

SUMMARY OF THE WORKING OF THE PLAN
IN THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

No significant changes have been made to the administration of the Plan in Australia over the reporting period.

The Department of Education continues to look after the nomination of Australians to study in other countries and the administration of Scholars from developed Commonwealth countries who are brought here to study, while the Australian Development Assistance Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for Scholars nominated for study in Australia by developing Commonwealth countries. Both aspects have functioned smoothly during the period under review. Australia has noted that a number of developing countries of the Commonwealth are tending not to nominate for the number of CSFP awards made available to them by Australia presumably because they do not accord a high priority to the type of training available under the Plan. Australia does accept nominations for undergraduate study from some countries. This is done where it is known that a developing country's most urgent manpower needs are for persons with undergraduate rather than postgraduate qualifications.

THE BAHAMAS

There has been no change in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in the Bahamas. Interest in its awards remains high, as is evidenced by the calibre of applicants. It was most unfortunate that during the period under consideration two Scholars were compelled by force of circumstances to return home prematurely but it is understood that in one case, at any rate, arrangements have been made for completing the course.

On a more positive note, one Scholar already pursuing M Ed studies in Canada was permitted to enrol in the doctoral programme. It is gratifying to record that three such persons were simultaneously pursuing doctoral studies with a view to seeking or resuming employment with the College of the Bahamas. From this point of view alone, the Plan continues to serve the Bahamas well.

BANGLADESH

No report has been received.

BARBADOS

There has been no change in the administrative machinery of the Plan during the period under review. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education continues to advertise awards as they are made available. Applicants are interviewed by the National Scholarships Committee which makes its recommendations for the Minister's consideration.

It is hoped that more awards could be made available at undergraduate level in some of the areas of study not available at regional institutions, e.g. pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary science.

There are no proposals for the publication of an official report on the operations of the plan.

BOTSWANA

No report has been received.

BRITAIN

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom, under the Chairmanship of Sir Michael Walker GCMG, continued to be the official agency of the Plan in Britain. The Association of Commonwealth Universities provides the secretariat, the Joint Secretaries of the Commission being Sir Hugh W Springer KCMG, CBE and Mr E E Temple OBE.

The selection of Scholars for awards tenable in Britain once again occupied much of the time and effort of the Commission and its secretariat. The process of selection, always a difficult one given the generally high standard of nominees, was further complicated this year by the need to eliminate from the competition many able candidates who might well have been successful in previous years. This was done in order to take account of budgetary restrictions imposed on the Commission as a result of the British Government's policy on limiting expenditure. The knowledge that the Commission might have fewer awards to distribute this year may well have been a factor in encouraging nominating countries to submit their nominations as early as possible. Late arrival of nomination papers has not proved so great a problem this year as in previous years although too many nominations arrived in good time only to be found lacking in essential documentation such as references and university records. Lack of such documentation impedes the Selection Committee in its attempt to judge a candidate's overall suitability for an award and, even though the secretariat makes every effort to obtain missing documentation, candidates with incomplete nomination papers are, inevitably, often rejected.

The outstanding contribution that many of the Scholars have made to the academic, social and cultural life of the Universities and other institutions in Britain to which they have been attached is again made clear in the annual reports submitted by tutors or supervisors. It is perhaps invidious to single out for mention the distinction and prizes gained by some Scholars, for the great majority have made their mark, though not always in a way which earns public recognition. Suffice it to say that, from being awarded Fellowships and addressing learned conferences to winning county fencing championships and cricketing blues, Commonwealth Scholars have made an impact in and beyond their fields of study on the academic communities they have joined in this country.

Medicine and dentistry are among the many disciplines for which Commonwealth Scholarships are awarded. In the year under review 21 new awards were made in these fields including eight to Scholars aiming at higher university degrees or diplomas and nine to Scholars preparing for diplomas of the Royal Colleges. In considering candidates who wish to train for the latter it has become the Commission's practice whenever possible to make awards only for preparation for the final part of a diploma. Medical Scholars may be on leave from teaching posts in medical or dental colleges but their awards are not exclusively for teachers. The Commonwealth Medical and Senior Medical Fellowships were however designed specifically to benefit medical education and virtually all holders of these awards are full-time teachers or combine teaching with other duties. Hitherto most Medical Fellowships have gone to teachers in Indian medical colleges but interest in the awards has become more widespread and last year close on 70 per cent of nominations came from countries other than India. Though the Commission still receives a substantial number of nominations for Senior Medical Fellowships, many candidates are ineligible and few awards have been made recently.

