

SUMMARY OF THE WORKING OF THE PLAN
IN THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

ANTIGUA

No report has been received.

AUSTRALIA

The Department of Education and Youth Affairs has continued to administer awards made available by Australia to the developed countries of the Commonwealth (United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand). The Australian Development Assistance Bureau fulfils this role for other Commonwealth countries. In addition the Department is the Australian nominating authority for awards offered by all Commonwealth countries.

There have been no changes in the machinery for the administration of the Plan in Australia during the reporting period.

The number of awards on offer has remained the same. Living allowances and other benefits were increased with effect from January 1984.

BAHAMAS

No statement has been submitted for this summary.

BANGLADESH

No report has been received.

BARBADOS

No report has been received.

BELIZE

The Ministry of Education and Sports of Belize has been invited to nominate and compete for awards by members of the Commonwealth Countries, viz Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Cyprus. Scholarships are very important to this country in the light of its (a) development requirement (b) training needs (c) educational needs. Both public officers and private citizens apply for these training awards of which these are the only means of further training at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Belize welcomes specific amounts of scholarships at the certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate level, attachments, short courses, especially for professional, vocational and technical education.

Students who have profited from CSFP training have returned both to the public and private sectors making a valuable contribution to Belize developments. We welcome more awards as all are publicized for maximum applications.

BERMUDA

There have been no changes in the administration of the Plan since the last report.

The Chief Education Officer continues as the Administrator of the Plan with the Scholarship Committee of the Board of Education functioning as a screening committee when the need arises.

The Ministry of Education's report for the period 1980-82 will contain a statement on Commonwealth Scholarships when published in the near future.

Former Scholars continue to make significant contributions to the community especially in the realms of education and law.

Bermuda is generally pleased with the operation of the Plan, but would like to see some adjustments in provisions to accommodate medical students.

BOTSWANA

The machinery for administering the Plan is still the same. Botswana has not instituted awards for the CSFP.

Botswana has no facilities for courses like medicine, veterinary medicine, electrical engineering and architecture. There are other countries like Botswana who would benefit if the Plan is extended to undergraduate courses in the above fields.

All nominations submitted by the Ministry of Education fall within our national priorities. The interviewing committee represents interests of the public service, local government and the private sector.

BRITAIN

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (Chairman: Sir Michael Walker, G.C.M.G.) continues to be the Commonwealth Scholarship agency in this country. The Association of Commonwealth Universities provides the Commission's secretariat under the Joint Secretaries (Dr. Anastasios Christodoulou, C.B.E. and Mr. E.E. Temple, O.B.E.).

The period of this report saw the work of the Commission as an awarding body at a fresh peak. At the start of the academic year there were in Britain 801 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows and towards the end of the reporting period this number had risen to 815. The comparable figure for the previous year was 645. The rise in numbers was made possible by a substantial increase in the Commission's budget granted by the Government. The budget is to be further increased in 1984-85 but a proportionate rise in the number of awards is not to be expected. Costs in the current year have proved to be higher than expected; a contributory factor has no doubt been a comparatively high proportion of scholars in scientific, veterinary and medical subjects which attract high university tuition fees and often additional departmental charges.

The total of 815 award-holders was made up of 526 Commonwealth Scholars, 175 Academic Staff Scholars, 65 Academic Staff Fellows and 49 Medical Fellows.

The 701 Scholars of all kinds pursued their studies energetically in a wide range of disciplines at universities and other institutions throughout Britain. Supervisors were generally satisfied with their progress and often referred to their exceptional attainment. During the year the following achievements of Scholars were reported: 101 doctorates, 86 master's degrees or equivalent, 5 bachelor's degrees, 16 postgraduate diplomas and 4 higher medical qualifications awarded by bodies other than universities. Some of these results were obtained by Scholars who had completed the tenure of their awards in a previous year.

The Academic Staff awards are made to members of staff of universities in the developing countries on the nomination of their Vice-Chancellors. The Scholarships have parallel conditions to those of the general Commonwealth Scholarships, and the Academic Staff Fellowships are senior awards available for advanced study or research in disciplines other than medicine and dentistry.

