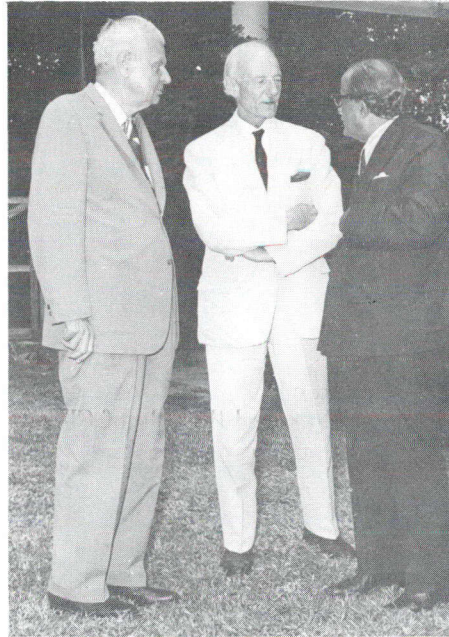


Longest serving Commonwealth parliamentarians meet in Barbados

Three veteran politicians of Commonwealth countries, whose combined years of service number 114, met in Barbados in December. Former Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, 79 (left), who was there to work on his memoirs, has served 36 years, Lord Tramire, 71, (centre), has been in British politics for 45 years, and Sir Theodore Branker, 65, has been a member of the Barbados House of Assembly and Senate for a total of 37 years.

The three parliamentarians, who are still in office, were honoured with their wives by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at a lunch at the Windsor Hotel in Hastings, Barbados.



Long hours and short vacations for Chinese students

Canadian university leaders (including former Queen's Principal John J. Deutsch), who visited the People's Republic of China last summer learned much about the institutions and their current development, according to their report, presented recently to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

During the two-week tour, the delegation visited nine institutions and spoke with both administrators and students.

The student in the People's Republic is told the nature of his university program rather than choosing it, and faces some three years' hard work, the report said. In addition to long hours, the academic year spares only five weeks for vacations.

Free tuition

Tuition and residence fees are provided without charge and the student receives free medical care. A grant provides for food, textbooks and seven incidental expenses in cases of special need, the delegation learned.

While students do not participate in university decision-making, they work with their professors in an atmosphere of comradeship, mutual learning and discovery. They are also free to express their views on politics and education, the report indicated.

The reorganization of the universities

in China began after the Cultural Revolution in 1966-69.

Factories, workshops and some farms are part of the campus and workers there guide students in the production processes. The scientific departments have close links with these areas; arts students are encouraged to make social investigations in places of work and in the community.

"The delegation gained the impression that the levels of achievement aimed at were more characteristic of technical-vocational education than of university education in North America," the report noted.

One third of the students' time is spent on political studies, and service to the people is a prime goal. Many students selected by universities from agricultural or other work areas will return there afterward.

The student, the outside work situation and new materials for self-study are the focus of education rather than the textbook, teacher and classroom. A great deal could be learned from the development of work-study relations in Chinese education, the report pointed out.

The slow pace of growth in student numbers puzzled the delegation, which reported that only about 250,000 students in all attend university out of a population of 800 million.

Medals for heroism in Cyprus

Nine members of the Canadian Armed Forces will be decorated for acts of heroism while on peacekeeping duties with the United Nations in Cyprus, during the Turkish invasion.

Captain Alain Robert Pierre Joseph Forand of Farnham, Quebec, and Private Joseph Michel Clarisse Plouffe of St. Michel, Montreal, will be awarded Canada's second highest decoration for bravery, the Star of Courage; the others will receive the Medal of Bravery. (There are three Canadian decorations for bravery, for which both civilians and members of the armed forces are eligible. They are the Cross of Valour, the highest award, the Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery.)

Captain Forand receives the Star of Courage for the rescue of a wounded Canadian officer, carried out while under machine gun fire.

Private Plouffe will receive the same decoration for giving first aid to the same wounded officer, despite constant fire, and continuing first aid even after he had been wounded by a bullet.

Medal of Bravery recipients are:

Corporal Joseph Fernand Claude Gratton and Private Joseph Michel Gingras, both of Quebec City, for the rescue of a wounded comrade while under sniper fire;

Captain Joseph Normand Blaquiere, St. François d'Assise, Côté Bonaventure, Quebec, for several incidents during the most intense part of the conflict, during which he attempted to keep the peace and prevent loss of lives. He was wounded;

Corporal Joseph Roland Michel Whelen of Maniwaki, Quebec, Private Joseph Gilles Pelletier, Les Méchines, Matane Côté, Quebec, and Private Joseph Mike Belley of Chicoutimi, Quebec, for the rescue of a wounded officer and soldier while under machine gun fire; and

Colonel Guy H. Lessard of Montreal, for protecting a Turkish Cypriot civilian from harm when his life was threatened by combatant troops. Colonel Lessard commanded the Canadian Airborne Regiment, the Canadian contingent in the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

Civilian bravery decorations

The Star of Courage is awarded to