The Commonwealth Academic Staff Award scheme has just completed its first decade. In some developing countries the agencies have taken the responsibility of sending the Commission nominations for Academic Staff awards, the universities themselves having recommended the candidates in the first instance. There has always been much competition for these awards. Financial restrictions have intensified the competition, and only a quarter of the candidates for 1980 Academic Staff Scholarships and a third of the candidates for 1980 Academic Staff Fellowships are likely to be successful. The Commission expects Vice-Chancellors to recommend only their ablest members of staff who they expect will play a key role in the development of their departments. The Commission has the benefit of advice from the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas about nominations from universities with which the Council is closely associated, and is most grateful for its co-operation.

The Commission's most senior award is the Visiting Professorship. Five such awards were taken up in October 1979. During the year under review 60 nominations were submitted by 31 British Universities for the 1980 awards. In view of pressure on the Commission's resources it reluctantly decided to reduce the number of these awards in 1980 and to discontinue them thereafter until further funds became available. It is hoped that two Visiting Professors will come to Britain in 1980.

At the beginning of the 1979-80 academic session 528 Scholars were holding awards, together with five Visiting Professors, three Senior Medical Fellows, 36 Medical Fellows and 34 Academic Staff Fellows, making a total of 606.

During the period 1 April 1979 to 31 March 1980 the following results achieved by its Scholars were reported to the Commission: 84 doctorates, 61 master's degrees, 16 postgraduate diplomas, 7 bachelor's degrees and 10 higher medical qualifications awarded by bodies other than universities.

Judged by the attendance and by the comments of participants the regional conferences of award holders and supervisors regularly held by the Commission are valuable events. In the report period one such conference was held in April at the University of Salford and one in October 1979 at the University of Bristol. They attracted participants from Bangor, Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, Southampton and Swansea.

The British Council continues to be responsible for arranging the travel of and payments to the Scholars and Fellows as well as reception, accommodation

welfare matters and the organisation of social events. The help provided through the network of British Council offices at home and abroad is greatly valued by the Commission and by the candidates for the awards.

In December 1979 the Commission nominated 44 candidates to 10 countries making awards available to the United Kingdom. These nominees were selected after interview from the 90 candidates shortlisted from a total entry of 220 eligible candidates some of whom submitted multiple applications.

Reference has been made above to the reduction in the Commission's awards resulting from the Government's policy to contain public expenditure. Though that policy had only a limited effect in the year under review when about 40 awards that had been provisionally allocated had to be withdrawn, it will cause a much bigger reduction in the 1980 intake for which selection began at the end of the year. Instead of having financial provision to cover a publicly announced number of awards at various levels the Commission now has to operate within a strict budget that has not been adjusted to take into account the sharp rise in fees that will be charged for all new Commonwealth Scholars embarking on courses in 1980 and thereafter. This means that even if the Commission's future provision maintains its value in real terms the likelihood is that there will be a further reduction in the number of awards in 1981 and again in 1982.

ANTIGUA

No report has been received.

BELIZE

The administration and operation of the Plan in Belize remain the same as for 1978.

BERMUDA

No report has been received.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

There have been no additions or changes in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in the British Virgin Islands. No report on the operation of the Plan is published separately.

BRUNEI

There have been no major changes in the implementation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan by the Government of Brunei since 1 April 1979.

Nomination of government officers for in-service training is made by each government department and processed by a Government In-Service Committee before submission to the local Public Services Commission. The tenure of the award depends on the duration of the course taken.

Such in-service study and experience help the Scholars to serve Brunei more effectively on their return to duty.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

During the period 1 April 1979 to 31 March 1980, this territory instituted the formal machinery for the operation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. The Education Council which holds statutory authority for the award of scholarships from local funds assumed responsibility as the nominating agency for awards to be made under the Plan.

