

SUMMARY OF THE WORKING OF THE PLAN
IN THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

The Department of Education states:

Arrangements for awardees under CSFP operated satisfactorily during the reporting period. In our view, there is no need at present to modify existing procedures.

There has been no change in the number of awards made available by Australia during the reporting period to students from the developed Commonwealth countries, namely the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. However, living allowances and other benefits were increased, effective from 1 February 1981.

In regard to awards offered by this country, we have noted a continuing trend for post-graduate students to require significant extensions of their awards in order to complete their research programme in Australia. Ph D programmes are averaging well over three years and up to four in a good many cases.

As only a limited number of awards are available, we believe that they should be restricted to students seeking post-graduate (Doctorate or Master's) qualifications or in special circumstances for certain post-graduate diploma courses.

For Australian students taking awards overseas, perhaps consideration could be given to allocating an increased proportion of awards to post-graduate (or equivalent) students from Colleges of Advanced Education provided, of course, the standard of applicant was sufficiently high. Selection Committees would need to judge such applicants on a more individual basis utilizing criteria such as the value and quality of completed courses as the normal university "yardstick" - the honours degree - is not normally awarded at CAEs.

The Australian Development Assistance Bureau states:

During the reporting period, the Australian Development Assistance Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs continued to be responsible for scholars nominated for study in Australia by developing Commonwealth countries. No significant changes have been made to the administration of CSFP in Australia in respect of such awardees in that time.

Financial allocations made by Australia for CSFP awards for developing Commonwealth countries are now made on a regional rather than individual country basis. This assists those countries within a region which are able to utilise more CSFP awards than they would normally be allocated on an individual basis in circumstances where other eligible countries in the region fail to nominate for awards.

To ensure full utilisation of financial allocations made available by Australia for CSFP awards, nominations should be made by 1 September each year. Meeting this target date will not only enable time to make the necessary arrangements for the award to be taken up in Australia in the financial year in which the allocation was made, but will also enable time for re-allocation to another region if sufficient nominations to fully utilise an allocation are not forthcoming from a particular region.

BAHAMAS

No report has been received.

BANGLADESH

Every year, on receipt of offers of scholarship from Commonwealth countries, an exercise is undertaken in the Ministry of Education to determine the fields and priorities for the utilization of these offers. Representatives of UGC and relevant Directorates under the Ministry are involved in the exercise. This is done keeping in view the requirements of trained personnel for our universities and other educational institutions. Once this is done, applications are invited from candidates through newspapers.

Applications, when received, are initially scrutinized and only those candidates having satisfactory academic records are interviewed by a Selection Board appointed by the Government which includes subject-specialists from universities and men of eminence in the relevant fields. The recommendations made by this Committee are examined by a high level Selection Committee usually presided over by the Minister-in-charge of the Ministry of Education, and a panel of candidates is drawn up for final nomination.

There has been no change in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in Bangladesh during the period under report. It has not yet been possible to institute any scheme for award of scholarship to the nationals of other Commonwealth countries to study in Bangladesh. As a nominating country Bangladesh has not faced any major problem in the operation of the Plan. Barring a few, the scholars return to the country after completion of their studies and join their universities/institutions. No official report on the operation of the Plan has so far been published in Bangladesh though the procedures adopted by the Ministry are known to the concerned agencies/institutions. We feel that the award should cover the minimum period required for a Master's course with sufficient scope for doctoral/research studies.

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 offers of 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 under-graduate 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

The administration of the Plan in Botswana has not changed except that it is no longer the responsibility of the Chief Education Officer. All future correspondence should be addressed to the Permanent Secretary.

Botswana has not yet instituted awards for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. As a nominating country, we have realised that our nominees are rarely selected. This might be due to the fact that we would be competing against better candidates from the developed countries of the Commonwealth. One solution would be to exercise flexibility when considering nominations from countries like Botswana and also extending the Plan to some under-graduate studies and training for professional or technical qualifications.

It is not clear whether Staff Development Fellows submitted by the University College of Botswana fall under a special programme, or they are just considered along with nominations from the Ministry of Education. We would also suggest that we be given a quota for candidates who will be sponsored under the Plan. It can be of interest to know if you place much emphasis on post-graduate studies or doctoral studies or even both.

All nominations submitted by the Ministry of Education fall within our national priority areas, so it stands to reason that their successful completion of their studies will enhance our national development when they rejoin the Government.

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 the Secretary-General of the Association and Mr E E Temple OBE. In September 1980, Sir Hugh Springer KCMG, CBE, retired from the post of Secretary-General, to be succeeded by Mr Anastasios Christodoulou CBE.