Among the Commonwealth Scholarships, 45 were being held in the fields of medicine and dentistry. Generally, doctors and dentists hold scholarships to prepare for degrees or diplomas at postgraduate level, but exceptionally an award may be made for the first two or three years of a qualifying course if the candidate comes from a country with no medical or dental school of its own. At a level senior to the Scholarships the Medical Fellowships are primarily intended for teachers of medical students, and in selecting candidates the Commission gives preference to those wishing to enhance their research experience.

Successful regional conferences were held in Bath and Lancaster which enabled Scholars and Fellows from these two universities and surrounding areas to meet and discuss matters of interest with members of the Commission and staff of the Secretariat and British Council.

The British Council has continued to make its substantial contribution to the work of the Commission in dealing with payments, travel and reception and providing other support services for award-holders.

Finally, mention must be made of the part played by Britain as a nominating country. Following an advertisement of the awards on offer, the Commission received 287 applications (compared with 397 in 1982) which included a substantial proportion from candidates of good ability. After extensive interviewing 67 candidates were nominated for the awards of 11 countries.

A total of 19 British Scholars nominated the previous year took up their awards overseas. Difficulties are being experienced by some of these Scholars in certain developing countries where the value of the awards has not been changed for many years. It is hoped that the agencies concerned will secure an improvement in the award emoluments.

A full account of the Commission's activities in the year ending 30 September, 1983 is to be found in its Twenty-fourth Annual Report published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

No report has been received.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

No report has been received.

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. During the year under report the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee welcomed a new chairman, Professor T.H.B. Symons, Vanier Professor at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, provides the funds for this Plan and during the year under report, increased some of the emoluments of the Plan in Canada. The marriage allowance is now \$C250.00 monthly and full costs are now covered for the travel of a spouse. Further details are to be found in Appendix II.

Under this Plan, Canada is both an awarding and a nominating country. As a nominating country, 729 Canadians applied for awards in 10 Commonwealth countries, and from this number 101 nominations were made. As an awarding country, Canada requested 272 nominations, and received 258.

At the beginning of the 1983 academic year, 289 Scholars were holding awards in Canada, with eight Fellows making a total of 297. This number includes 87 new Scholarships and eight new Fellowships.

In order to maintain a direct and personal contact with award holders, regional meetings are organized from time to time where members of the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee or personnel from the Plan's secretariat may discuss topics of mutual concern with Scholars. For the year under report a very enjoyable reception was hosted in Montreal by the Principal of McGill University, Professor David L. Johnston. A large number of Commonwealth Scholars resident in the Montreal area were able to meet with the members of the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee and with secretariat staff.

It should be noted that some nominating countries still submit candidates' dossiers well past the deadlines established long ago for this procedure thus placing their students at a considerable disadvantage. Moreover, some countries do not include with the candidates' dossiers the results of certain required tests such as the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) making it impossible for the secretariat to arrange appropriate university placement.

At the present time, there are no plans to change the operation of the Plan in Canada. Awards will continue to be offered at the graduate level, with a few undergraduate awards being offered where such facilities for university study do not exist in the nominating country. The Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee has noted with great interest the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Standing Committee on Student Mobility and supports the thrust of the recommendations of the Second Report.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

In spite of wide publicity, we received no applications for scholarships under this scheme.

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.

Commonwealth Scholarships are given wide publicity in Cyprus and especially the undergraduate studies attract a big number of applications.

During the year under review the United Kingdom has made four awards for undergraduate studies in physics, economics, economics/politics and engineering. Australia has made one award for undergraduate studies in general forestry and New Zealand one award for postgraduate studies in environmental engineering.

Britain has renewed the awards of six scholars, namely Loizou, Christou, Kouvaros, Hji Tofi, Demetriades and Michaelides to complete their studies; two scholars completed their studies in the United Kingdom and gained B.Sc. degrees in physics and mechanical engineering; Canada has renewed the awards of four scholars, namely Anastassiades, Psaras, Toumazou and Stylianou to complete their studies.

