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SECOND COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that Commonwealth Governments have been invited to attend the Second Commonwealth Education Conference in New Delhi in January 1962. A similar announcement is being made in other Commonwealth capitals and by the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee in London.

The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, will open the Conference in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Thursday morning, January 11, and Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education, will be its Chairman. About two hundred delegates from thirteen Commonwealth countries and from colonial territories are expected to attend. The Conference will end on January 25, but delegates are invited to remain in Delhi for Republic Day ceremonies on the following day. The agenda for the Conference has been drawn up by the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee and by the Governments concerned. It is as follows:

1. To receive and consider reports on the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; and to recommend such measures as are considered necessary for improving its working.
2. To receive and consider reports on the training of teachers; and to recommend such measures as are considered necessary for improving the working of these schemes.

3. To receive and consider reports on the supply of teachers to other Commonwealth countries for service in universities and in other educational institutions; and to recommend such measures as are considered necessary for improving the working of these schemes.
4. To receive and consider reports on technical education; and to recommend such measures as are considered necessary for improving the working of these schemes.
5. To receive and consider reports on the work of the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee and the Commonwealth Education Liaison Unit and to recommend what administrative machinery will be required to assist intra-Commonwealth co-operation in the future.
6. To consider the possibility of co-operation in the extension of, or addition to, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan by providing awards for:
 - (a) basic professional training not obtainable in the students own country;
 - (b) undergraduate study at universities and colleges of adult education;
 - (c) study at technical colleges below post-graduate level;
 - (d) short-term visits of senior educationists; and
 - (e) travel grants.
7. To consider the possibility of co-operation in the provision of textbooks and other books, viewed in relation to items 1 to 4 above.

8. To consider the possibility of co-operation in social education.
9. To consider the possibility of co-operation in education in rural communities.
10. To consider the possibility of co-operation in the financial problems of education expansion.
11. To consider in general the holding of conferences of experts from Commonwealth countries and in particular the holding of conferences of experts on the following subjects:
 - (a) school buildings;
 - (b) the teaching of science and mathematics;
 - (c) the use of audio-visual aids including television in education.

Notes for Editors

The first Commonwealth Education Conference was held at Oxford in July 1959 as a result of an initiative taken by Canada at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held at Montreal in September 1958. The Oxford Conference recommended that, to sustain the momentum of the new drive in co-operation which it believed it had initiated, another Commonwealth Education Conference should subsequently be convened to take stock of the progress made in the intervening period and to make further plans for the future.

The Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee is the body established in accordance with recommendations of the Oxford Conference to enable Governments

to consider together the development of the schemes of educational assistance which the Conference had agreed upon. It comprises one representative of each Commonwealth Government together with one member representing British colonial territories and co-opted members under Sir Philip Morris (Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University) as independent Chairman.

Since the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan came into effective operation with the beginning of the academic year in September 1960 it has achieved substantial progress towards its goal of having 1,000 scholars studying in various parts of the Commonwealth at one time at an intake rate of five hundred students per year. During the first year Canada received 101 scholars from 25 different countries or areas of the Commonwealth and at the present time approximately 200 are studying in Canada for the most part at the post-graduate level. These scholars, who are nominated by special committees in their own countries and selected by a Canadian committee especially set up for the purpose, are doing very well in their academic pursuits under the careful guidance of the Canadian universities which they are attending. Other important aspects of Commonwealth educational co-operation in which Canada has played a significant part have been the training and supplying of teachers for service in other Commonwealth countries and the laying of plans for co-operation in technical education.

Consistent with the active interest it has taken in the development and operation of the Commonwealth Education Programme the Canadian Government, as announced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in the House of Commons on June 6, 1961, will send a representative delegation to the Second Commonwealth Education Conference. The composition of the delegation will be announced at a later date.