

Address at the Closing Session
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Some three days ago, the Honourable Minister of Education invited me to take the Chair of this Seminar. Now, in the presence of the Honourable Minister of Labour who so kindly agreed to come and formally close the meeting, I should like to give a brief account of my stewardship.

The deliberations which we reported upon half an hour ago will enable us to describe the situation in Malta much more adequately when we meet the Officials and the Ministers later but I hope, Mr Minister, that we have done more than this. For I believe very strongly that what we have done is a sort of "pump-priming" operation. We seem to have stimulated young people to think, to ask questions, to explore, and now the major question is, Where does one go from here?

Mr. Minister, I said just prior to your arrival, that I was somewhat astonished at the tremendous amount of goodwill which we have seen on every side. It was my privilege to hold discussions with key people at every level and their enthusiasm was indeed considerable. On the part of youth, too, there is an abundance of goodwill.

What seems to me to be missing, and I say this with great respect, is the opportunity for dialogue and for communication. There were so many matters raised under the title of "Youth and Development" that it became quite clear to me that other platforms are required in Malta, both for following up the youth seminar itself and for following up some fundamental issues which were raised during our discussions. I would hope that machinery can be found for a continuing dialogue and for greater participation whereby people in positions of authority and youth may be brought closer together so that the tremendous goodwill we have seen might be harnessed to Malta's progress.

Perhaps I might be allowed to make one or two other observations resulting from this extremely valuable meeting.

It seems to me that there is a tendency in Malta to identify education and training with institutions, and I would suggest that this approach is severely limiting. Young people who are out of school must also be considered in the overall context of

contributions to national development. To disregard out of school youth is short-sighted and probably wasteful. It seems to me that a hard look needs to be taken at the kinds of educational provision which are required in the present situation. We can go on building more and more schools and training more and more teachers and so on but this may not achieve the stated goals and objectives.

Another point I should like to make is that youth seems anxious to get involved in community service, - to do worthwhile things - but many young people are waiting for others to be imaginative and to develop schemes for them. The time seems ripe for young people to take the initiative themselves. I believe that there are opportunities in Malta for young people to blaze the trail and to set an example to professionals in the society thereby stimulating them to take a more active part in the country's development. Alec Dickson's papers in the reports of the African and Caribbean seminars are well worth reading again especially as some of you will continue to meet as groups. You will get many helpful ideas from these papers and to these you should add your own.

One of the omissions from our discussions, it seems to me, was evaluation. I hope Malta will not make the mistake some countries seem to have made. Many of them, having recognised that there was a problem, have analysed that problem and established a kind of programme to deal with it but they have not built into the scheme any procedures for monitoring how it was going. Although in some cases they have sought opinions of people who were involved they have certainly not evaluated the work in any systematic way. We are so conscious of this deficiency that the Secretariat has just commissioned a consultant to produce a handbook on evaluating youth programmes. This should be available before the end of the year. I would hope that any programme which you are establishing, for example the Emergency Labour Corps, would have evaluative procedures built into it at every stage. Please do not wait until the programme has run for a year or two before starting to assess its strengths, its weaknesses or its overall value. Constant checks will make it possible to see whether adjusting the machinery here or there will make it more effective as you go along.

Partly because time has been short, but also partly because people have been anxious to say so much, there has tended to be superficial treatment of one or two fundamental matters. Let me give two examples:

The brain drain and migration were discussed and what emerged was almost a suggestion that people in developing countries should be compensated for the fact that some of their manpower goes elsewhere. A conference on emigration was also suggested. What did not come out, however, was that in discussing such matters attention must be paid not only to the "pull" factors - better salaries in England or America or better living standards - but to the "push" factors from within the local community. People come back from overseas well qualified and willing to serve but they may not get the opportunities they anticipated and frustration is the net result.

The second example is that at no stage has this seminar on youth and development attempted to define development. Most of you know that the concept of development in economic terms is usually related to gross national product. Countries are rated internationally by the wealth of the community as a whole. There are four things I want to say about this:

If a country's G.N.P. is increasing, but the wealth is being concentrated among a small proportion of the population, is this development?

If the G.N.P. is rising and the country as a whole is getting wealthier but more people are unemployed, is this development?

If the G.N.P. is rising but the springs of development originate outside, in terms of British money or Canadian money or World Bank money and so on, is this development?

If the G.N.P. is rising and the local people are not participating in the economy, is this development?

To my mind the concept of development which relates only to G.N.P. needs to be firmly re-examined in countries such as Malta. I would urge you in this connection to take another look at the paper by William Demas in the Caribbean Report.

Mr. Minister I have heard it said that man must pass from old to new, from vain to real, from mistake to fact, and from what once seemed good to what now proves best. Indeed, how else can man progress?

It is my privilege, on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretariat, to thank the Government and people of Malta for the courtesy, the hospitality and the kindness which has been extended to us. I was greatly encouraged by the welcome which

I received everywhere and we have already begun to follow up some of the discussions which I held with officials of the Government. I must record our thanks for the excellent arrangements made for this seminar at short notice, to the local organisers, members of the inter-Ministerial group, to the supporting staff at every level and to the authorities here here at MCAST for the facilities and for the hospitality.

I understand that at some stage in history, there were fires into which people entered and from which they emerged rejuvenated. Without suggesting that what we participated in was anything in the nature of fire, I think most of us feel rejuvenated, much more encouraged and refreshed.

Mr Minister, I firmly believe that we are, each of us, a part of all of those with whom we come into contact. Their images, their expressed thoughts, their actions and their inspirations all add to the content of our imagery and our consciousness. In this way, I think, fine acquaintances enrich the soul. My colleagues and I have been delighted to have been here. We think we got more than we have given but we are nonetheless glad to have been of some service.

We have come, on time, to the end of a very memorable meeting. Malta is not without strong religious traditions and perhaps it is appropriate to end with a prayer which young men and women in many places seem to be uttering with increasing frequency. If only we listen we shall hear their cry:

God, give us men!
Men whom the lust of office does not kill.
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy.
Tall men, sun-crowned,
Who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking.
For while the rabble with their thumbworn creeds,
Their large professions and their little deeds,
Mingle in selfish strife, Lo! Freedom weeps,
Progress stands still and sleeping justice waits.

In bringing this seminar to an end, it is my wish that you may all receive Heaven's choicest blessings and increased strength to take your wonderful country forward.