The expectation that fewer awards would be available was the most probable cause of a reduced number of nominations being received in the 1980 competition. Fewer nominations, coupled with the impact of cash limits on the Commission's funding resulted in fewer selections for new awards. Given the inevitable number of non-acceptance of awards and unforeseen withdrawals from the competition, the Commission's understandable caution resulted in a slight under-utilisation of the limited resources available to it.

In the 1981 competition, a reduction in the number of nominations submitted, along with the limitations on new selections in the previous two years, will result in a higher proportion of nominees being finally selected. The Commission hopes thereby to bring the number of awards at least up to the levels existing prior to the imposition of the 1979 limits. Regrettably, however, those few countries which do submit late or incomplete nominations greatly imperil the likelihood of their successful candidates being found places in suitable academic institutions, because of the late stage of the academic year at which the Commission is consequently in a position to begin seeking admission on behalf of these candidates.

It is, of course, the Commission's intention, while increasing the numbers of awards, in no way to lower the standards of the scheme.

Out of the 500 scholarships available, some 50 are normally set aside as medical awards but on broadly similar terms. This year, only eight doctors and one dentist took up new scholarship awards and the total number of medical awards in the latter part of the year dipped in consequence below the target figure. The Commission continued to make awards of Medical Fellowships to established teachers in medical and dental colleges and, in selecting candidates, to give preference to those planning to undertake research or learn research methods. Applications solely for clinical study

have not, however, been debarred provided that their subjects are deemed educationally important; but awards for formal courses of instruction are not considered. Judging by the reaction of supervisors the general standard of Fellows continued to rise, and the Commission was pleased to learn that in many a department the Fellow placed there had been judged to be a positive asset. In view of the strict limits on its funds, the Commission did not select any Senior Medical Fellows during the year.

The universities of the developing Commonwealth countries are invited to nominate staff members for "Academic Staff" awards. For junior staff members, there are scholarships on terms parallel to the general Commonwealth Scholarships but with an undertaking to return to university employment. It was previously the intention that there should be one hundred such Scholars and, though the total has dropped below this figure, it is hoped that the number may be reached again soon.

Staff members of high promise and already in established posts may be recommended by their Vice-Chancellors for Academic Staff Fellowships. There is always keen competition for these and it was all the more unfortunate that in 1979-80, five candidates selected for Fellowships were unable to take them up.

As an economy measure, British universities were not invited to make nominations for Commonwealth Visiting Professorships. For tenure in 1980-81, however, the Commission did make two awards available, one to an Australian and one to a Nigerian.

The Commission reluctantly decided, too, on the cancellation of the Welcome Programme for new Scholars and of the Farewell Supper for departing Scholars. The Commission has none-the-less kept in touch with Scholars via the reports they submit shortly after their arrival, and again at the end of each academic year. On the basis of these reports and those of the Scholars' supervisors, it is apparent that Scholars continue to benefit greatly from, and contribute to, the universities and colleges in which they are placed and are highly appreciated by them.

Scholars and Fellows and their supervisors still have the opportunity to meet each other and members of the Commission and its secretariat at the Regional Conferences organised at least twice a year. Two successful and well-attended conferences were held during the year; one for award-holders and staff members from Scottish universities, at the University of Edinburgh, and one for those from the "eastern" region, at the University of Cambridge.

Scholars are met on their arrival in this country by representatives of the British Council and helped on their way to their place of study, where further assistance may be available from local British Council offices. In addition to reception, the Council continues to be responsible for making payments to award holders and universities on behalf of the Commission, and provides advice and assistance in matters of accommodation and welfare. The co-operation of the Council in the administration of the scheme is greatly appreciated.

At the beginning of the 1980-81 academic session, 476 Scholars were holding awards, together with two Visiting Professors, 29 Medical Fellows and 26 Academic Staff Fellows, making a total of 533.

During the period 1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981 the following results achieved by its Scholars were reported to the Commission: 75 doctorates, 66 master's degrees, seven post-graduate diplomas, 11 bachelor's degrees and six higher medical qualifications awarded by bodies other than universities.

In the autumn of 1980, the Commission considered 252 applications from British candidates for the awards of other countries under the Plan. Although this represents a decline in the total number of applications, there was a noticeable increase in the number of candidates who applied for the awards of one country only and for a specific course of studies. This trend towards specific, well-informed and therefore realistic projects is unfortunately, with a few notable exceptions, limited to those wishing to study in the developed countries. The exceptions are candidates who already have, either personally or through their United Kingdom departments, established links with the proposed host university in the developing country concerned. Awarding countries may wish to bear in mind that good candidates could be available for all the awards under the Plan if detailed information from those universities offering facilities to foreign students could be brought early and prominently to the notice of the students who may wish to make use of them. In many cases, the present publicity material available is neither full enough nor circulated early enough to attract the attention the awards deserve. The Commission was pleased to be able to nominate a candidate for the Makerere University Fellowship which is to be offered in 1981-82. In addition, 47 British candidates were nominated in December 1980 for the awards of 10 other countries.

