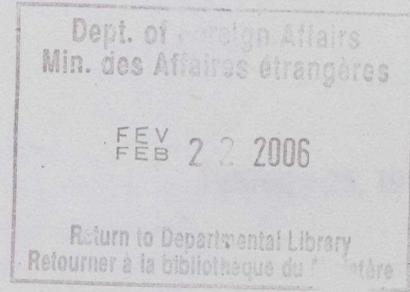


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Bhimani, Nasreen
Roundtable on Nigeria :
recommendations for the
Commonwealth Ministerial Action
Group (CMAG)
17078558



125 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2



**ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA:
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP (CMAG)**

Nasreen Bhimani, Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development
John Harker

February 10, 1997

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Best wishes,

Steve Lee
Director

ISBN: 0-662-30865-4
E2-407/1997E

MEMO

To: Gordon S. Smith, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mary Anne Bissett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia-Pacific
Rose Thambekar, Assistant Deputy Minister, Global and Security Policy
Norman Dupont, Special Envoy, Nigeria and Central Africa
Paul Swick, Nigeria and Central Africa

February 25, 1997

Dear friends,

Thank you once again for your very valuable contribution at the Roundtable on Nigeria this past February. This Roundtable was an important event for the Ministers and the departmental officials responsible for the Commonwealth and Nigeria.

We are very pleased to have assisted in bringing you together and look forward to keeping in touch about your roles and our common interests.

Please find attached Nasreen's summary report and covering memo.

Best wishes,

Steve Lee
Director

Your comments are welcome.

cc: Michael Pearson, Senior Policy Advisor, MINA
Joe Stern, Special Advisor, MINA
Martha Nelms, Special Assistant, MINA
Ferry de Kerkhove, Director General, Policy Planning

February 22, 1997

Dear friends,

Thank you once again for your very valuable contribution at the Roundtable on Nigeria this past February. This Roundtable was an important event for the Ministers and the departmental officials responsible for the Commonwealth and Nigeria.

We are very pleased to have assisted in bringing you together and look forward to keeping in touch about your roles and our common interests.

Please find attached Newman's summary report and covering letter.

Best wishes,

Steve Lee
Director

ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA
February 10, 1997
Summary of Recommendations

MEMO

To: Gordon S. Smith, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Marc-André Brault, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia-Pacific and Africa
Paul Heinbecker, Assistant Deputy Minister, Global and Security Policy
Marius Bujold, Special Envoy, Nigeria and Central Africa
Paul Roche, Nigeria and Central Africa
Stephen Moran, West and Central African Division
Roderick Bell, Director, UN and Commonwealth Affairs Division
Hartmuth Kroll, Deputy Director, Commonwealth Affairs Division
Julia Wyand, Institutional Issues, Commonwealth Affairs Section
Peter Newton, CIDA

From: Steve Lee and Nasreen Bhimani

Date: February 25, 1997

Re: Roundtable on Nigeria, February 10, 1997

Attached, please find the summary report from the Roundtable with the Commonwealth associations. Minister Axworthy and Secretary of State Stewart both attended. The Roundtable was chaired by Steve Lee and the proceedings were recorded by Nasreen Bhimani. Some follow-up actions have been recommended and some are required. Please note the request for outside monitoring of the trials now underway. Some attention is also required on the Botswana meeting of African leaders, and initiatives to support Commonwealth activities in Canada and abroad. Since the Roundtable, we have had discussions with Joe Stern, Martha Nelems, Roderick Bell and Julia Wayand.

Your comments are welcome.

cc. Michael Pearson, Senior Policy Advisor, MINA
Joe Stern, Special Advisor, MINA
Martha Nelems, Special Assistant, MINA
Ferry de Kerckhove, Director General, Policy Planning

MEMO

To: Gordon S. Smith, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Marc-André Brouil, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia-Pacific and Africa
 Paul Hainbocker, Assistant Deputy Minister, Global and Security Policy
 Marisa Nichols, Special Envoy, Nigeria and Central Africa
 Paul Roche, Nigeria and Central Africa
 Stephen Moten, West and Central African Division
 Roderick Bell, Director, UN and Commonwealth Affairs Division
 Harlan Kroll, Deputy Director, Commonwealth Affairs Division
 Julie Wyard, Institutional Issues, Commonwealth Affairs Section
 Peter Newton, EIPA