An interview committee appointed by the Council on 26 October 1979 is comprised of the Chief Education Officer, a local banker (both of whom are members of Council), a nominee of His Excellency the Governor as the British Representative and the Secretary to the Council. The first recommendation for an award under the Plan was made in January 1980.

It is the consensus of the Education Council that the regulations governing the awards should remain sufficiently flexible to accommodate applications for either undergraduate or postgraduate study leading to a professional or technical qualification. Awards for this territory will be recommended according to fields of study appearing on the priority list against which applications for local government scholarships and loans are considered.

Currently leave of absence for officers on the permanent pensionable establishment is approved on full salary providing that the officer is selected by the Training Division for a course of study which is related specifically to his work. A recent "Review of the Salaries Structure, Grading and Conditions of Service" recommends, however, that "if an outside agency pays part or the whole of the costs, salary and allowances should be abated appropriately".

The operation of the Plan is in its infancy in this territory and it awaits a decision in respect of its first nomination.

FALKLANDS ISLANDS

There has been no change in the administration of the Plan in the Falkland Islands.

As a nominating country it attaches considerable importance to the availability of Scholarships although it has not been able to make the fullest use of the Plan because of the requirement for postgraduate study. The Falkland Islands would prefer the Plan to be more flexible to allow more undergraduate studies and training for professional or technical qualifications.

It is not intended to publish a report on the operation of the Plan.

GIBRALTAR

The Agency is pleased with the way the awards are administered.

HONG KONG

The Education Department of the Hong Kong Government is responsible for the formation of the Selection Committee, the membership of which, as in previous years, represents a cross-section of higher and secondary education in Hong Kong together with the local representatives of the various Commonwealth

Scholarship awarding countries. The Chairman of the Committee is the Head of the Biochemistry Department, University of Hong Kong and the Secretary is an Education Officer of the Education Department. Hong Kong continues to derive much benefit from the Plan and one of the criteria used in selecting nominees for awards is the usefulness and relevance of the proposed research programme to the needs of the Hong Kong community. Competition for the awards is very keen and the quality of applicants continues to be high.

As an awarding country Hong Kong offers postgraduate Scholarships tenable at the two universities. The Education Department of the Hong Kong Government acts as the administrative agency which appoints the Selection Committee and liaises between the Committee members and the two universities in all matters relating to the Hong Kong awards. There are at present six Scholarship holders studying for higher degrees in biochemistry, economics, language studies, mechanical engineering, physics and tropical marine biology. Three awards were made during the period under review.

Extension of tenure of awards beyond two years to enable scholars to study for the Ph D degree or for other purposes is considered in each case on its own merit.

MONTSERRAT

The local operation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan has remained the same during the period under review.

In the light of its present needs, Montserrat is quite happy with the Plan remaining principally a scheme for postgraduate university study.

Dr Doris Bramble, one of the beneficiaries of the Plan continues to make a valuable contribution in the field of nutrition education on the island. Mr Reuben Meade, the only other Scholarship holder, continues his course of studies in Canada, leading to a M Sc degree in agricultural economics.

Montserrat does look forward to having more of its nominees benefiting from the Plan.

NEW HEBRIDES

Apart from primary teacher training there are no facilities available in the New Hebrides for academic tertiary education. At secondary level only one school operates to form V and the course has been extended to form VI arts and will possibly offer form VI science next year if there is a sufficient demand.

The Plan operates in the New Hebrides only to the extent of nominating candidates for awards tenable in other countries. Such nominations have in the past and will continue for some time in the future, to be limited by the very small number of suitably qualified candidates.

ST CHRISTOPHER, NEVIS AND ANGUILLA

There has been no alteration in the machinery of the administration of the Plan or its general working for the period 1 April 1979 - 31 March 1980.

No official report will be published on the operation of the Plan in this state.

ST HELENA

St Helena is not an awarding country under the Plan nor has it nominated any candidates for awards.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The situation with regard to the structure and administration of the local organisation to operate the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is, as a whole, unchanged.

However one nominated candidate has just successfully completed an MA in history at London University under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, and another candidate is applying for an MA course.