ANTIGUA

There have been no changes in the machinery for administering the Plan.

We still hold the view that the Plan should be widened to include more offers of awards at both first degree and technical diploma levels, i.e. at sub-professional levels.

Comments received from those who have received awards have been satisfactory. The scholars have benefited from their studies and are making very important contributions in their respective fields.

Antigua has not published any handbook or official report on the operation of the Plan in this island. The Plan is still being advertised in the press and on radio as often as brochures are received from the various awarding agencies.

BELIZE

Belize has no changes to report in the administration and operation of the Plan.

BERMUDA

There has been a slight change in the administration of the Plan in that the scholarship committee of the Board of Education, which screens applications for Government financed post-secondary scholarships, awards and loans for study overseas, will also screen applicants for the Commonwealth Scholarship in the future.

The Chief Education Officer retains the role of the Administrator of the Plan and will function as a Technical Advisor to the Board of Education's committee who will submit recommendations to the Minister of Education.

The Bermuda College, a Community College established in 1974, now offers a variety of post-secondary courses for university transfer credit up to the sophomore year of four-year programmes. A variety of technical and vocational courses leading to local certification are also available. There are no plans at present to develop the college as a degree granting institution. The Annual Report of the Ministry of Education (as submitted to the ACU) will include a statement on Commonwealth Scholarships in the future.

Bermuda is generally very pleased with the operation of the Plan, but it is felt that there should be some flexibility for accommodating students in the medical field particularly in Canada and the United Kingdom.

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

As far as the Brunei Department of Education is concerned, the administration of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan during the stated reporting period is still the same as in previous years.

The Department of Education is required to submit its nominations for any relevant set of awards to the Department of State Secretariat which further processes the nominations.

No additions or changes have been introduced in the scope of the existing programmes of the Plan for Brunei. The Plan should remain principally a scheme for post-graduate university study. Nevertheless, we would most welcome the training for professional and technical qualifications as well as more support for under-graduate studies to be made widely available to Brunei people.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

During the period 1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981, awards available to this Territory were instituted by the United Kingdom for 1981 and New Zealand for 1982, a limit of one nomination in each case.

No changes have taken place in the machinery set up by the Education Council for the administration of the Plan in this Territory as specified in our report covering the period 1 April 1979 to 31 March 1980.

Provisions regarding leave for permanent pensionable officers remain unaltered from the 1979/80 position.

Our nomination for the 1980 Commonwealth Scholarship tenable in the United Kingdom was unsuccessful and we were not in a position to nominate a candidate for the 1981 awards.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

There have been no changes in the administration of the Plan in this country since 1 April 1980.

Being a small country with no institutions of higher learning, we would welcome any move to adapt the Plan to include more widespread support for studies at under-graduate level. Through recently established links with a British LEA coupled with financial support from the British Council, we can now offer promising Falkland Islands students an avenue to university entrance. If these arrangements continue to function well, as we hope they will, this Government may expect a growing number of claims for financial support from students entering the first phase of tertiary education. It is at this level that the aid and support of the Commonwealth Scholarship Plan would be most appropriate to our needs.

GIBRALTAR

The Agency is in agreement with the way the Award is 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 Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Hong Kong, and the Secretary 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 post-graduate 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 Language Studies, Geography, Marine Biology, Civil Engineering, Medical Science and Biochemistry. 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.

For the time being and in keeping with our development needs, we would prefer the Plan to remain principally a scheme for post-graduate university study. However, we do have a problem in obtaining admission into a university for one of our students to pursue studies in Veterinary Science. This is mainly due to the fact that the competition for entry is so high. It would be appreciated if some concession could be made for promising candidates from a small developing territory to be given the opportunity to pursue studies in this area; and more specifically so, since this field of study is not offered in our regional institutions.

Under the Plan, Montserrat has over the years had only four beneficiaries. Two beneficiaries - Mr David Edgecombe and Miss Sharon Romeo are presently studying at universities in Canada and the United Kingdom respectively.

Dr Doris Bramble and Mr Reuben Meade have successfully completed their studies and are making invaluable contributions to development in this territory - the former heads the nutrition education sector of our Health Department and the latter is an Economist in our Economic Development Unit.

