.92

The Commonwealth Observer Group.

You may be interested to know that after receipt of my letter of to-day's date Mr Michel, the Chief of Staff of SDF has decided to send army personnel to vote in civilian clothes in their respective electoral districts without using army vehicles.

I told him this was acceptable.

A. Saucier
Director of Elections.



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

PRESS RELEASE

COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS COMPLETE CONSULTATIONS

The Commonwealth Observer Group has now completed its round of formal consultations with leaders of the eight political parties contesting the election, Government officials including the police and representatives of the Churches. These were completed yesterday (Tuesday), when they met with the Vicar-General of the Roman Catholic Church, Father Edwin Mathiot and with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Tite Morin. They had earlier met with the Bishop of the Anglican Church, Bishop French Chang-Him. Informal consultations have also been held with members of the public and other important individuals in the community.

These consultations were arranged on the clear understanding that the Group's mandate was to look into all aspects of the conduct of the forthcoming election. It enabled them to bring to the notice of the Government and relevant authorities issues which they considered to be crucial to the conduct of free and fair elections. One such concern was the voting arrangements for army personnel. This was taken up with both President Albert Rene and Mr Andre Sauzier, Director of Elections at the Group's meetings with them on Monday 20 July. The Group was informed late yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon that the Chief of Staff had decided that army personnel would vote in civilian clothes in their respective electoral districts without using army vehicles.

On receipt of this news, the Chairman, Henry Forde expressed his satisfaction that this action had been taken, as it would substantially ease one of the major concerns expressed to the Group. Mr Forde also said that this prompt response was indicative of the level of cooperation which had been established between the Group and the relevant authorities. He added that he and his colleagues were deeply moved by the expressions of welcome and appreciation of their role which had been extended to them. He said "We have been heartened by the genuine welcome we have received and we pledge to discharge our duties in an impartial manner in the best interests of all the people of Seychelles".

















The Group now moves on to the next phase of its activities, with a full schedule of visits to the Inner and Outer islands . These visits will begin this morning when the Chairman and two members of the Group visit Silhouette Island. During the following days, members of the Group will be flying and sailing throughout the outlying islands, accompanying election officials as they carry out their duties and observing and monitoring the balloting on these islands. Tomorrow (Thursday) they will be in Farquhar and Desroches Islands, as well as Bird, Denis and Fregate Islands. On Friday , visits will be paid to Alphonse, Marie Louise and Darros as well as Ceotivy. Finally on Saturday, one observer will take the long trip to Assumption while others will visit Silhouette and Platte.

All observers will be back in Mahe , Praslin and La Digue for Sunday's poll which will bring to an end this momentous, challenging and exciting phase in the national life of this country.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
22 July 1992

ANNEX X

Sample Ballot Paper

		<p>PS Parti Seselwa</p>
		<p>NAP The National Alliance Party</p>
		<p>MSD Mouvement Seychellois pour la Democratie</p>
		<p>DP The Democratic Party</p>
		<p>SCD The Seychelles Christian Democrats</p>
		<p>SNM Seychellois National Movement</p>
		<p>SPPF Seychelles People's Progressive Front</p>
		<p>SLP Seychelles Liberal Party</p>

ANNEX XI

Press Release Before Departure of Group, 29 July 1992



Seychelles Elections

Commonwealth Observer Group

PRESS RELEASE

MAKE DEMOCRACY PERMANENT SAY COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS

As he and his colleagues prepare to leave the Seychelles tonight, Mr Henry Forde, Chairman issued the following statement on behalf of the Commonwealth Observer Group:

On election night, I said that there were no losers in this election, and that democracy has triumphed. But this is only the first stage, not only in terms of this process, but in terms of making democracy a permanent reality in the life of the country.

Achieving that calls for all the virtues. In particular, it means putting the national interest above partisan pursuits; it requires an independent and impartial judiciary and the safeguarding of fundamental human rights; it entails a spirit of give and take in which people can disagree without thereby considering themselves as enemies; it involves the nurturing of a free and independent media; it means ensuring a place for dissent in which all contending views are given opportunity to be heard. But none of this will be possible without national reconciliation.

These are considerable challenges for any society; but we have no doubt that the people of this country and their leaders are equal to these challenges. And as you face them, you can count on the support of the Commonwealth of which Seychelles is an honoured and valued member.

Note for Editors

Mr Forde, Mrs Roe and Mr Blais depart for London at 2230 hrs by Flight HM 440. They will be accompanied by Mrs Robertson, Dr Anafu and Ms Dravie-Dixon.

Beau Vallon Bay Hotel
29 July 1992