Perhaps there would be many more nominations for Scholarships for first degrees if the appropriate arrangements existed in the Plan and were made available to this territory. The length of a course being one year only is just satisfactory from a government administrative point of view. A longer period of study on overseas courses would not be considered advisable just now as this could create a shortage of key staff in Government service. The provision for postgraduate university courses in the Plan should be continued; but in addition there should be opportunities available for more undergraduate students and for training for professional and technical skills and qualifications, for the need there is more urgent and the demand greater in this country at present.

The newly returned Commonwealth Scholars may, like the most recent one, find themselves very much in demand especially at secondary schools or educational radio programmes, depending on the subject of the course taken. This situation is profitable both to the student and to his country. However if too great thirst for knowledge is created, so that students agitate to pursue more and higher courses in subjects not relevant to the requirements of the country, this can cause a brain drain from the country and is thereby detrimental.

No official publication of a report on the operation of this Plan has ever been undertaken and none is contemplated at present.

CANADA

The Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee continues to be the official agency of the Plan in Canada, with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada providing the secretariat. The Government of Canada provides the funds for the Canadian operation of the Plan.

During the year under report 605 applications were received from Canadians for awards offered by 10 Commonwealth countries; from this number 101 candidates were nominated to nine countries. For the 1979 Canadian awards, the Canadian Committee requested 206 nominations and 196 were received. It is regrettable that only 35 awards were taken up, due to the late announcement of the amount of money which would be made available for the Plan in the year under report.

At the present time there are no plans to alter the administration of the Plan in Canada. The awards will continue to be offered mainly at the graduate level with a few undergraduate awards being offered mainly where the facilities do not exist in the awarding country.

CYPRUS

Cyprus has no institution of university level, and therefore she is only a nominating country under the Plan. The Scholarship agency continues to be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The responsible authority for selection of candidates for nomination continues to be the Scholarship Board, Nicosia.

During the year under review New Zealand has made an award for post-graduate studies in plant pathology; India granted one Scholarship for post-graduate studies in radiology; the United Kingdom, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Malaysia and Hong Kong have not yet confirmed their awards.

Britain has renewed the awards of three Scholars up to July 1981, to enable them to complete their B Sc degrees in engineering, economics and mathematics, respectively.

During the period covered by the report four candidates completed their studies, three in the United Kingdom and one in New Zealand. The United Kingdom Scholars gained B Sc degrees, one in mechanical engineering and two in civil engineering. The New Zealand Scholar gained an M Sc degree in agricultural sciences (soil science).

Commonwealth Scholarships are given wide publicity in Cyprus and especially the undergraduate attract a large number of applicants.

DOMINICA

No report has been received.

FIJI

As a nominating country, frustration has been experienced mainly in the timing involved. Offers are made before budget approvals and consequently lead to difficulties. Non clarification on the length of courses results in problems with the Government regarding release on study leave with salary.

Regarding the level of training, there is a need in Fiji for highly qualified personnel in some areas but there is a greater need of middle-level qualified personnel.

The Commonwealth Scholars are obviously better qualified, more analytical and potentially more development oriented. They are usually change oriented. Those Scholars already in the field are handling responsibilities well and situations have not arisen where they felt inadequately trained.

THE GAMBIA

The set-up of the Scholarship Advisory Committee in the Gambia remains the same. The only change that has occurred is that the Committee was reconstituted and its membership increased from 14 to 16. The new members will serve a

term of three years as from 1 January 1980.

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has over the years served as the principal source of undergraduate scholarships for Gambia's students. But unfortunately there has been a phasing out which is bound to reduce drastically her scholarship resources.

The Gambia wishes to give her total support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan to cater for more undergraduate studies and training for professional and technical qualifications. In a recent manpower report the Gambia Government has indicated that there is a drastic shortage of personnel with professional and technical expertise in the country. In this regard, special emphasis should be made on training in the professional and technical fields for smaller and poorer countries like the Gambia. Awarding countries should therefore give priority and allocate more undergraduate awards (at least 15 per annum) to member countries which do not have universities of their own and yet whose needs are greatest. The Scholarships need not necessarily be tenable in the awarding country.