Thank you for assisting so meaningfully in our department. We look forward to receiving more awards in the future.

ST HELENA

Britain provides aid courses in the United Kingdom for St Helenian students outside the Plan. St Helena has no university, and being a grant-aided territory, offers no financial assistance to its own or other Commonwealth nationals.

ST KITTS-NEVIS

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

All Commonwealth Scholars have returned to the State, and have benefited tremendously from their training. All Scholars have made practical use of their training, hence contributing to the smooth operation of the Institutions in which they are now working.

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

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The only change that took place during the period under review was in the title and address of the Commonwealth Scholarship agency. The Chief Secretary's Office has now taken over responsibility for all matters relating to training, including the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency. The responsible officer is the Administrative Officer (Training), Chief Secretary's Office. These functions were formerly carried out by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Education.

The Turks and Caicos Islands is not an awarding country, and the Government is invited to submit one (1) nomination a year to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK. Turks and Caicos are satisfied with the length of awards and candidates who are offered awards have no difficulty arranging study leave. There are, however, no tertiary educational institutions in the Turks and Caicos Islands and so the number of persons qualified to pursue post-graduate university study is very small. We therefore think that the Plan would be more beneficial to us if under-graduate studies and professional training were considered equally with post-graduate study.

Since the institution of the Plan, Turks and Caicos has had only one Commonwealth Scholar (1978-79). There is therefore nothing to report on the return of Commonwealth Scholars during the period under review.

There is no official report on the operation of the Plan in this country.

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 and the emoluments of the awards are as shown.

Under this Plan, Canada is both an awarding and a nominating country. During the year under report, 448 Canadians applied for awards tenable in six countries and from this number, 84 nominations were made.

As an awarding country, Canada requested 298 nominations, received 253 and offered 100 awards with 62 Scholarships and eight Fellowships being taken up, for a total of 203 scholars in Canada. At the time of selection, the Canadian Committee was unaware of the amount of programme funds which would be available for the Plan in Canada; hence the shortfall in the number of Canadian awards. The Canadian Committee has been informed by the Government of Canada that there will be sufficient programme funds made available for the 1982 awards to assure a full complement of 300 awards.

Although the majority of nominations are received by the Canadian deadline of 31 December, there are still a few countries which persist in sending their nominations at such a late date that they arrive even after the Selection Committee meeting in mid-February. This creates difficulty with the selection and university placement procedures and is particularly unfair to those candidates who must undertake either the Test of English as a Foreign Language or the Graduate Management Admission Test as a condition of their university admission. These tests are given only three or four times a year (depending upon the country) and many candidates who have been nominated late miss the test date and therefore cannot be offered an award.

On the whole, however, we believe that the Plan is operating well in Canada and we do not envisage any changes in its administrative machinery.

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 they attract a big number of applications.

During the year under review, New Zealand has made an award for post-graduate studies in Meat Hygiene and control of Meat and Meat Products; Britain made four awards for under-graduate studies: one for Civil Engineering, one for Mechanical Engineering, one for Economics and one for Electronics. Canada made two awards, both in Economics. All other Commonwealth countries which invited such nominations, i.e. Hong Kong, Trinidad and Tobago, India and Malta have not confirmed their awards yet.

Britain has renewed the awards of four scholars up to July 1982 to enable them to complete their B Sc degrees: two in Economics, one in Physics and one in Electrical Engineering, and of another two scholars up to July 1983 to enable them to complete their B Sc degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Physics.

During the period covered by the report three scholars completed their studies in the United Kingdom, having obtained B Sc degrees in Chemical Engineering, Mathematics and Economics.

Two scholars completed their B Sc degrees in Economics and Mechanical Engineering in Canada.

Three scholars completed their M Sc studies in Agricultural Extension, in Geography and in Animal Pathology.

DOMINICA

Dominica has no changes to report in the administration and operation of the Plan.

FIJI

The Training and Scholarships Sections of the Public Service Commission have merged and the new title for the scholarship agency is "Training and Scholarships Division".

Length of Awards from the point of view of a nominating country: In some cases, especially medical or clinical training, it is felt that the length of awards ought to be extended to five years since in some cases a candidate may be required to be on two awards, to do Part I of the course in New Zealand and Part II in the United Kingdom, whereas two students could have benefited from these scholarships.

On return, most of the candidates came back to the same institutions and showed a vast improvement in their performance. They were able to appreciate their jobs and do them better. Some of them were also enabled to move faster up the promotion ladder.

THE GAMBIA

The set-up of the Scholarship Advisory Committee in the Gambia remains the same.

