

Kingdom High Commissioners in the dominion capitals after 1928, or in direct correspondence through the Department of External Affairs in most of the dominions. The Dominions Office became more and more the liaison between even the Foreign Office and the Dominion Governments. Professor Barriedale Keith, writing in 1927, said that "The common sense conclusion, which was not attained, was that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should communicate direct with the External Affairs Departments of the Dominions, omitting the process of going through the Dominions Office. Mr. Fisher, in 1911, was acute enough to see that the relations of the dominions with the Foreign Office should ultimately become direct, and it is impossible to see how any useful purpose can be served by interposing a third party in the process. There is little doubt that economy and efficiency alike would have been promoted by entrusting the one important function of the Dominion Office, the conduct of correspondence on foreign affairs, to the Foreign Office, whence it is ultimately derived."⁽¹⁾

But this system did not formally materialize, possibly because of the expansion of the Commonwealth membership - the incorporation of India, Pakistan, Ceylon and even Ireland (and later Ghana, Malaya, British West Indies Federation, etc.), and the increase of inter-Commonwealth relations over and above "foreign" relations. Thus the Dominions Office, or subsequently the "Commonwealth Relations Office", continued necessarily to have a function and role inherited from the old Colonial

(1) Keith: op. cit. p. 915.