When Commonwealth Scholars finally return home, they are immediately absorbed by Government or parastatal bodies. Although no official report on the operation of the Plan has been published by the Government, nevertheless quite a number of the top level and middle level management in the public and private sector were people who benefited from the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. Also the benefit and relevance of these studies is underscored by the success of the programme in the Gambia.

GHANA

The Scholarship Secretariat, P O Box M75, Accra, Ghana, continues to provide the administrative machinery for the Plan. New awards have not been introduced into the general working of the Plan.

As a nominating country Ghana would like the Plan to remain a postgraduate programme. However, if practical on-the-job training for managerial and technical staff could be introduced into the Plan, it believes it would aid the country better.

There is the need for awarding countries to announce the availability of their awards far ahead of the deadline for submission of nominations so that nominating countries can work on the selection and nomination procedure more easily.

Ghana is aware that the returned Scholars have benefited from training. However due to the short time available for submission of this report reference could not be made to some of the returned Scholars for their comments.

It is planned to produce by the end of August 1980 a booklet on the activities of the secretariat. This booklet would advise prospective applicants on all the awards available, methods of application, etc. A section would be devoted to the Plan, and it is believed will make prospective applicants better acquainted with the procedure of the Plan and thus reduce the frequency of submission of incomplete nomination forms.

GRENADA

No report has been received.

GUYANA

No report has been received.

INDIA

No report has been received.

JAMAICA

The Ministry of Education's Scholarship Section continued to administer the awards under the Plan on behalf of the Government of Jamaica.

As a nominating agency the section received invitations from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Trinidad and Tobago and Hong Kong during the period April 1979 to March 1980. The availability of these awards was advertised in the press and a total of 105 applications received: 28 for the United Kingdom, 65 for Canada, five for "New Zealand 1980", six for "Australia 1980" and one for Trinidad and Tobago. None was received for Hong Kong while five and 10 were received for "New Zealand 1981" and "Australia 1981".

Shortlisted applicants were interviewed by panels consisting of personnel from the Ministry of Education, the University of the West Indies, the High Commissions of the respective awarding countries, and other relevant Government agencies. Nominations were submitted for the United Kingdom, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, "Australia 1980" and "New Zealand 1980". Arising from these nominations, two awards in Australia and one in New Zealand have been offered and taken up in March 1980. From the previous year's competition the United Kingdom offered four awards which were taken up in September 1979. At the time of reporting three of the six nominations invited for the "Canada 1980" competition have been provisionally accepted. A more frequent submission of reports on the progress of Scholars would be appreciated.

To assist developing countries especially the following could all be considered with a view to implementation: (i) a fixed number of awards in certain fields specified by the developing countries themselves (ii) the offering of awards to undergraduates of academic excellence in areas of great need but of high cost (iii) the inclusion of one-year non-graduate awards as well as (iv) an exchange scheme involving Scholars and (v) a kind of internship period in a third country (between years in a two-year award).

As an awarding country, Jamaica continues to offer one Scholarship for postgraduate study. However, the award made available for the academic year 1979-80 has not been taken up as the candidate has failed to respond to correspondence sent to her.

It would be helpful if nominations were submitted before the closing date and also if there could be subsequent communication between nominating agency/nominee and awarding agency.

KENYA

No change has taken place in the machinery set up to administer Commonwealth Scholarships for postgraduate students. The only slight change that has

occurred affects the address of the agency which is now the Ministry of Higher Education.

The operation of the Plan continues as in past years. Once notices of award are received the Scholarships are advertised in daily papers. Applications and interviews are conducted by the Central Selection Board. Normally recommendation for the awards is based on the demand for highly trained manpower in certain fields. It has happened on several occasions that there are far too many applicants competing for a particular field and this has forced the Board to recommend more candidates than required by the awarding country, particularly Britain and Canada. However, Kenya as a nominating agency has received maximum co-operation from these countries, and commends them for that.

There is a need to recognise the Plan so that it can embrace undergraduates for certain fields of study needed in the developing countries, and also can facilitate mobility of graduates to pursue their studies in developing countries too.