DOMINICA

No statement has been received for this summary.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No report has been received.

FIJI

Our involvement as a nominating country has continued in the same manner it did in the last report period. Offers are as usual given ample media publicity in our three main languages (Fijian, Hindi and English). The advertisement informs potential candidates of basic details of available awards and also of the country's priority areas of study that we would like applicants to seek scholarships for. Applications received are processed at the Training Division of the Public Service Commission and the final interviews and selection are carried out by the Fiji Government Scholarship Committee.

Scholars are bonded before departure to return and work as the Fiji Government wishes. This requirement however does not limit benefits to the civil service. The awards are for all Fiji citizens and bond service is possible in both the civil service as well as in non-civil service organisations. There was only one returning scholar in the report period and he is now engaged in our Crown Law Office where his Ph.D. in Law is being very usefully applied.

No report on the Plan has been produced to date nor is one being published either now or in the near future.

THE GAMBIA

No report has been received.

GHANA

The official agency set up to administer the Plan since its inception in 1980 continues to be the Scholarships Secretariat.

Ghana still maintains the ceiling of 10 awards every year. However, because of economic factors our awards on offer were not patronised. Steps are being taken to revise the terms and conditions of our awards under the Plan so as to make awards more attractive for patronage.

Offers to Ghana of awards for the period under review were from Britain, Australia and Canada. We are very grateful to them. However, because of the wide publicity given to the Plan in the local dailies, we would appeal to the awarding countries to increase the number of the awards in order to take care of the growing number of qualified candidates available and eager to undergo postgraduate studies and to conduct research.

We note with regret that after having given wide publicity to the Plan in the country some awarding countries consistently continued not to offer any awards even though candidates selected by a competent panel for awards were suitably qualified.

Considerable benefits are derived by both the students and employers from the experience and knowledge gained on the programme. On return home, after the completion of their postgraduate studies, Commonwealth scholars are appointed into responsible positions and they continue to offer valuable services to the local universities, research institutes and the other sectors of the Ghanaian economy.

GIBRALTAR

In October 1983 applications were invited via an advertisement in the local press, radio and television. 31 October was given as the closing date.

Applicants were interviewed by a local selection board, known as the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan Agency. At present the board is composed of seven members and one secretary.

Eight applications were received: seven for a United Kingdom award, two for a Canadian award, one for New Zealand and one for Hong Kong. (One of the seven candidates for a United Kingdom award applied for all other awards except Trinidad and Tobago.)

Three nominations were made: two for the United Kingdom and one for Canada. Two out of the three nominations were accepted by the awarding countries: one from the United Kingdom 1984 set of awards and one from Canada 1984. The award for the United Kingdom was taken up but that for Canada was withdrawn after the award was offered.

No official report on the operation is being or has been published.

GRENADA

As a nominating country under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan for the period under review, Grenada received the usual quota of training awards. There were no changes in the Plan. Awards trainees who completed their awards during that period returned home at the end of their training to their jobs.

GUYANA

The Public Service Ministry continued to be the primary agency responsible for the administration of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in Guyana during the period under review.

The response to advertisements continues to be encouraging.

The courses pursued by Guyanese scholars remain relevant to their own needs and those of the country.

Guyana expresses its gratitude to those Commonwealth nations who continue to consolidate the bonds of friendship by the maintenance of facilities for the exchange of knowledge through this Plan.

HONG KONG

As a nominating agency, 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. Since January, 1984, the chairman of the selection committee is the Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The secretary, as in previous years, is an Education Officer of the Education Department. Hong Kong continues to derive very great benefits 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 four postgraduate scholarships tenable at the two local universities (The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong). The Education Department of the Hong Kong Government acts as the administrative agency, which appoints the selection committee, comprising two representatives from each of the two universities with the Senior Assistant Director of Education as chairman and a Senior Education Officer as secretary. There are at present ten scholarship holders studying for higher degrees in civil engineering, religious studies, Chinese art, Chinese language, geography, biology, economics and sociology. Four awards were made during the period under review. However two applicants withdrew due to health and personal reasons.

