

I would like to suggest that this is an excellent opportunity to discuss it so that when you get home you can work out your own best personal contribution to it and the steps you can take to encourage others to do something about it.

Another point of similarity to the 1956 Conference is the selection of members, and at the risk of giving some of you rather flattering notions of your importance, I think I had better explain how you came to be invited. We decided to try and get together a group of relatively young people with a certain amount of experience who might reasonably be expected to have increasing responsibility in the future. That is the brief we gave to the Selection Committees in each country and all I can say is that those committees and panels did a first class job for the 1956 Conference, and looking around I would say that they have done another excellent job this time. The members of the Selection Committees are dotted all over the Commonwealth, but I would like them to know what an important contribution they have made to the success of the Conference. You have been invited because we believe that you are still sufficiently open-minded and uncommitted to be able to make use of the experience of this Conference. My impression is that all men in top executive positions find it very difficult to escape from the pressure of events in order to study, reflect and discuss broad issues. This means that their actions and decisions are governed by the fund of study and experience which they have managed to accumulate before they begin to live under the pressure of responsibility. This Conference is designed to augment and broaden your fund of study and experience.