From: Steve Lee and Narsen Bhimani

Date: February 22, 1997

Re: Roundtable on Nigeria, February 10, 1997

Attached please find the summary report from the Roundtable with the Commonwealth associations. Minister Axworthy and Secretary of State Stewart both attended. The Roundtable was chaired by Steve Lee and the proceedings were recorded by Narsen Bhimani. Some follow-up actions have been recommended and some are required. Please note the request for outside monitoring of the trials now underway. Some attention is also required on the Botswana meeting of African leaders and initiatives to support Commonwealth activities in Canada and abroad. Since the Roundtable we have had discussions with Joe Stein, Marisa Nichols, Roderick Bell and Julie Wyard.

Your comments are welcome.

cc: Michael Pearson, Senior Policy Advisor, MINA
 Joe Stein, Special Advisor, MINA
 Marisa Nichols, Special Assistant, MINA
 Peter de Kretschmer, Director General, Policy Planning

ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA
February 10, 1997
Summary of Recommendations

The Roundtable on Nigeria was held as a result of Minister Axworthy and Minister Stewart's request for consultation with Commonwealth NGOs in preparation for the CMAG meetings in London on February 17, 1997.

Several of the NGOs, including the Journalists Association, the Lawyers Association, the Human Rights Initiative, the Trades Union Council, the Royal Society and Judicial Education were represented along with departmental officials and ministerial staff. The Roundtable was chaired by Steve Lee, Director of the CCFPD. Both Ministers were also present.

The NGOs were asked to present their views and assessment of Canadian government's policy and the situation in Nigeria. They were also asked to address the capacity and the role civil society in both countries could play in helping the Nigerian people restore the rule of law.

In general, the NGOs agreed with the government's policy on Nigeria. They suggested however, that the government take a proactive approach by supporting Canadian NGO activities which enable communication between the civil societies and which could result eventually in putting an end to the human rights violations.

To this end several policy options were identified; that,

- as currently two parallel courts have been set up, one judicial and one military, the Canadian government consider supporting the CBA and the CLA in establishing links with the judiciary in Nigeria. This would assist the judiciary in both countries exchange information and expertise, and assist the Nigerian judiciary in their efforts to return the country to civil law,
- the government consider asking Desmond Tutu, who led the last fact-finding mission to the prisons in Nigeria, to conduct a sermon at the St. Giles Cathedral on the Sunday prior to the New Edinburgh meetings, and,
- that the Canadian government consider persuading the CMAG members to request a second tour of the prisons in Nigeria.

In addition, that,

- as suggested by the CLA which is willing to be actively involved in the process, the Canadian government consider negotiating the potential for hi-level mediation between Shell

ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA
February 16, 1987
Summary of Recommendations

The Roundtable on Nigeria was held as a result of Minister Axworthy and Minister Stewart's request for consultation with Commonwealth NGOs in preparation for the CMAG meetings in London on February 17, 1987.

Several of the NGOs, including the Journalists Association, the Lawyers Association, the Human Rights Initiative, the Trades Union Council, the Royal Society and Judicial Education were represented along with departmental officials and ministerial staff. The Roundtable was chaired by Steve Lee, Director of the CCFE. Both Ministers were also present.

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In general, the NGOs agreed with the government's policy on Nigeria. They suggested however, that the government take a proactive approach by supporting Canadian NGO activities which enable communication between the civil societies and which could result eventually in putting an end to the human rights violations.

To this end several policy options were identified, that:

- as currently two parallel courts have been set up, one judicial and one military, the Canadian government consider supporting the CJA and the CIA in establishing links with the judiciary in Nigeria. This would assist the judiciary in both countries exchange information and expertise, and assist the Nigerian judiciary in their efforts to return the country to civil law.
- the government consider asking Desmond Tutu, who led the last fact-finding mission to the prisons in Nigeria, to conduct a sermon at the St. Giles Cathedral on the Sunday prior to the New Edinburgh meetings, and
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In addition that:

- as suggested by the CIA which is willing to be actively involved in the process, the Canadian government consider negotiating the potential for in-level mediation between Shell

Oil and the Nigerian government. Shell may be persuaded to offer economic opportunities and to help reverse the environmental degradation in the country. This could be offered in return for several demands including fair trials for detainees and an amelioration of conditions in the prisons,

