

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP PLAN

59/25

Excerpts from a speech delivered to the opening session of the Commonwealth Education Conference, which met at Oxford from July 15 - 29, 1959, by Mr. George Drew, Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Leader of the Canadian Delegation to the Conference.

... We are meeting here today pursuant to the decision at the Conference held in Montreal last September to explore the possibility of increased co-operation in the field of education generally, so that there might be wider understanding within the Commonwealth and greater opportunities in the less-developed areas, through the granting of scholarships, the training and supply of teachers, and an exchange of technical and educational knowledge.

At that time Canada put forward a proposal for a programme of Commonwealth scholarships and fellowships, which was approved by the Montreal Conference, which it will be the purpose of this Conference to put into definite form. It was decided "to review existing arrangements for the co-operation between Commonwealth countries in the field of education". While it was stated that this was with particular reference to the supply and training of teachers and the facilities for technical and scientific education, no limit was placed upon the breadth of the examination of the exchange of information and the improvement of the standards of education in all fields.

I do not intend to go into detail as to the nature and operation of a plan for Commonwealth scholarships and fellowships. This can best be done in the Committee which will be set up for that particular purpose. I do think, however, that it might be appropriate for me to outline some of the elements of such a plan which the Canadian Government would wish to have considered in seeking a mutually satisfactory arrangement.

At Montreal it was decided that the scholarship and fellowship programme should provide for the exchange of one thousand scholars who would have an opportunity to study in countries other than their own. Canada undertook to be responsible