No new awards have been instituted by the Gambia Government. For the 1980/81 academic year, the Gambia Government awards 15 Scholarships to Gambian nationals for under-graduate studies tenable in West African universities.

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has, over the years, served as the principal source of under-graduate Scholarships for our students. Unfortunately, the Association is now facing financial difficulties, and might not be able to award the Gambia any more scholarships in the near future.

The Gambia wishes to give her total support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan to cater for more under-graduate studies and training for professional qualifications. As stated in our previous report, there is still drastic shortage of personnel with professional and technical expertise in the country. Special emphasis should therefore be made on training in the professional and technical fields for these smaller and poorer countries like the Gambia. In this regard, awarding countries should give priority and allocate more under-graduate awards (at least twenty per annum) to member countries which do not have universities of their own and yet whose needs are greatest. These scholarships need not necessarily be tenable in the awarding country.

When Commonwealth Scholars return home, they are immediately absorbed by Government or Parastatal bodies. Although no official report on the operation of the Plan in the Gambia 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.

GHANA

There have been no changes in the machinery which was set up in 1960 to administer the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in Ghana. The official agency for the Plan in Ghana continues to be the Registrar of Scholarships, Scholarships Secretariat, Post Office Box M.75, Accra.

There has not been any increase in the number of awards made by this Secretariat. Ghana still maintains a ceiling of ten awards tenable every year.

The major complaints of students on their return are often about the inadequacy of maintenance, books and other allowances. Receiving countries may seriously consider adjusting these allowances in relation to the general cost of living in the receiving countries. Ghana has no objection to the policy that the Commonwealth students should not be permitted to engage in gainful employment but Ghana does not object to the Institutions in which the students study offering them on-campus academic engagement like assistanceships, demonstration, etc. and also arranging paid attachments to offices etc. relating to their field of specialisation to afford them opportunity to gain experiences as well as earn extra funds.

Even though we appreciate that the Plan should remain principally a scheme for post-graduate university study, we are in favour of under-graduate awards for citizens of countries which do not have the required under-graduate courses in their own universities. We would, of course, adjust our scales of emoluments in the case of under-graduate awards.

We support that the length of awards should be adhered to but extensions of awards could be granted when these are to enable the students to reach the objective for which the awards are made for the fulfilment of the national manpower requirements.

Considerable benefit is derived by both the students and the employers from the experience gained as well as on the programme, and Ghana welcomes the opportunity of participating in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. The advantages of the Plan are numerous. It affords Commonwealth students the opportunity to meet other Commonwealth citizens by studying in their universities and to know themselves better. It promotes the building up of the Commonwealth brotherhood and the eradication of prejudices and that the Plan should continue to play its useful role in the educational programme of the Commonwealth countries.

There have not been reports on the operation of the Plan so far.

GRENADA

No report has been received.

GUYANA

No report has been received.

INDIA

The University Grants Commission states:

The UGC has been implementing the Scheme of Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowships and Scholarships in collaboration with the Association of Commonwealth Universities/British Council since 1969/70. Every year, nominations are invited from the Universities for these awards and the selection is made with the help of a Committee of experts constituted for the purpose. The names so recommended are sent to the Association of Commonwealth Universities in the United Kingdom for final selection.

The Scholars, who have been assisted under this new scheme, are greatly appreciative of these awards. The Commission feels that these awards have increased the professional competence of the teachers in their specific areas and also enabled their institutions to raise their standards of teaching and research.

The Ministry of Education and Culture states:

No change during the year 1980-81.

Government of India has increased the rates of the following admissible allowances of the selected foreign scholars under the Commonwealth Scholarship/Fellowship Scheme w.e.f. 1 April 1981:-

I. Maintenance Allowance (Living Allowance)

The scholars selected for under-graduate courses will be paid maintenance allowance at the rate of Rs 500 p.m. instead of Rs 400 p.m. Similarly, those selected for post-graduate will be paid maintenance allowance at the rate of Rs 600 p.m. instead of Rs 500 p.m.

II. Cost of Essential Books and Apparatus, etc.

Cost of books, instruments and equipment necessary for the course of studies will be paid within the ceiling of Rs 400 p.a. for Medical, Engineering, B.Pharmacy, Agriculture, Veterinary Science and for Master's degree and Ph D level and Rs 300 p.a. for other courses. No book allowance will be admissible to scholars who due to failure continue in the same class.

JAMAICA

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan remained the responsibility of the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education on behalf of the Government of Jamaica for the period 1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981. During this period the official name of the scholarship agency changed from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in November 1980 to the present Ministry of Education. In March of 1981, the office was removed from 97a Church Street to its present location at 2 National Heroes Circle (Room 402), Kingston.