- the Canadian government participate in the CLA meetings at the end of May 1997 in an effort to explore ways in which the Canadian judiciary can better work with their counterparts around the world and in Nigeria in an effort to help resolve the judicial situation,
- the Canadian government support the request of the Nigerian judiciary for impartial international observers at the upcoming Ogoni trials of the remaining group of 18 detainees. This would be done by assisting those who have volunteered to attend by facilitating the issuing of visas etc.,
-
- the Canadian government consider issuing a minority report if a consensus is not reached at the New Edinburgh meetings, notwithstanding the polarization between Canada and the rest of the Commonwealth countries and the cultural sensitivities surrounding the discussions,
- the Canadian government support the creation of a web-site for several reasons, including fostering linkages between groups involved in and interested in Nigeria in an attempt to collaborate and coordinate activities, countering disinformation by the Nigerian government, keeping the issue on the front page, and engaging Canadian youth,
- the Canadian government support the work being done by the Canadian and the Nigerian judiciary by facilitating the supply of lap-tops to enable Nigerian lawyers to get on-line legal advice in general, and especially during trials.

In turn, the Commonwealth NGOs committed themselves to greater communication and coordination amongst themselves in order to be more effective, networking with Nigerian civil society through their own associations and encouraging training programs and student exchanges in fields that Canadian expertise is recognized e.g. constitutional issues, public legal education, sensitivity training, fact-finding and judicial ethics. As well, the NGOs committed to actively engaging other Commonwealth countries civil societies in continual and regular dialogue.

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**ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA
FEBRUARY 10, 1997**

List of Participants

PRESENT

Richard Bourne

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
CONGOSAM
28 Russell Square
London, UK
WCIB 5DS
Phone: 0171 580 5876
Fax: 0171 255 2160

Judge Sandra Oxner

Commonwealth Judicial Education
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW, Suite MC5248
Washington, DC
20433
Phone: (202) 473 3414

Kathleen Keating

Commonwealth Lawyers Association
2658 West 34th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V6N 2J2
Phone: (604) 266 5169

Charles Gunning

Royal Commonwealth Society (Student Forum
Organizer)
c/o Colleen Henderson
45 Dayton Crescent
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 7N8
Phone: (613) 997 5202

Colleen Henderson

Royal Commonwealth Society
45 Dayton Crescent
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 7N8
Phone: (613) 829 2531

John Harker

29 Lynhurst Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 9W8
Phone: (613) 523 9022

Robin Sully

Canadian Bar Association
902-50 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6L2
Phone: (613) 237 2925

Stephen Benedict

Commonwealth Trades Union Council
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 8X7
Phone: (613) 526 7433
Fax: (613) 521 8949

Murray Burt

Commonwealth Journalists Association
80 Waterloo Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3N 0S2
Phone: (204) 488 0167
Fax: (204) 488 2845

REGRETS

Bob O'Reilly

Commonwealth Broadcasters Association
Phone: (613) 738 6518
Fax: (613) 738 6587

Robert Martin

Commonwealth Association for Education
in Journalism and Education
Phone: (519) 661 3348

ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA
FEBRUARY 18, 1997

List of Participants

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>SECRET</p> <p>John Hatcher
29 Lyndale Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 9W8
Phone: (613) 232 9022</p> <p>Robin Kelly
Canadian Bar Association
902-29 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6L2
Phone: (613) 237 2022</p> <p>Stephen Benedict
Commonwealth Trades Union Council
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 8X7
Phone: (613) 326 7433
Fax: (613) 321 8942</p> <p>Murray Hart
Commonwealth Journalists Association
80 Waterloo Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3N 0S2
Phone: (204) 488 0167
Fax: (204) 488 2842</p> <p>SECRET</p> <p>Bob O'Reilly
Commonwealth Broadcasters Association
Phone: (613) 738 6218
Fax: (613) 738 6527</p> <p>Robert Martin
Commonwealth Association for Education
in Journalism and Education
Phone: (519) 661 3348</p> | <p>SECRET</p> <p>Richard Bourne
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
CONGOBAM
28 Russell Square
London, UK
WC1B 2DS
Phone: 0171 280 2876
Fax: 0171 252 2169</p> <p>Judge Sandra Ozer
Commonwealth Judicial Education
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW, Suite MC2248
Washington, DC
20433
Phone: (202) 473 3444</p> <p>Kathleen Keating
Commonwealth Lawyers Association
2622 West 14th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V6N 2J2
Phone: (604) 266 2169</p> <p>Charles Gunning
Royal Commonwealth Society (Student Forum
Organizer)
c/o Colleen Henderson
42 Dayton Crescent
Niagara, Ontario
K8L 3N8
Phone: (613) 997 2202</p> <p>Colleen Henderson
Royal Commonwealth Society
42 Dayton Crescent
Niagara, Ontario
K8L 3N8
Phone: (613) 829 2231</p> |
|--|--|



