

and scientific staff in the various countries. A more effective method might be to set up a central "Co-ordinating Committee on Defence Research in the British Commonwealth" with representatives from all members of the Commonwealth. The Committee could meet periodically in rotation in the countries participating, or as may otherwise prove necessary or desirable as the discussions proceed. Such a Committee could review broadly the general progress of investigations on defence science problems and advise the appropriate authorities in each country on the planning of programmes of future work. Due regard would require to be paid to geographic, climatic, and meteorological conditions and to the distribution of resources and scientific staff within the Commonwealth. The Committee could also advise the participating bodies on the provision of new defence research facilities and interchange of staffs so as to ensure the maximum economy and co-ordination of effort. It could also consider any broad problems of defence science concerning the Commonwealth as a whole.

16. In brief, a Co-ordinating Committee of the nature proposed would be expected to discuss, and agree on a voluntary basis, on the general programme of work in defence science to be undertaken by the several members of the Commonwealth. It would also provide a means for the exchange of information on general progress and similar matters. The members participating would report proposals to their respective Governments for ratification.

17. If this method were generally favoured a Co-ordinating Committee of the type proposed would seem to form a natural successor to the Informal Commonwealth Conference on Defence Science now being arranged and the discussions at the latter might then be expected to be resumed at a later date on similar lines.

Method 4 - The setting-up of an Authoritative Committee.

18. It might be argued that even Method 3 would not provide for sufficiently close integration of the whole Commonwealth effort. For example, the planning of the distribution of the programme of research on defence science and decisions on such questions as the relative priorities and importance of different projects and objectives might better be based on broad principles derived from strategic considerations. Such central planning and general direction would seem to require the establishment of an authoritative body at a level comparable with that of the former Committee of Imperial defence but fully representative of Commonwealth interests. The establishment of such a body would clearly require discussions at the highest Governmental levels and full consideration of the many interests involved. Full exchange of information between the members of the Commonwealth would also be required on the resources of scientific man-power, research and development facilities, and industrial potential and plans. In addition, exchange of views on the planning of defence and similar broad strategic questions would clearly be necessary.

19. The United Kingdom delegation feel that with the many factors involved it may not be possible to set up such a central authoritative body but, if it is desired, opportunity could be taken at the Informal Commonwealth Conference on Defence Science for an informal exchange of preliminary views between the delegations.

V. PROS AND CONS OF THE FOUR METHODS OF COLLABORATION.

20. To summarise, it seems that Method 4, which would involve inter-governmental discussions at high level and consideration of many aspects outside the realm of defence science, is not needed at this stage. The present method of making arrangements for collaboration on a bilateral basis (Method 1) is open to obvious