

PREFACE

During the last decade the Ombudsman has very much become a feature of Commonwealth jurisdictions. Increasingly, Commonwealth countries are establishing the Office, either by legislation or by incorporating it in the provisions of new Constitutions. To date, approximately sixty offices have been established or legislated for in Commonwealth countries on the national, province/state, and local levels of government as well as specialized Ombudsman offices in such fields as correctional services, privacy and health care services. Although the Office has an historic and honourable place as a Scandinavian institution, its adoption in Commonwealth countries on such a broad scale has made the Ombudsman a landmark on the Commonwealth legal scene.

Such has been the scope of its development that the Commonwealth Secretariat considered it timely to update this review of the position Commonwealth-wide.

The International Ombudsman Institute was established in 1978 with the following objects -

(a) to promote the concept of Ombudsman and to encourage its development throughout the world,

(b) to encourage and support research and study into the office of Ombudsman,

(c) to develop and operate educational programs for Ombudsmen, their staff and other interested people,

(d) to collect, sort, disseminate information and research data about the institution of the Ombudsman,

(e) to develop and operate programs enabling an exchange of information and experience between Ombudsmen throughout the world,

(f) to provide scholarships, fellowships, grants and other types of financial support to individuals throughout the world to encourage study and research into the institution of Ombudsmen,

(g) such other matters as are necessary to further the above objects.

August, 1983