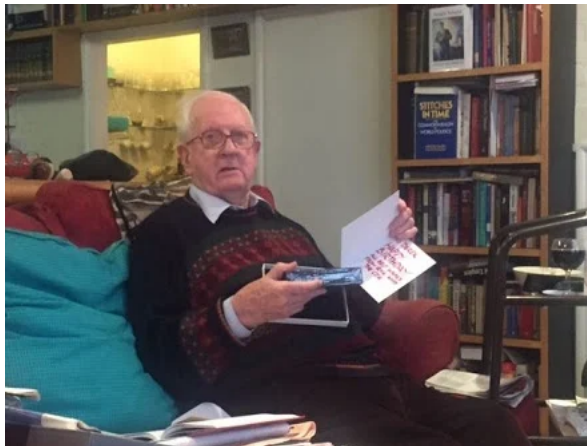


MR DEREK INGRAM

(1925-2018)



Mr Derek Ingram was a distinguished journalist who championed the Commonwealth for over four decades through the Commonwealth Journalists Association, which he founded in the late 1960s with the financial and other assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat. In those early days of the existence of the new and modern Commonwealth, his reporting on events on the Commonwealth as a whole, through a network of dedicated journalists, was instrumental in securing its reputation as an important new international organisation.

- *The death of Derek Ingram, three days short of his 93rd birthday, removes a towering figure in journalism. He travelled widely in the Commonwealth, and attended 20 Commonwealth summits, always reporting with knowledge and conviction. He founded the Gemini news feature service in 1967, which gave opportunities and world-wide exposure to many journalists round the world, such as Cameron Duodu in Ghana, the young Trevor McDonald in Trinidad, and Lindsey Hilsum, now international editor for Channel Four News, in the United Kingdom. Although London-based it took the anti-apartheid line in the struggle between Mrs Thatcher and the majority of Commonwealth governments.*

He was a sterling supporter of media freedom, and human rights. In 1978, at a conference in Dalhousie, Canada he and a group of Commonwealth journalists including the Canadian broadcaster, Patrick Keatley, set up the Commonwealth Journalists Association which went on to provide training around the world. In 1987 he was a key player in the establishment of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, now with offices in Delhi, Accra and London. A decade later, in his 70s, he toured the world for the Commonwealth Secretariat, reporting on how the Commonwealth could enhance its image.

*He will be remembered for his friendliness, his support for younger journalists, and the hospitable way in which he threw open his mews house in Marylebone for guests and journalists passing through London. He symbolised the best in Commonwealth journalism. He died peacefully. A tall tree has fallen in the forest. **Richard Bourne***

- *How very very sad and the end of an era for many of us who worked closely with Derek over the years. He was so deeply committed to the Commonwealth but above all he was a outstanding journalist and a firm believer in press freedom. Over the many years he was involved with the CPU he was a stalwart friend and mentor to many young journalists throughout the Commonwealth and a great supporter of the work we did. For me, he was a good friend and a great supporter. I am glad he has died peacefully, he hated being an invalid and I hope he is now at peace. **Lindsay Ross***
- *A good man who fought for the Commonwealth with great dignity and enthusiasm. I shall never forget his laughter. **Michael Fathers***
- *This is very sad news, Cheryl. I well remember Derek from my earliest days in the Secretariat which I joined in the early 1970s, and I learnt much about his work in the various countries and elsewhere that are mentioned below. He will indeed be much missed. **David Sagar***
- *An Icon and a Legend has gone from our midst. May his soul rest in perfect peace. **Beatrice Morgan***
- *I had learned of the sad news and thanks for giving it fitting circulation. The restrictions his illness placed on his final days frustrated him enormously, although his interest in the Commonwealth never ceased. Richard Bourne's beautiful tribute sums up so much that I will not attempt to add to it at this juncture. With heavy heart, **Mark Robinson***
- *I remember Derek's kindnesses in many ways, and remember vividly his frontline reportage from Chimoio when it was attacked by Rhodesia forces. He was a pleasure to work with and be with. A tall tree in all respects. **Stephen Chan***
- *This is so sad. He was one of my fondest mentors in the Commonwealth when I started 30 years ago. And continued to be a fount of knowledge and good advice and*

a good friend. I have also just discovered that he served as an active member of the Editorial Board of the Commonwealth Judicial Journal (the CMJA's journal) practically from its inception in 1973 (from 1974-1996). We will all miss him. Condolences to his family and to the Commonwealth on the loss of one of its stalwarts. **Karen Brewer**