The major activity of the section in respect of the Plan concerned the functions of a Nominating Agency. During the period invitations were received from Trinidad and Tobago, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Malta, Makerere University (Uganda), Sierra Leone, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. As usual, the offers were advertised in the press for all except for the Sri Lanka and Malta awards which offers were received with insufficient time for publicity. One hundred and twenty-six applications were received:- Canada - 57; United Kingdom - 31; "Australia 82" - 25; Nigeria - 5; "New Zealand 82" - 4; Makerere University - 3; Hong Kong - 1; Sierra Leone and Trinidad and Tobago - 0 each.

Shortlisted applicants were interviewed by Selection Panels comprising representatives of the Ministry of Education, the University of the West Indies, the relevant High Commissions (when available) and other relevant Government agencies, and nominations were submitted for the United Kingdom (8), Canada (6), Nigeria (1), Makerere University (1); nominations were also submitted during the report period for "Australia 81" (4) and "New Zealand 81" (2). Of the nominations invited by "Australia 81", two (2) awards were offered and taken up in March 1981. No award was offered by "New Zealand 81", but four (4) offered by the United Kingdom in 1980 were taken up, as well as three (3) for Canada 80, in September 1980. At the time of reporting, Canada 81 has provisionally selected two (2) candidates for awards, whereas UK 81 has provisionally selected four (4), three of which have been offered.

As indicated last year, a more frequent submission of reports on all scholars would be appreciated in addition to notice of dates of return of Scholars, and very importantly, that sufficient notice be given by awarding countries of their intention to invite nominations - at least five months as recommended by various Conference reports.

We do not have any additional comments to make on the five (5) points mentioned in the 1979/80 Report i.e. the consideration of (i) a fixed number of awards in certain fields specified by the developing countries themselves; (ii) the offering of at least one under-graduate award each year in needed areas; (iii) the inclusion of one-year non-graduate awards; (iv) an exchange scheme involving former scholars and (v) a sort of internship period in a third country.

As an Awarding Country, Jamaica still offers one scholarship, preferably for post-graduate study at the University of the West Indies, the 1980 award being taken up in October 1980 by the Sri Lankan nominee.

The closing date for Jamaica 1981 had to be extended to March 1981; a total of thirteen nominations was received from six nominating countries. It is necessary that nominations be submitted before the closing date of 31 December as to facilitate speedier processing.

KENYA

No report has yet been received.

KIRIBATI

Kiribati has no financial provisions for Scholarships or Fellowships under the Commonwealth scheme. However, it has had the privilege of becoming a nominating country to Scholarships provided by other countries particularly the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and India. As a nominating country, we would like to see more of post-graduate programmes coming into the scene which last between one to two years. Programmes that go beyond two years can prove problematic to candidates who work for Government as they can be released for only a limited period of time.

LESOTHO

No report has been received.

MALAWI

No major changes have taken place in the working of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. Response to CSFP adverts continues to be very favourable such that the best candidates are selected hence their satisfactory performance in their studies. Due to the limited number of scholarships offered CSFP has an insignificant impact on the many training requirements for Malawi.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia has submitted no statement for this report.

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 this award.

During the period 1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981 new Scholarships were awarded under this Plan as follows:

1. Miss Josephine Caruana to read for an MA in Linguistics in the United Kingdom.
2. Miss Maureen Grech Marguerat to read for a degree of Bachelor in Social Work in Australia.
3. Mr Louis Mallia to read for the Master of Applied Science in Chemical Technology in Australia.

During the period 1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981, 14 Scholars were on Scholarship as follows:-

1. Miss Loranne Agius for Research in Clinical Biochemistry in the United Kingdom.
2. Mr Robert Borg to read for a Ph D degree in Organic Chemistry in Canada.
3. Dr Michael Camilleri to undergo training in Medicine (Gastro-enterology) in preparation for the MRCP in the United Kingdom.
4. Mr Joseph Cassar for Research in Properties of Concrete in the United Kingdom.
5. Miss May Cassar to read for a degree in Archaeology with Conservation in the United Kingdom.
6. Mr Michael Chetcuti for Research in Inorganic Chemistry in the United Kingdom.
7. Mr Donald Friggieri to read for a BA (Hons) in Three-Dimensional Design in the United Kingdom.
8. Mr Paul Gauci to read for an MA in Regional Planning and Resource Development in Canada.
9. Mr Joseph Lauri for Research in Mathematics leading to a higher Degree in the United Kingdom.
10. Mr Anthony Meli to read for a Degree in Business Administration (Agricultural Studies) in Australia.
11. Miss Jennifer Pace to follow a Degree Course in Human Kinetics in Canada.