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

INDIA

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan continued to be administered by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Government of India, during the period 1 April, 1983 to 31 March, 1984. There has been no change in the scope and content of the programme and the number of awards offered by the Government of India remained the same i.e. 50 as in the previous years. While this number remained constant, slight adjustments were made in the number of scholarships offered to various countries within the Commonwealth depending on their requirements vis-a-vis the actual utilization of the awards by various countries during the year 1983-84.

It may be mentioned here that India will increase its offer of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships from 50 to 75 with effect from the year 1985-86.

As in the past, it has been observed that some countries do not fully utilize the scholarships offered by the Government of India. It is reiterated that each nominating country should ensure at the beginning that only those candidates are nominated who are fully eligible in terms of qualifications, age, experience, etc. as indicated in the offer of awards. This will minimise the chances of rejection of a candidate. The deadline for nomination should also be strictly adhered to.

As regards out-going scholars, our experience is that only a few Commonwealth countries offer scholarships to Indian nationals. While most of the offers come from the United Kingdom offers are also received from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. However, even in these countries, the number of Indians finally accepted is only 50 to 60 per cent of the nominations invited. We would like this percentage to go up substantially particularly in countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

JAMAICA

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan for the year under review - April 1983 to 1984 - again fell under the administration of the Ministry of Education for the Government of Jamaica.

As an awarding agency no major changes occurred in the operation of the Plan, but a major review of the emoluments made in the previous year (but not reported on) affected the following:

- (a) maintenance allowance increased to J\$5,400.00 or TT\$12,000.00 or B'dos\$10,000.00 per annum for the respective campus of study;
- (b) approved books and apparatus allowance increased to J\$500.00 or TT\$1,400.00 or B'dos\$1,400.00 per annum;
- (c) approved travel grant of up to the equivalent of J\$100.00 per annum; and
- (d) marriage allowance of the equivalent of J\$800.00 per annum for eligible candidates.

The 1982 scholar from Cyprus who had his award deferred to 1983 did not take up his award, and the 1983 award was made to the Bahamian nominee who took up her award at the Mona Campus. A two-year extension was granted to the 1981 awardee to pursue the Ph.D. in agriculture.

For the 1984 awards 35 nominations were received from 19 countries, but nominating agencies continue to submit incomplete papers well after the deadline thereby causing serious delays in our selection.

For the period under review invitations to nominate were received from Canada, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Australia 85 and New Zealand 85, for which applications were invited through the press. Applications were received from 119 persons: Canada - 46; Hong Kong - 7; United Kingdom - 34; Australia 85-20 and New Zealand 85-5. Applications were also received from 17 persons from Australia 1984 (13) and New Zealand 1984 (4).

This agency made nominations for Canada (6), Hong Kong (3), United Kingdom (11), New Zealand 84 (2) and Australia 84 (5). Jamaicans took up the following awards: 2 (of 3) to Canada; 4 (of 6) to the United Kingdom, none to Hong Kong. So far notice has been received of two and three awards made for Canada 84 and the United Kingdom 84, respectively.

KENYA

No report has been received.

KIRIBATI

There is no change in the administration of the Plan from the 1983 position.

Kiribati has not got sufficient funds to institute awards coupled with the fact it owns no university other than the regional university in Suva of which Kiribati is a supporting member together with ten other pacific nations. Not one candidate has been accepted into the Plan from Kiribati. We see the Plan as good for countries with well developed educational systems where there is always a pool of scholars with distinctive grades in their first degree courses. Kiribati scholars unfortunately although no less intelligent than the rest of mankind have not yet succeeded in winning good grades for international competitions in the academic arena. As a result any candidate we put forward gets over-run by candidates from other countries.

LESOTHO

No report has been received.

MALAWI

No report has been received.

MALAYSIA

No report has been received.

MALTA

The administration for the award of scholarships under 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 these awards.

