

PREFACE

A paper on the organisation of the tourist industry in Commonwealth countries was originally prepared as background material for a meeting of Commonwealth Experts on Tourism, held in Malta, in 1967. At the recommendation of the experts, it has been revised and re-issued annually as a booklet. This is the fifth issue and is based on information supplied by Commonwealth Governments, covering material available as at the end of December, 1971.

In this edition, the Commonwealth countries have been treated regionally, as the countries within a region often present a certain homogeneousness of tourist attractions. In addition, transport, both by air and sea, is often supplied in common with neighbouring countries of the region, to and from the major tourist generating centres of Western Europe and North America. The publication outlines the organisation of the tourist industry in the Commonwealth countries, including the Associated States of the Eastern Caribbean and the Commonwealth Dependent Territories. It lists each official tourist organisation, its aims and functions, along with details about relevant organisations and associations in the private sector of the industry. Tables showing the number of tourist arrivals to Commonwealth countries and the amount of foreign exchange earned from tourism over the past few years are incorporated in the publication. The degree of Government participation in the tourist industry is set out under six sub-headings, such as, Government ownership or shares in hotels, financial assistance available to the industry, income tax and customs duty concessions afforded to the industry. Future plans for the development of the tourist industry in each country are also referred to, and the coverage takes account of the significance of this fast-growing industry to the economic growth of many of the developing countries of the Commonwealth.

Suggestions for improving the format as well as the contents of publication will be gratefully received.