12. Mr Avertano Role to read for a degree in Geography in Australia.

13. Mr Patrick J Schembri for Research in Zoology in the United Kingdom.

14. Mr Louis Zammit Mangion for Research in Physics leading to a Ph D 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 1980 to 31 March 1981, 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. 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

Mauritius is a "nominating country". The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is operated by the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs. When the awarding countries make offers of scholarships, these are advertised in the local newspapers and announced on the Radio and Television.

The applications for Scholarships are considered and nominations made by the Scholarships Selection Committee composed of:-

2 Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs.

1 Representative from Prime Minister's Office.

1 Representative from Ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration.

1 Representative from Ministry of Economic Planning and Development.

1 Representative from the Embassy of the Awarding Country (if represented in Mauritius).

The nominations are approved by the Government. The relevant papers in respect of nominated candidates are submitted to the awarding country.

Public officers who are nominated are granted leave with full pay only if the course of study they choose meets an essential need of the Government.

NAURU

Nauru has no report to submit on the working of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan for 1980-81, the reason being that no Nauruan applied for an award and that Nauru is not an awarding country under this Plan.

NEW ZEALAND

There have been no new developments in the operation of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in New Zealand over the last 12 months and the New Zealand University Grants Committee continues to provide the Secretariat.

There are, at present, 41 Scholars in New Zealand from various parts of the Commonwealth of whom all are post-graduate students. Twenty-three are studying for a doctorate; 15 for a Masters or Bachelors Honours degree; two for a post-graduate diploma; and one doing post-doctoral work.

As a nominating country, the Scholarships offered by Britain, Canada and Australia continue to attract the cream of the students who have just completed honours degrees and at that stage they have not begun any long-term employment. Several well-qualified candidates have applied for Scholarships tenable in India and one for a Scholarship offered by Nigeria. The Scholarships from no other countries have attracted any applications.

Although we had expected three Prestige Visitors during 1981, only one finally came to New Zealand. However, we did have a visit from the Registrar of the University of Penang as an Administrative Fellow who joined the Administrative Training Course which is run by the universities in New Zealand.

NIGERIA

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

No new awards have been instituted and Nigeria's awards remain at 15. Interviews were held in London, Ottawa and New York for Nigerian applicants in the UK, Canada and the USA respectively. Results of all interviews abroad were assessed with those held in Nigeria before nominations were made.

As a nominating country, Nigeria's problem remains that of meagre allocations for the many well-qualified candidates. The developed countries may help to solve this problem by increasing the number of awards made available to Nigeria.

As an awarding country, we are still of the opinion that enough publicity is not being given to our awards by other Commonwealth Agencies. In this reporting period, there are 15 awards on offer. Fourteen nominations have been received and one of these is for a first degree - B Ed.

One complaint of delay in payment was promptly treated.

We are of the opinion that the Plan should remain principally a scheme for post-graduate university study but where necessary it should be extended to accommodate the training of professional and technical manpower.

Most of our Commonwealth Scholars usually 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 academic and professional expertise acquired from their studies abroad.

Summary: We still support the existence and enlargement of the Plan, as we still need many qualified men and women to cope with our rapid national development.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

No report has been received.

ST LUCIA

No report has been received.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is seen mainly as a scheme which enables persons to pursue post-graduate study and it is only requests for training at this level which we have in the past put forward. However, if it could be pointed out which specific areas of under-graduate study are usually given favourable consideration, the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines would be happy to include applications for under-graduate study in our submission for Commonwealth Scholarship awards.

This Government is now placing heavy emphasis on Industrial Development, Agricultural Diversification, Fisheries Development and Food Processing, and training at both under-graduate and post-graduate level in areas of study relating to these fields is urgently required. This is in addition to the usual education-related training.

The response to our advertisements for Commonwealth Scholarships and indeed all post-graduate training is not usually encouraging in spite of the fact that employment opportunities for such persons are readily available. The main drawback would appear to be the bonding agreement which the candidate must enter into with the Government prior to his/her taking up an award. Such persons would probably have served a bonding period before and see another bonding agreement as a tiresome affair.

Government Officers who are granted study leave to take up an offer of training receive full pay for the first year of such training and half pay for the remainder of the course.

SEYCHELLES

There have been no changes in the administration of the Plan.

Seychelles is not an awarding country. We feel there is a need to adapt the Plan to support more under-graduate studies and training for professional or technical qualifications.

