

Foreword

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When they met in Kuala Lumpur in August 1982, the Commonwealth Science Council decided that 'there was no need for a major change of direction in Commonwealth Science Council's activities', but recommended, in this perspective, 'a change in emphasis and in the balance of activities through more attention to science for technology, especially in disadvantaged member countries'.

(12 CSC(82) Minutes, item 21, page 32)

Faced with this proposed major shift in programme, the Executive Committee decided at its meeting in July 1983, to establish an Expert Group of scientists 'to examine ways and means of promoting an expanded programme of scientific cooperation in the Commonwealth, to develop an Action Plan and identify possible sources of funding'.

As is customary, members of the Expert Group served in their personal capacities and their views, therefore, do not necessarily represent those of Commonwealth Governments.

We owe a great debt to Sir John Kendrew and the members of the Expert Group for the time and expertise they have devoted to this examination, this look into the future. Their Report is an excellent study of scientific areas where new collaborative programmes between Commonwealth countries could be established to enhance development.

The Group reaffirms the importance of the Council's objective of enhancing indigenous scientific and technological capabilities as a key to improve development particularly through research, training and information exchange on critical topics. The Group also notes the remarkable breadth, richness and diversity of scientific and technological resources in the Commonwealth.

Collectively, these resources provide a powerful tool for progress and development, somewhat unique at the international level, if harnessed cooperatively. The Expert Group has pointed the way ahead for an expanded programme of scientific cooperation. It is a way which provides scope for Commonwealth leadership in an area where there is strong mutual interest between the more advanced and the less advanced nations.

The Report provides an opportunity to the Commonwealth Science Council which must not be allowed to pass. The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting at New Delhi in November 1983, welcomed the establishment of the Expert Group by the Council and affirmed the priority which they accord to strengthening Commonwealth scientific cooperation.

It is my hope that this Report will provide the platform for achieving this goal of strengthening scientific cooperation in the Commonwealth.

Louis Berlinguet