

FOREWORD

The Malta Seminar made a unique contribution to the series of Commonwealth discussions on youth and development, in that for the first time young people themselves made up the majority of the participants. In her opening address to the meeting the Minister of Education asked that opinions should be expressed frankly, an invitation to which the Seminar members responded in full measure.

The Report speaks of the basic fund of goodwill latent in all sections of the community but frustrated in its expression by serious gaps in the system of communication. This isolating effect, together with the pressures exerted by the three T's - television, tourism and travel - combine to reinforce the general sense of insecurity affecting so many young people today.

Throughout the series of Commonwealth Seminars there has run the theme of youth's appeal to be allowed to participate in the practical task of fashioning the future of the nation which they will inherit. Here the young people of Malta have already shown one effective means by which their claim may be pressed. By arranging to meet regularly to design projects and involve an ever wider group of their fellows, the younger participants at the Seminar are demonstrating their anxiety to serve and their ability to do so. Confidence will not be given without proof that it is merited; invitations to participate will not be issued without some indication that an effective contribution will result. The way in which Maltese youth has seized the initiative should inspire that confidence and facilitate that participation. It is a worthy example which young people in other Commonwealth countries could well follow.



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