During the period 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984, new scholarships were awarded under this Plan as follows:

1. Mr. Anthony Bailey to read for the M.Eng. in Engineering Science (Civil Engineering) in Canada.
2. Ms. Lorraine Borg to read for the M.Ed. in Applied Psychology in Canada.

3. Mr. Dion Buhagiar to read for the M.Sc. in Structural Steel Design in the United Kingdom.
4. Dr. Aldo Chircop to read for the LL.M. in Maritime Law in Canada.
5. Mr. Edwin Mintoff to read for the M.Phil. in Architecture in the United Kingdom.

During the period 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984 ten persons were on scholarship as follows:

1. Mr. Paul Bartolo to read for a M.Ed. degree in Applied Psychology (Educational Psychology) in Canada.
2. Mr. Robert Borg to read for a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry in Canada.
3. Miss Doreen Camilleri to read for a Ph.D. in Forensic Science in the United Kingdom.
4. Miss Maria Carmela Dalli to read for a M.Ed. in Development Psychology and Education in the United Kingdom.
5. Mr. Ablert Farrugia to read for a higher degree in Clinical Chemistry in the United Kingdom.
6. Mr. Peter Fava Boffa to read for a Diploma/Degree in Guidance and Counselling in New Zealand.
7. Mr. Michael Fenech to read for a Ph.D. in Genetics in Australia.
8. Mr. Anthony Meli to read for a Degree in Business Administration (Agricultural Studies) in Australia.
9. Miss Adelina L. Sciriha to read for an M.A. in Linguistics in Canada.
10. Mr. Ronald Sultana to read for a postgraduate diploma in Counselling and Guidance in the United Kingdom.

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 undergo studies at the University of Malta or the technical institutes in Malta. During the period 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984 a student from Mauritius was undergoing a course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.

Maltese nationals who are awarded Commonwealth Scholarships are required to return to Malta on completion of their studies abroad. As a general rule, they are subsequently engaged in work relative to their specialization in both the public and private sectors.

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

MAURITIUS

No statement has been submitted for this summary.

MONTSERRAT

The local operation of the Commonwealth Fellowship and Scholarship Plan has remained the same for the period April 1983 to March 1984.

Committee members are: Permanent Secretary, Manpower and Administration (Chairman); Permanent Secretary, Chief Minister's Office; Permanent Secretary, Education; Resident Tutor, Extra Mural Studies, University of the West Indies; Finance Officer; representative from the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

During the period under review Mr. Leslie Thomas has returned home. He has been promoted to the post of Education Officer, Primary Division. Mr. Richard Ryan returned to the United Kingdom in January 1984 to resit the Land Survey Examination. Unfortunately he had to return home very shortly, because of a change in the Institution's programme which was not known. Miss Sharon Romeo is still in training.

One new application was made during this period - Miss Jane Grell, Principal Librarian, to pursue Master of Library Studies Programme for the 1984/85 academic year.

The Government of Montserrat continues to be very appreciative of the Plan's contribution to its development.

NAURU

No report has been received.

NEW ZEALAND

In 1983 we were disappointed that several scholars did not reply promptly to the offers and in three cases scholars who at first accepted scholarships did not turn up or, just before they were due to arrive, wrote saying they were not coming. Another problem is when a scholar marries between the time of accepting an offer and arriving in New Zealand. This can delay processing of visas and, unless the university is contacted about a change in marital status, there are problems with accommodation.

Three previous scholars have been awarded postdoctoral awards in 1984/85 in New Zealand.

At the moment, 56 scholars are here and most of them are doing well.

NIGERIA

It has been the policy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to institute 15 CSFP awards annually. The Secretariat remains the same.

Scholars of very high academic standard and who are not older than 30 are always considered for the scholarships but they must apply through their home government. We must say we are disappointed at the poor response from

other Commonwealth countries to our invitations for nominations. We feel that enough publicity is not given to our awards. We have also experienced the fact that not all nominees offered awards utilize them. Out of the 15 awards instituted, nominations received were only eight; five were found qualified and given the awards but only two accepted the offer and are on course at the moment.