Fax: (519) 661 3760

Paul Frazer, QC

Commonwealth Lawyers Association

Phone: (604) 687 3711

Fax: (604) 687 3741

Dr. John Williams

Commonwealth Medical Association

Phone: (613) 731 9331

Fax: (613) 731 9013

Dr. Paul Davenport

Association of Commonwealth Universities

Phone: (519) 661 3104

Fax: (519) 661 3139

Bob Speller, M.P.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Phone: (613) 996 9749

Clyde Sanger

Phone: (613) 233 7133

Fax: (613) 241 7435

Fax: (519) 661 3769

Paul Frazee, QC
Commonwealth Lawyers Association
Phone: (604) 687 3211
Fax: (604) 687 3741

Dr. John Williams
Commonwealth Medical Association
Phone: (613) 731 9331
Fax: (613) 731 9013

Dr. Paul Davignon
Association of Commonwealth Universities
Phone: (519) 661 3104
Fax: (519) 661 3132

Bob Spiller, M.L.A.
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Phone: (613) 996 9749

Clyde Sanger
Phone: (613) 233 7133
Fax: (613) 241 7432



125 promenade Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 0G2
Telephone/Telephone : 613.944.8278 www.cfp-pec.gc.ca Fax/Telecopieur : 613.944.0687

SELECTED CCFPD REPORTS FROM 2000-2001

Terrorism

Report from the Roundtable: The New Face of Terrorism. CCFPD. October 26, 2001.

Summary Report from the Roundtable: The Impact of September 11 on International Relations and Canada's Foreign Policy. CCFPD. November 27, 2001.

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100 Avenue Laurier, Suite 1000
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6
Tel: (613) 993-3333

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- Report from the Roundtable: The New Face of Terrorism. CCFD, October 26, 2001.
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- Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding: Summary Report from the Roundtable on Afghanistan: Governance Scenarios and Canadian Policy Options. CCFD, October 12, 2001.
- Miss Winters Management and Links to Conflict Management and Food Security in the Horn of Africa. Tag El-Kharrat, September 2001.
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Examen des récentes initiatives gouvernementales et d'ONG concernant les armes légères et évaluation de leur efficacité: proposition pour un indice de sécurité individuelle (ISI). Frances Gaudreault et al. été 2000.

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Perspectives on the Borderless World: Issues for Canada. Heather Nicol and Ian Townsend-Gault. Fall 2000.

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Children and Violent Conflict: Meeting the Challenge of Diversity. Erin Baines, Dalhousie University; Barry Burciul, University of Toronto. Summer 2000.

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Commerce international et diversité culturelle: à la recherche d'un difficile équilibre. Ivan Bernier, Université Laval and Dave Atkinson. 2000.

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Seneca Institute for Research & Development, November 1-4, 2000

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Asia-Pacific
Report from the Roundtable: Good Governance and the Philippines: CCEPD, March 16, 2001
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Fraser University, April 19-21, 2001

Gateway and Identity: Confronting the Issues for Canada and Multilateral Institutions: University
of Toronto-York University Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, March 2001
Report from the North Korea Roundtable: CCEPD, January 22, 2001

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Europe
Report from the Roundtable Living Together: Sharing the Canadian Experience, Markets, Governance, Canadian
Centre for Foreign Policy Development, March 28-30, 2001 (Bonn, Austria) and June 12-17, 2001 (Linz, Austria)
(Cyprus)

Report on Cyprus: Living Together in the New Century Roundtable: CCEPD, February 14, 2000

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Trusts to Democracy in America: Max Cameron, FOCAL, March 1-4, 2000

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Culture
Commissaire international et diversité culturelle: 2e recherche d'un dialogue équilibré, Jean Bernier, Université Laval
and Peter Atkinson, 2000

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