

Preface

This was a seminar in which participants, professional personnel within the field studied, were invited to attend as individuals, not as officials nor as representatives of the governments or organisations by which they are employed. The basic intention was to provide the conditions and opportunity for an intensive and uninhibited consideration of the problems of youth and youth training in an African setting.

The African region provided participants from Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia. In addition, some participants were drawn from Commonwealth countries outside the African region - Britain, Canada, Ceylon, Jamaica and Mauritius. Observers attended from the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations, from the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and Oxfam. In addition, the Secretariat invited four consultants - with recognised expertise in particular areas with which the seminar was concerned - to attend the seminar, deliver lead papers and participate fully in discussions. These were Professor Archibald Callaway, Mr. Alec Dickson, Mr. David Moore and Mr. Patrick van Rensburg. A complete list of participants, consultants, observers and Secretariat staff is provided in an Appendix.

The preliminary planning of the seminar was carried out by a planning group set up by the Secretariat. The planning group prepared general guidelines for the detailed work of the seminar.

The seminar programme sought to establish a balance between discussions in plenary session on general themes, intensive discussions in small groups on particular questions,

and field visits to allow participants to see something of on-going youth training in Kenya and to discuss directly with those engaged in this work the day-to-day problems that are being encountered. A variety of establishments were visited - the Kenya National Youth Service base at Yatta, the National Christian Council of Kenya's "village polytechnic" at Mucii-wa-Uratta, the Mwea-Tebere rice scheme, the Starehe Boys' Centre and the Christian Industrial Training Centre at Pumwani. The co-operation of all those concerned with the management and direction of these establishments is gratefully acknowledged together with the assistance in the organisation of these visits given by the Department of Community Development and Social Services, Government of Kenya.

The official opening of the seminar was carried out by the then Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Kenya Government, The Hon. Mwai Kibaki. The full text of Mr. Kibaki's speech is included in the Report, together with the text delivered on behalf of the Minister of Labour, The Hon. E.N. Mwendwa, at the closing ceremony. In acknowledging with gratitude the contributions of the Ministers, the Commonwealth Secretariat would also wish to record its thanks to the Government of Kenya for the many services and facilities which it provided and which went far towards ensuring that the seminar ran smoothly.

The Chairmanship of the seminar was accepted by Mr. Jonathan Njenga, Director of Community Development in the Kenya Ministry of Co-operatives and Social Services. Mr. Njenga's wisdom and experience were of the greatest value in guiding plenary discussions along fruitful lines.

The reporting of the seminar is determined by the kind of gathering it was and the personalities who took part. It was not the intention of the meeting to lay down lines of policy. There were no resolutions. The seminar simply gathered together a wide range of experience and opinion on what is a very new field and one regarding which there is already much controversy. The report aims to reflect the main viewpoints advanced and opinions expressed. The result is a synthesis of the main ideas and arguments of the three working groups, together with the essence of the arguments advanced in plenary sessions - as well as in the informal get-togethers outside 'normal' working hours. This is supplemented by the reproduction in full of the texts of the major contributions in plenary sessions, including the addresses of the consultants, and by a selection from the seminar documents.