As a nominating country, the problem has been that of too many qualified candidates competing for a few awards. However, the recipients of Commonwealth Scholarships after taking the full benefit of the award return to Nigeria to fill important posts in our higher institutions of learning and public services. They contribute their quota in no small measure to the progress of the country.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

No report has been received.

ST. CHRISTOPHER NEVIS

There has been no alteration in the machinery of the administration of the Plan or its general working over the period under review. There was great optimism in the possibilities offered for training in Australia but these were not realised.

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

ST. HELENA

St. Helena is a grant-aid territory; there is no education at tertiary level and no Commonwealth Scholarships are awarded for study on the island.

Awards for scholarships are offered St. Helena through the FCO(U.K.) for approximately 12 awards each year. This year there were 32 applications for the available places.

ST. LUCIA

The operation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in St. Lucia has been satisfactory.

The Plan is presently administered by the Government's Training Division, which is a section of the Ministry of Personnel, Establishment, Training and Negotiating. This is a new Ministry, which was created in May 1983, incorporating the four divisions mentioned. There has been an increase in staff in the Training Division, in an effort to bring about greater efficiency and productivity.

The Ministry is now located at Sans Soucis, Castries, and is headed by a Permanent Secretary. There were no alterations in the scope of existing programmes, and no new awards were instituted.

Our nominees are expected to return home on completion of their studies, which in most cases is two years duration. The qualifications received will be beneficial to the island as a whole, as participants will be expected to

transmit the knowledge acquired to their co-workers on the job and in the community in some training capacity.

The operation of the Plan, from the standpoint of a nominating country, has been a satisfactory one, and such awards have assisted in the training of personnel in a country with limited funds for such purposes.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

The administration of the Plan for the period 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984 continued with no change, with St. Vincent and the Grenadines a nominating country. Awards for postgraduate studies were granted by the United Kingdom and Canada (1). There was great interest in undergraduate studies under the Plan.

The main areas of concentration were agriculture and related areas, health, industry including tourism, and teacher training.

Persons who benefited under the scheme have returned to serve in their respective fields.

There has been no official report published on the operation of the Plan.

SEYCHELLES

The award of scholarships overseas is centralised and the Ministry of Education and Information, P.O. Box 48, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles is the agency. The public service/public sector's training needs are communicated to the Ministry of Education and Information by the Directorate of Manpower Development. Based on the manpower training needs of the country, pre-service and in-service candidates are selected. Any member of the public who thinks that he may qualify for a scholarship can certainly apply to the Ministry. If he/she meets the requirements, i.e. training is relevant to the country's need and the candidate is found to have the academic aptitude for university training, he/she will be considered. In the case of an in-service candidate, selection is made by the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Information and the Principal Secretary of the Ministry where the officer is currently employed.

Concerning Commonwealth Scholarships, the training offered is normally suitable to our needs. However, with the exception of Canada which offers training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, countries offer training at postgraduate level. Seychelles, a small country without a university and with a shortage of highly trained manpower, do not have, in most cases, candidates for postgraduate training. However, for the small number of candidates we have, awards have been approved only in respect of training tenable in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. New Zealand awards are too rigid, insisting on candidates with exceptional academic ability. Having applied for scholarships of this nature for a few occasions without success, it is therefore not encouraging to continue to respond positively to such requests. Australian awards serve our purpose and truly take into consideration our needs.

Generally Commonwealth Scholarships help us to develop our manpower requirements but our main remark is that scholarships offered are not enough. Seychelles would be pleased to be requested to submit more applications particularly in respect of training courses tenable in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

SIERRA LEONE

The Ministry of Education operates the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone. All correspondence with respect to the Plan should be addressed to The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, New England, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone made its first award in 1983 by making available two awards annually. A description of the emoluments and other conditions of the award are contained in a brochure.

Sierra Leoneans who have participated in the Plan continue to play significant roles in the development of Sierra Leone. A good percentage of the participants are university lecturers whereas a few are in the medical profession.