- Very sad indeed to learn about the sad demise of Derek Ingram who really had his heart and soul in the Commonwealth. The tribute of Richard Bourne is the most fitting tribute for Derek Ingram. I can't add anything more that will make it even stronger. May Derek's soul rest in peace. With a heavy heart, **Ved Goel**
- A great loss indeed. I guess every one of us who worked in the Secretariat benefited from Derek's knowledge and skills in one way or another. Derek also brought his knowledge of the Commonwealth to what must be one of the widest readerships possible through his writings on the subject for Encyclopaedia Britannica. May he rest in peace. **Raja Gomez**
- Derek was indeed a towering figure in the Commonwealth. He was flexible and humble enough to bent down to all levels in order to assist and mentor others and to stretch sideways to all the branches of the Commonwealth tree many of which he influenced positively. Thank you Richard for the excellent tribute. May his soul rest in peace. **Rudo Chitiga**
- It is indeed very sad that we have lost Derek. He was such a dedicated professional, with his extensive knowledge and deep enthusiasm for the Commonwealth. But he was also a good, kind man. I learned a lot from him in our conversations over the years and always enjoyed his company. Bless him! **Diana Bailey**
- Derek was indeed a towering figure, a person with unrivalled knowledge and experience of Commonwealth relations and a man of the greatest integrity. Many of our colleagues worked closely with him in the field of journalism over many decades whereas my own closest encounters were restricted to the late 1990s when he produced his **Review of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Information Programme** (generally referred to as The Ingram Report), a fine piece of work full of insight and ideas but one which - like the contemporaneous report on Commonwealth Studies for the 21st Century from the Symons Committee (of which I had the good fortune to be Secretary) - was not followed up with the vigour and imagination it deserved, to our mutual disappointment.

David McIntyre's **A Guide to the Contemporary Commonwealth** hits the nail on the head when in referring to the Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the future of the Commonwealth (March 1996) he writes "By far the most eloquent and forthright spokesman for the Commonwealth was Derek Ingram. His submission to the FAC, dated 3 March 1995 was imbued with the authority of one intimately acquainted with Commonwealth affair for over 30 years"

Derek strove tirelessly to persuade successive British Governments to be proactive

in Commonwealth leadership, and to mobilise the huge potential represented by its position at the centre of the Commonwealth. With Britain once again in the Commonwealth Chair we have been given what may be our last chance to make Derek's vision come true. **Peter Williams**

- *So very sorry to hear that. What a wonderful recorder of the Commonwealth he was. He knew all the personalities back to Arnold Smith, an elephantine memory, a wr sense of humour and he never let you get away with a lazy answer. It was always a pleasure to have a catch up with him.* **Don McKinnon** (Sir Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2000-2008)
- *Very very sad news. The Commonwealth has lost one of its great champions and friends - an extremely talented, truly decent and highly likeable gentleman. I hardly knew Derek, but was aware of his stellar reputation of outstanding scholarship and articles long before I joined the Secretariat in 1982.*

His numerous contributions to the Commonwealth were deservedly recognized six years ago when he was given the Outstanding Contribution Award, sponsored by Nexus Strategic Partnerships as part of the Nexus Commonwealth Awards 2012 (shared with Peter Williams).

I vividly remember Derek at the "Witness Seminar - The Heartbeat of a Modern Commonwealth? The Commonwealth Secretariat 1965-2013", held Marlborough House in June 2013 (see link below).

And in our exchange of accolades and remembrances I have learned much more about him, including from Richard Bourne's exceptionally good tribute on Derek's numerous important voluntary endeavors in advancing Commonwealth ideals and initiatives.

Hopefully, the Commonwealth Journalists Association and other civil society groups will join together to establish a lasting remembrance to an exceptional individual.

Michael Sinclair

- *I humbly and warmly associate myself with this marvellous array of tributes to Derek. It suggests not only that his memory will be inspirational, as were his commitment, his labours and his friendship, but also that we, as an Association, with our extensive collective knowledge of him, may have particular scope for ensuring that his example lives on.*

Would we be right to put the primary emphasis on young people? It occurs to me that the traditional advertisement for Patek Philippe time-pieces has a Commonwealth resonance: "you never actually own it; you merely look after it for the next generation". But I would have withdrawn the suggestion immediately if Derek had regarded it as frivolous. **Peter Marshall**

- *I first met Derek when researching the Commonwealth role in Zimbabwe's independence as a student, so I find it strangely appropriate to be back in Zimbabwe at this time of re-engagement as I receive this sad news. Whether as student, Ambassador or ComSec Political Director the engagement with Derek was always the same - free, fair and frank.*

*He inspired us not only with his commitment to the Commonwealth but also to accurate communication and real news. His Gemini news service was invaluable to many developing countries, and I relied heavily on his Commonwealth Update. In these days of fake news, spin and opinion journalism his example is so important. Our collective memory is the poorer for his passing informed and seek to influence for good was always a great encouragement. **Matthew Neuhaus***

Selected links:

[Remembering Derek Ingram - Richard Bourne](#)

[Derek Ingram remembered by Chief Emeka Anyaoku](#)

[Derek Ingram \(1925-2018\): An appreciation - Kayode Soyinka](#)

[Nexus Commonwealth Awards 2012: Nexus Commonwealth Outstanding Contribution](#)

[Derek Ingram, 1925-2018, Passionate defender of Commonwealth values and founding father of the CJA](#)

[The Commonwealth and communication. Report on witness seminar session. Scroll down two thirds for Derek's contribution](#)

MS MARYSE ROBERTS

(- 2018)

Ms Maryse Roberts served as Chief Programme Officer in the Political Affairs Division from 1997-98, and Chief Gender Officer in the Gender Affairs Section from 1998-2006.