On several occasions students have expressed the desire to extend their studies to pursue certain areas that they feel have not been well covered. This request has posed problems to the nominating agency because if extensions are made, they go against the number of Scholarships that would have been awarded. It is felt that if the awarding country is convinced that a certain candidate requires extension of study the message should be communicated to the nominating agency early enough for decisions to be made before submitting candidates for the following academic year.

No decision has been made to publish any Commonwealth report, although this publicity may come in the future.

KIRIBATI

No report has been received.

LESOTHO

No report has been received.

MALAWI

No report has been received.

MALAYSIA

The administration of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in Malaysia, known as the Malaysian Liaison Committee, is still being handled by the Ministry of Education Malaysia, Federal House, Kuala Lumpur. The Committee comprises the following: Chairman - Director-General of Education, Malaysia, Director of Training, Public Services Department, Malaysia; Secretary - Principal Assistant Secretary, Scholarship and Training Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia.

The Committee met twice during this period: once in May 1979 to select candidates for the 1979-80 awards and in December 1979 to nominate candidates

for United Kingdom and Canada awards.

At the moment Malaysia has six Scholars holding its awards and following their respective courses in its universities.

For the 1979-80 awards three Scholars are expected to arrive by May 1980 at the earliest. Since the inception of the Plan a number of Scholars from other Commonwealth countries have taken up the Malaysian awards and not less than 100 Scholars from Malaysia have taken advantage of the Plan and have greatly benefited from the awards.

Malaysia is still unable to embark on any other subsidiary programme and at the moment Malaysia only offers Scholarships at postgraduate level.

MALTA

The administration, in all aspects, of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is entrusted to the Department of Education. A local Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee is appointed every year to make recommendations for the submission of nominations for the awards.

During the period 1 April 1979 to 31 March 1980 six new Scholarships were awarded to Maltese students as follows:

Mr Robert Borg to read for Ph D degree in organic chemistry in Canada.

Miss May Cassar to read for a degree in archaeology with conservation in the United Kingdom.

Mr Donald Friggieri to read for a BA (Hons) in three-dimensional design in the United Kingdom.

Mr Joseph Lauri for research in mathematics leading to a higher degree in the United Kingdom.

Mr Anthony Meli to read for a degree in business administration (agricultural studies) in Australia.

Mr Louis Zammit Mangion for research in physics leading to the Ph D in the United Kingdom.

During the period 1 April 1979 to 31 March 1980 15 Scholars were on Scholarships as follows:

Mr Carmelo Agius for research in biology in the United Kingdom.

Miss Lorraine Agius for research in clinical biochemistry in the United Kingdom.

Dr Michael Camilleri to undergo training in medicine (gastroenterology) in preparation for the MRCP in the United Kingdom.

Mr Joseph Cassar for research in properties of concrete in the United Kingdom.

Mr Michael Chetcuti for research in inorganic chemistry in the United Kingdom.

Dr Vincent Degaetano for postgraduate studies in criminology in the United Kingdom.

Mr Paul Gauci to read for the MA in regional planning and resource development in Canada.

Miss Lilian Mintoff for research in pharmacy in the United Kingdom.
Miss Jennifer Pace to follow a degree course in human kinetics in Canada.
Mr John Portelli to undergo an MA programme in philosophy in Canada.
Mr Avertano Role' for degree studies in geography in Australia.
Mr Patrick J Schembri for research in zoology in the United Kingdom.
Mr Edward Scicluna for postgraduate studies in economics in Canada.
Dr Peter Xuereb to undergo postgraduate studies in law (specialising in maritime law subjects) in the United Kingdom.
Mr Emmanuel Zahra for degree studies in mathematics in Canada.

No official report on the operation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is published in Malta.

Under this Plan Malta offers one Scholarship to enable a Scholar from a country in the Commonwealth to read for a first or higher degree at the University of Malta. During the period 1 April 1979 to 31 March 1980 a student from Cyprus was undergoing a course leading to the degree of B Sc.

Maltese nationals who are awarded Commonwealth Scholarships are required to return to Malta on completion of their studies abroad. These Scholars make a valuable contribution towards the continued social and industrial development of this country.

Publicity for these awards is given through press releases and other means of communication, i.e. radio, television and the local relay system.