SINGAPORE

The Training Branch of the Public Service Division, Ministry of Finance which was formerly under the charge of the Public Service Commission has been continually administering the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. Administration-wise, there has been no change made during the period under review.

In all there were four awards granted to Singapore by the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Canada. The areas of study under these awards are Chinese language and linguistics, management studies, construction management and applied psychology.

Our returned scholars have benefited much from their studies overseas and are contributing effectively to their respective Ministries/Departments where they are deployed.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

No report has been received.

SRI LANKA

No report has been received.

SWAZILAND

Swaziland has not been aware of the standard application form that is used for the Commonwealth Scholarship. We tend to think that our candidates have not been considered in the past because of the wrong form we have been using. For the first time in 1984 only two candidates have been accepted under the CSFP for training in Canadian universities. We were, however, shocked to note that no award was made for our candidates who were nominated for Hong Kong scholarships, because in our view we had selected the best candidates and we had cut the number from three to two. Hopefully the two who have been selected for training in Canada will acquire the desired skills that will help them in the execution of their duties.

The Plan itself is acceptable to the Swaziland Government and we hope more and more of our candidates will be accepted.

TANZANIA

The Ministry of National Education is the sole agency for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. In 1983/84 we had positive responses from the United Kingdom and Canada while New Zealand, Jamaica, Trinidad and Hong Kong declined all our candidates on the grounds that their qualifications didn't meet their requirements. Malta offered us none.

No change has taken place in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in our country. Emoluments, conditions of award, place and length of tenure, general criteria for selection, methods of application and selection have remained the same.

Some Commonwealth scholars returned home during that period. They have personally benefited from the studies abroad in the sense that their academic qualifications and their status in the society is higher. Some have even acquired higher posts. Most of them have however remained in the same working places. The scholars' contribution is of great importance to the nation. Their expertise and experience in different sectors have enabled the nation to benefit from their guidance, supervision, contribution and advice in the various sectors of their specialization.

Fields of study are determined by the Ministry of National Education depending on what are most needed by our country, and with particular reference to those which are not taught in our own institutions of higher learning or whose capacity is not enough in these institutions. Open scholarships except medical awards are received from awarding countries. They are advertised and applications received. Potential candidates are selected by a selecting committee composed of educationists from the Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Manpower Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from relevant institutions of higher learning and parastatal organizations (depending on the fields of study). Selection depends mainly on academic qualifications. The nominated candidates as per required number fill in application forms which are then forwarded to the awarding country for consideration. Thereafter the awarding country informs the Ministry of successful and unsuccessful candidates.

TONGA

The machinery set up for the administration of the CSFP in Tonga remained unchanged from 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984.

The Kingdom of Tonga is still a nominating country and has benefited well from the "awardee" countries. The Kingdom of Tonga would like to give special thanks and recognition of awards being offered continually from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Jamaica and Uganda.

1983-1984 has seen one successful placement in Australia and one in India. We nominated one to Canada but so far this scholarship is still pending.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan continued to work smoothly in Trinidad and Tobago between 1 April 1983 and 31 March 1984.

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 country. As one of the main factors taken into consideration when candidates are selected for nominations for awards under the Plan is the priority needs of the country, the studies of such Commonwealth Scholars have been of relevance to the institution in which they are employed.

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

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

During the period 1 April 1983 - 31 March 1984 the Turks and Caicos Islands received two requests, from the United Kingdom and Canada, to submit nominations for Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the 1984-85 academic year. Unfortunately only one application was received which was considered suitable for nomination and this was sent to the United Kingdom.

On receipt of invitations to submit nominations, the Chief Secretary's Office advertises these invitations in the local newspaper and on the local radio giving details of the necessary requirements for nomination. By advertising invitations in this way Turks and Caicos Islanders living abroad are kept in touch with the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

The Turks and Caicos Islands have been awarded two Commonwealth Scholarships since the Plan was formulated and it is too early to comment on the relevance of the Plan to the Turks and Caicos Islands and to the individuals concerned because one fellow only returned to the country earlier this year while the other is still away.

