

PREFACE

It is a well-established practice for senior Commonwealth judges to gather in small numbers from time to time for informal and private exchanges on matters of special interest.

A high level judicial colloquium of this kind was held in Bangalore, India from 24-26 February 1988, to discuss "The Domestic Application of International Human Rights Norms". It was convened by the Hon Justice P N Bhagwati (former Chief Justice of India) with the support of the government of India and with assistance from the government of the State of Karnataka. The generosity of the Ford Foundation, New York, was fundamental to the success of the project. The colloquium was administered by the Human Rights Unit and the Legal Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Discussion focussed on recent developments in the common law whereby judges and lawyers generally are beginning to draw on international human rights jurisprudence in order to augment the domestic law of their jurisdictions both within and beyond the Commonwealth.

There was a comprehensive exchange of views which, in accordance with the "Chatham House rules" which prevail in these types of meetings, were off-the-record and non-attributable, but the participants agreed that in view of its importance the Chairman of the Meeting should sum up the proceedings in a public statement which has already become known as "The Bangalore Principles". Expert papers for discussion at the meeting were prepared by Justice P N Bhagwati, Justice M D Kirby, CMG, Justice Rajsoomer Lallah and Mr Anthony Lester, QC. Chief Justice Muhammad Haleem submitted a further paper for consideration by the meeting.

Our grateful and sincere thanks are due to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, Justice P C Jain, the Hon Justice Rama Jois and to the Judges of the High Court for their inestimable contributions to the colloquium. Our special thanks are due, too, to the Chief Minister of Karnataka and to the government and public officials of the State of Karnataka and to the people of Karnataka for the warmth and the generosity of their hospitality, which contributed so tangibly to its undoubted success.

Commonwealth Secretariat
September 1988