MAURITIUS

Invitations to nominate under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship scheme are, in practice, processed by the Scholarships Unit of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in the light of the recommendations regarding priority areas of study determined by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. The awards on offer are opened to public competition and advertised through the press, radio and television. Applicants eligible by virtue of their qualifications are subsequently interviewed by a Scholarships Selection Committee made up of two representatives from the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, one from the Ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration, one from the Prime Minister's Office and one from the embassy of the country concerned (if it is represented in Mauritius).

Broadly speaking, selection is determined on the basis of qualifications, the candidate's motivation and the relevance of the courses of study to the needs of the country.

The recommendations of the Scholarships Selection Committee are submitted for the approval of the central government; then, nomination papers relating to the selected candidates are forwarded to the awarding country for confirmation or otherwise.

Officers in the public service are, generally speaking, granted leave with full pay whenever their courses of study are considered to be related to their present jobs or helpful in the overall improvement of the services concerned.

NAURU

No report has been received.

NEW ZEALAND

In this the twentieth year of the Commonwealth Scholarships Scheme the agency reports that there have been no major changes in the operation of the scheme in New Zealand over the last year. With more or less the same administration during the whole of this period, changes have been made quietly although the basic scheme remains the same. From a Scholarship providing travel, emolument, fees and books only, has developed a Scholarship providing in addition to these allowances spouse and child allowances as well as fieldwork, thesis expenses and return travel for a spouse in certain circumstances. The agency does perhaps have more contact individually with Scholars than is possible in countries with greater numbers of Scholars and gets much help from senior members of the university academic staffs in the selection of these Scholars.

The problems are still the same as far as the awarding of Scholarships is concerned. The agency still receives applications well after the closing date; still finds applicants with a qualification lower than the published requirements; and still has incomplete papers. As New Zealand finds it difficult to find sufficient candidates with reserves to fill all the places it can offer, this has been something it has had to accept. As a nominating country it has few problems although it fully realises how annoying it is that so many New Zealand candidates, having been nominated for awards, turn down offers in order to take up study under some other scholarship in Britain or the United States, possibly one which does not require an undertaking a return home.

NIGERIA

There is no change or addition in the Nigeria administrative machinery which operates the Plan. The title and address of the agency remains the Federal Ministry of Education, Scholarships Section, PMB 12573, Lagos.

No new award has been instituted and Nigeria's awards remain at 15. An extension of tenure for a period of five months was granted to a Scholar to enable him to complete his M Phil course.

As an awarding country Nigeria is disappointed that out of the 15 awards on offer, not more than seven have been utilised in any particular year. This is causing some concern, as it is felt that Nigerian awards are not given enough publicity by the other Commonwealth agencies. In this reporting period only seven nominations were received from the other Commonwealth agencies. Out of these, six awards were made, but only two were utilised. Two British withdrew voluntarily. The agency has not heard from the other two candidates. Some difficulty was experienced in placing some candidates whose dossiers were incomplete. The two complaints on non-payment of allowances were promptly treated.

As a nominating country, Nigeria's peculiar problem of meagre allocations for the too many well qualified candidates remains unsolved. An appeal is hereby made to the developed countries to increase their number of awards to Nigeria.

Interviews were held in London, Ottawa and New York for Nigerian

applicants in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America respectively. Results of all interviews abroad were assessed with those held in Nigeria before decision on nominations was reached.

Nigeria is of the opinion that the Plan should remain principally a scheme for postgraduate university study, but where necessary it should be extended to accommodate the training of professional and technical manpower.

Most of Nigeria's Commonwealth Scholars come home at the end of their courses abroad. They are often employed in the universities, research institutes, and university teaching hospitals where they demonstrate the higher academic and professional expertise they acquire from their studies abroad.

Although Nigeria's allocation in the Plan is fast depreciating it will continue to support the existence and enlargement of the Plan, as it still needs many qualified men and women to cope with its rapid national development.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

No report has been received.

RHODESIA

No report has been received.

ST. LUCIA

No report has been received.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

No report has been received.

SEYCHELLES

No report has been received.

SIERRA LEONE

The CSFP has since its inception gone steadily uninterrupted and the machinery set up to ensure that it is run smoothly still remains the same.