TUVALU

Ever since the introducing of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in Tuvalu, it has been manipulated directly by the Ministry of Social Services, particularly the Education Division. Last year it was absorbed into the scholarship and training section which is also under the same Ministry, though cross references and correspondences to/from the Education Division still remain. The Senior Education Officer who is the overall head of the Education Division still holds the responsibilities of the Commonwealth desk officer for the Plan in Tuvalu.

There has been practically no change or alteration in the machinery for the administration of the Plan in Tuvalu. As in normal procedures, all invitations from the awarding countries of the Commonwealth are received by this Ministry who in turn publicises them to the general public for applications, setting out conditions correspondent to those stated by the awarding countries. On receiving the applications, a special committee would critically screen the qualification backgrounds of the applicants, then endorse or otherwise the nominations of successful applications to be forwarded for the final approval of the Minister of Social Services. The successful applications, based on the number quota for Tuvalu, would then be forwarded to the awarding country for further consideration. In 1983 the same procedures were observed and followed.

In general terms, the Plan has never been a success in Tuvalu with benefits ranking second to nil in contrast with other scholarship schemes that have been implemented in the country. Ever since independence Tuvalu has never been given the advantage of benefiting from the Plan mainly because

the scope of courses awarded by the Plan have been far more demanding than the training needs of our people. For instance, nominations from Tuvalu have often been rejected by the awarding countries (who invited applications) because qualifications do not match the requirements. It is to be clearly pointed out here that in the foreseeable future the training needs of this country would continue to be confined mainly to the senior and middle management level in most fields. Up till now no scholar has ever returned with "fruits" to this country from this Plan.

Since April 1983 we have submitted one application only under this Plan. We sincerely hope that this nomination would be considered favourably.

UGANDA

There have been no new changes or additions in the past year as regards the administration of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. We are still at the stage of rehabilitation. However, there are plans to renew scholarship offers to foreign students, first in Africa. We are happy with the almost total return of students who go on Commonwealth scholarships.

We are happy with the awarding countries except one or two who actually do not award after having offered us scholarships. Furthermore, some of the awarding countries do not award all the offers they make. This tendency is sometimes discouraging to the applicants.

VANUATU

No report has been received.

WESTERN SAMOA

The Staff Training and Scholarships Committee continues to be the executing agency for the Plan in Western Samoa. All offers are received by the Committee and selection is also done by the Committee.

For the last three years we have received offers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, United Kingdom and New Zealand. However, only one candidate from Western Samoa has been successful over this period. At the moment, we have been advised by Canada that our candidates have been provisionally accepted for 1984 awards. Our nominations to New Zealand 1984 were unsuccessful, but we are still awaiting a reply from the United Kingdom.

Generally, candidates who have returned after studying under the Plan have indicated that their programmes and institution of study have offered courses which are very relevant to the kind of work they currently do. All are still working in the country, at senior level positions.

ZAMBIA

There have been no changes in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in Zambia.

India has now started offering Zambia scholarships on the basis of the Commonwealth scheme for postgraduate studies, but which would be utilised for undergraduate or other courses for which facilities are not available in Zambia. The offers are tenable for two years but extensions are possible.

As a nominating agency we need ample time before the deadline of submission of nominations as the process involves advertising the scholarships which takes time to reach remote rural areas as well as the applications to reach the processing secretariat for consideration. The awarding country should therefore make the offers known to the nominating agency in good time. It is also of utmost importance that awarding countries honour all the scholarships offered by accepting the appropriate number of nominations made corresponding with the number of awards offered. It is disappointing to note that some countries do not honour nominations made but at the same time complain that Zambia is not utilizing Commonwealth Scholarships. This is most unfortunate and disturbing.

As there are more facilities for undergraduate scholarship studies on other scholarship plans or schemes, it is necessary that the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme is restricted to postgraduate studies only in the case of Zambia.

It is of utmost importance that the Zambian nationals offered Commonwealth Scholarships return to Zambia without unnecessary delays upon graduation. No extensions or further studies should be entered into without the authority of the Bursaries Committee.

ZIMBABWE

No report has been received.