

Letter of Presentation

Marlborough House
London

16 July 1997

Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Commonwealth Secretary-General
Marlborough House
London SW1Y 5HX

Dear Secretary-General

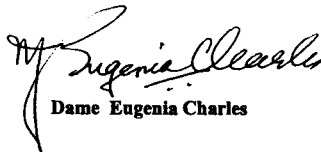
In accordance with the decision of the Commonwealth Consultative Group of Senior Officials on Small States (CGSS), you appointed us as a group of independent experts to revise and update the 1985 Commonwealth Report, *Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society*. In completing this assignment, we have focused not only on the vulnerability of these states but also on other relevant factors affecting their security and development.

We transmit herewith our Report which represents the unanimous conclusions and recommendations of the Group. The report is a collective effort containing a wealth of descriptive and analytical material which has been meticulously assembled by the consultants under the guidance of the Secretariat to whom we are deeply indebted. In accordance with the terms of our appointment, we have signed the Report in our personal capacities and not as representatives of governments, organisations or countries to which we belong.

We are in no doubt that this period of political, economic, social and environmental change presents both complex challenges and great opportunities for small nations in the international community. Going a little further, we would venture that small states need not necessarily be seen as a burden on the international community but rather as a source of enrichment. It is our earnest hope that our conclusions will help to re-kindle interest and focus attention on the particular vulnerabilities of small states and their prospects, and that they will inspire the global community to give the concerns of these countries the attention they deserve in major international fora. It is our belief that the Commonwealth is well-placed to take a leading role in bringing this about.

We are grateful to you for the confidence which you have shown in appointing us to carry out this important task. We are also grateful to your staff, including the consultants, for their unfailing assistance and we would like, through you, to express our gratitude to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Eugenia Charles



Hon (Ms) Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa



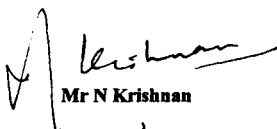
Mr Tim Thahane



H E Mr Havelock Ross-Brewster



Ambassador Andreas Jacovides



Mr N Krishnan



Mr Taniela Tufui



Mr Ken Ross



Dr Edgar Mizzi