SIERRA LEONE

The agency set up for the administration of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan has continued to be the Ministry of Education, New England, Freetown.

In line with the spirit of the Plan, the Sierra Leone Government decided to give two Commonwealth awards tenable in Sierra Leone with effect from the 1981/82 academic year. The awards are for post-graduate studies lasting for not more than 24 months. They embody the conditions spelt out in the circular supplied to you.

From the point of view of a nominating country, it will be appreciated if we are put in the picture as to why candidates we nominate are unsuccessful. With this information, our selecting committees will be greatly guided in their deliberations. For post-graduate studies, the length of the awards is just about enough as some students may want to stay on and on.

It may be useful in a few special cases to consider the possibility of instituting a few under-graduate awards in much needed areas and for countries in need of adequately trained manpower at professional and technical level.

Thanks to the co-operation of the various Commonwealth agencies, Commonwealth Scholars from this country have always returned home and have discharged all their duties with credit to themselves and to Sierra Leone.

SINGAPORE

The Singapore Public Commission continued to administer the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. There was no change in the administration of the Plan during the period under review.

In all, seven awards were granted to Singapore by Australia, New Zealand, Canada (provisional) and the United Kingdom. The areas of study under these awards are: Teaching English as a Second Language, Business Administration, Engineering, Building Maintenance Management, Computer Science and Concrete Structures and Technology.

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

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands has not, so far, benefited from the plan as the Commonwealth Scholarships offered are not relevant to our immediate development needs. This country's immediate need is under-graduate studies and training for professional and technical qualifications.

SRI LANKA

There have been no changes in the machinery for administration of the Plan in Sri Lanka.

SWAZILAND

No report has been received.

TANZANIA

No report has been received.

TONGA

There has been no addition or change in the machinery set up for the administration of the Plan in our country.

We are still in no position to institute any award, so as it is we are still a recipient country.

The Plan, from the standing view of the nominating country such as Tonga, needs to provide a more certain number of Commonwealth Scholarships than it does at present. Such as the New Zealand Post-graduate Commonwealth Scholarship which is very competitive for our graduates and therefore has not won for Tonga any nominee in the past year. We appreciate, however, the two fixed Commonwealth Scholarships offered from Australia and we like the relaxed way it is administered as it is very easy and efficient for our administration here. We have been steadily offered scholarships from India but we have been having problems with our students being more harassed by the environmental minor warfares that often occur out there. For India, we would like better communicational links and a raise of maintenance allowance fees.

We also think that more under-graduate studies and training for professional or technical qualifications be supported emphatically.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan continued to work smoothly in Trinidad and Tobago between 1 April 1980 and 31 March 1981.

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 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 elected 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 official report on the operation of the Plan in Trinidad and Tobago has been published.

TUVALU

I regret to inform you that since Tuvalu has no university of her own, we have not been able to offer awards to Commonwealth Scholars. As a matter of fact, we have a regional university, the University of the South Pacific, which has, from time to time, instituted awards under the Plan.

At the present time, we have no Scholars taking up awards under the Plan simply because we do not have a good number of graduates available.

UGANDA

No report has been received.

VANUATU

The Republic of Vanuatu is a newly independent country, and it is growing out of hardship, though some difficulties are still attached to its development. One of these is manpower needs.

As the Scholarships in the years ahead would be very beneficial to the development of this country, it is regretted that the response, at this end, is inadequate for consideration.

This does not mean that there are no available possible nominees. Vanuatu has a few graduates who could well apply for the Fellowship, though it seems impossible at this stage, as these people have a great deal of responsibility in setting up the Vanuatu Government.

Looking into the future, it would appear that 1982 might well be the appropriate year for submission of applications.

I would be grateful if such offers could be made in 1982.

WESTERN SAMOA

No report has been received.

ZAMBIA

There has been no development in the administration of the Plan which is worthy of comment.

The Plan's operations seem to be satisfactory in the case of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. These countries accepted some of the nominations although very few in certain cases. There is a need for other countries to accept the nominations made since the National Selection Committee only nominates the best candidates. The Committee has complained about this.

There is a need to increase the number of nomination invitations and to introduce under-graduate offers. I, personally, would like to see the scheme grow from strength to strength by integrating various aspects of training including in-service training.

As a developing country, Zambia benefits from all its nationals who undergo training under this scheme.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe only became involved, at Government level, in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan during the 1980/81 year, and it is, therefore, not possible to report on any changes. All is new!

Zimbabwe is at present a nominating but not awarding country. With our limited experience of the programme, comment at this stage would be based on immature impressions, and would best be left to a later time.