

## Foreword

The Commonwealth Youth Seminar in Cyprus brings to a close the series of youth seminars conducted by the Commonwealth Secretariat over a period of three years. In some ways it has been rather different from its predecessors. This has been so because Cyprus with its buoyant economy comes closer, in some respects, to the more developed countries than to the so-called developing. Whereas youth in the developing countries have only recently emerged as a pressure group in the search for national identity, young Cypriots had demonstrated this spirit of nationalism in the late 1950's during the struggle for independence. In few other countries have youth played such a critical role in the emergence of their nation.

And yet in other ways, Cyprus is very much a traditional society wherein beliefs, practices and attitudes survive unchanged from one generation to the next - a feature not uncommon to the developing world. It is because of this conservatism that youth's cry appears somewhat muffled. Here there is no shouting from the roof tops, only a questioning and a probing, reaching out from every village where the young begin to experience disquiet and unease. And though their voices are not strident, the message is not without passion, for they carry an insistence which it will be increasingly difficult to disregard.

It was been said that the first thing a hungry man needs is a loaf of bread, and that half a loaf is better than none. The youth of Cyprus hunger not so much for the material things of life as for recognition, appreciation and acceptance as responsible members of their society. For so long have they experienced this hunger that half loaves are not likely to satisfy them now, and as they themselves remind us it is not by bread alone that man lives.

Those who have it in their power to grant youth recognition and acceptance must make more than token gestures before the hunger turns to greed, leaving in its wake an obsession,

almost a fixation, for that which has been denied them.

The seminar has put into sharp relief the issues, the difficulties and the problems. It has also revealed the potentials, the realities and some ways in which greater progress might be achieved.

Goodwill is not lacking; may good deeds emerge.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. A. Maraj". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

J.A. Maraj  
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Education Division  
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