Every year, offers under the scheme are advertised in the radio and the local press to ensure adequate publicity in order to give every qualified Sierra Leonean a chance to apply.

As a nominating country, nothing is more embarrassing than to have the nominations turned down without reason. It will be of enormous help if a feedback system is maintained whereby the nominating country is given some of the reasons if not all why its candidates have been rejected. This will no doubt guide the administrators in their selection processes for the next set of awards.

In a developing country, there is an obvious need for trained manpower at levels lower than the postgraduate. But for the cost, it would be greatly appreciated if the Plan is adapted to support more undergraduate courses and training for professional or technical courses.

The majority of Commonwealth Scholars have always returned home and a reasonable number of them are playing their part well in national development. This underlines why it is important for the students to be urged to return home as soon as their respective study programmes are completed.

As a whole, the programme has been of immense benefit to Sierra Leone and it has contributed greatly to national development.

Consideration has long been given to the offer of awards from the Sierra Leone end without much success. Nevertheless plans are now afoot to make two or more awards in the near future.

SINGAPORE

The Singapore Public Service Commission continued to administer the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. There were no changes in the administration of the plan during the period under review.

Overall four awards were granted to Singapore by Australia, New Zealand, Canada (provisional) and the United Kingdom (provisional). The areas of study under these awards are engineering and English. Confirmation is awaited on the outcome of three other nominations for the United Kingdom, all in the field of medicine.

Commonwealth Scholars have benefited considerably from their studies abroad and upon their return are able to make valuable contributions to their respective Ministries.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Plan has not been operating in the Solomon Islands during the period of this report. It is doubtful whether any Scholarship/Fellowship has been offered to Solomon Islanders in the past. The only invitation to nominate received was from Malaysia for postgraduate studies at the University of Malaya or any of the Malaysian universities, for a master's degree in medicine, economics, administration, etc., but the offer was made too late in November 1979. By the time the Solomons nominated a candidate for economics and administration the deadline in Kuala Lumpur was already over.

SRI LANKA

The agency had no changes to report.

SWAZILAND

No report has been received.

TANZANIA

No report has been received.

TONGA

There have been no changes or additions in the administration of the agency. During the period under review it has not encountered any additions or changes in the scope of the existing programme.

Tonga is only a nominating country and is pleased that some countries do offer opportunities for undergraduate courses. However, it is thought that there is a need for some awarding countries to continue with postgraduate courses but to distribute their offers evenly instead of making their selections on a competitive basis only.

Tonga still strongly supports the Plan for it is assisting the development of education; thus the individual and the country do have great benefits.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan continued to work smoothly in Trinidad and Tobago between 1 April 1979 and 31 March 1980.

No changes have taken place in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in Trinidad and Tobago, either from the standpoint of a nominating or an awarding country.

The Commonwealth Scholars who have returned to Trinidad and Tobago have continued to make a meaningful contribution to the community. As one of the main factors taken into consideration when candidates are selected for nomination for awards under the Plan is the priority needs of the country, the studies of such Commonwealth Scholars have been of relevance to the institutions in which they are employed.

No report on the operation of the Plan in Trinidad and Tobago has been published.

TUVALU

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan has never been formally introduced to Tuvalu. However it has received one or two offers from Canada and New Zealand for postgraduate courses whose requirements are far too advanced and are mostly irrelevant to its basic national needs for development. Tuvalu turned down the above offers as there were no people with the appropriate qualifications to pursue courses of that kind.

Tuvalu is particularly interested to know if the Plan could be reconsidered and become not mainly a scheme for postgraduate university study but a scheme to support more training for professional or technical qualifications.

It has no official report on the operation of the Plan as it does not operate it, nor is it involved in its administration. This may be because there are no Tuvalu Scholars sponsored under the Plan as its requirements are very difficult to meet.

UGANDA

No report has been received.

WESTERN SAMOA

No report has been received.

ZAMBIA

There has been no change in the administrative machinery of the Plan during the year under review. Zambia as a recipient country has benefited considerably from the Plan. The national Commonwealth Scholarship Committee will continue to nominate candidates to be sponsored under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; competition for the awards is very keen in this country. Therefore the Plan is operating in a very satisfactory way as far as Zambia is concerned.