

FOREWORD

Among the most significant developments on the international economic scene in recent years have been those associated with the enlargement of the EEC, some of the problems of which have long been anticipated and some of the consequences of which are even today difficult to foresee. For over a decade it has been obvious that the entry of Britain into the EEC would be likely to call for adjustments in the trading patterns of all her Commonwealth partners, but only comparatively recently have the lines been clearly drawn for the period of intense negotiations that will shape the future trading relations of developing Commonwealth countries with the EEC. For the problems of twenty of these, situated in Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Protocol 22 of the Treaty has been put forward by the EEC as a basis for negotiation. The effects of the enlargement of the Community for these countries have been the subject of several studies.

In a Joint Declaration of Intent relating to the independent Commonwealth countries in Asia, the signatories to the Treaty of Enlargement declared their readiness, from the date of accession of the new member states to the EEC, to examine with the above countries in Asia such problems as might arise in the field of trade, with a view to seeking appropriate solutions. Because of the importance of the issues involved, the Commonwealth Secretary-General felt that a study dealing with some points of interest would be of value not only for the Commonwealth countries directly concerned but also in the context of wider Commonwealth relations.

This study was therefore commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat from Professor Dharam P. Ghai, Director of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi. A first draft was sent to Asian Commonwealth countries and the author has revised the paper in the light of suggestions. However, the views which Professor Ghai expresses remain his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Commonwealth Secretary-General; nor are they necessarily representative of those held by interested organisations or governments. It is hoped that the paper will prove a useful contribution to the consideration of the questions raised therein.

Commonwealth Secretariat

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