- *I'm very sorry to hear of Maryse's untimely passing. She was a valued member of the Gender Section during my tenure, with a focus on supporting Gender Focal Points in the process of mainstreaming gender at the ComSec and other Commonwealth organizations, through ongoing training, meetings, and the sharing of information and experiences.*

She was involved in the Gender team's organization of triennial Women`s/Gender Affairs Ministers Meetings (WAMMs) held in India and Fiji, as well as annual WAMMs and panels held at the UN in the wings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. These were of strategic importance in strengthening Gender Ministries across the Commonwealth; building a platform for networking, support, and

knowledge sharing on policy and praxis; and positioning the Commonwealth as a leading international organization on gender equality.

She also led the publication of our post-Beijing 10th anniversary publication on Gender Equality in the Commonwealth (1995-2005), based on a survey of Gender Ministries across the Commonwealth. And she was involved in the Gender team's development of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality (2005-2015), the Commonwealth's framework for advancing gender equality.

*I would be very grateful if you could pass on my deepest condolences to her daughters and family. **Rawwida Baksh***

- *OMG! This is truly sad! Maryse Roberts was the first to truly give me the warm welcome that wasn't always there for a "new staff", especially those in a peculiar category that I found myself in.*

Maryse was not afraid or threatened to promote skills or convey commendation when she felt it was due! She was the "efficient driver" of the section's "LinkedIn", & certainly encouraged my colleagues and I to contribute from our different perspectives. It was Maryse who insisted I made inputs on Peace & Security into LinkedIn.

Maryse, along with Rawwida Baksh & the rest of the team made what became the most controversial yet, the most successful WAMM (Women Affairs Ministers' Meeting) 2004 in Fiji Islands possible. Of course, this, was where the best and most progressive ten-year Plan of Action (PoA) was adopted, and ComSec Gender section integrated and defended the "Peace, Conflict & Security" thematic area. This was not without controversy...

One could not forget the able leadership, subtle but firm negotiation and protection from "DSG Winston Cox", which nailed the adoption of the PoA. That PoA, Peace & Security was of course what provided the ComSec its first address before the UN Security Council in 2004 by DSG Winston Cox.

While I negotiated that speaking slot at the UN Security Council, it could not have happened without the access and support of Maryse Roberts & Rawwida Baksh who was my "Boss".

*I kept in touch with Maryse Roberts even after she left the Secretariat, but, we soon lost touch when I left the organisation. Maryse was a lovely and decent person. There was no GUILE in her. Not liked by all, but who is? We are pilgrims on earth! Maryse has run her course & finished her race. May the Lord grant her the crown reserved for those who lived accordingly! Amen. Adieu! My friend, my colleague! In the next life, I hope our paths cross again! **Elsie Onubogu Sebastian***

- *Wow so sad! Wonderful person & trust worthy! Very dedicated to the Commonwealth Objectives & Aspirations! She opened opportunities and*

*programmes for women which sprang up to facilitate current Women & Development initiatives & awareness programmes, debates etc. May her soul rest in perfect peace. **RoseMarie Endeley***

- *I am saddened to hear of the passing of Maryse Roberts, who I worked closely with in the Gender Section. Please pass my sincerest and heartfelt condolences to Maryse's children and family. May her soul rest in eternal peace. **Justina Mutale***
- *Thanks for this news, sad though it is. Maryse spent a short time in PAD when I was Director, and made a very positive contribution, providing first-hand knowledge of an important Commonwealth region. She went on to play a valuable role in the Secretariat's work on gender issues. My condolences to her family. **Jon Sheppard***
- *What a shock and sad news indeed. In 2004 I greatly enjoyed working with Maryse in the Gender Section – we were part of a strong team on WAMM Fiji and 2015-20 Gender Plan of Action, as Rawwida described. Please pass my condolences to the family. **Cindy Berman***

DR MOSES ANAFU

(1947-2018)



Dr Moses Anafu served in a number of capacities including Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Political Affairs Division.

- *Moses, from Ghana, will be remembered as a giant in the field of African politics and conflict resolution. Among other things, as the Secretariat's African Advisor under former Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku, he helped the Commonwealth bring about a peaceful end to South Africa's apartheid and its first non-racial elections.* **Cheryl Dorrall**
- *Thank you very much for passing on to us the very sad news of Moses Anafu's passing! I remember him as a very cheerful, friendly individual, who was always ready to help his colleagues at Comsec. I send my deep condolences to his family, friends and Comassoc colleagues. May his soul rest in eternal peace!* **Evelyn Adlam**
- *I am so shocked and saddened to hear of Moses' passing. He had real talent for conflict resolution, and made a major contribution to peace in Africa. Blessed are the peacemakers.* **Matthew Neuhaus**
- *Very sad news.* **Michael Fathers**
- *Moses or Mosie as he was affectionately called was one of the rare stars of the Secretariat. Mosie was a thinker and a writer rather than a bureaucrat and thus he was able to shape a distinctive role for the Commonwealth in Africa and especially in South Africa's journey out of apartheid. He will be always remembered by his colleagues with deep respect and affection.* **Madhuri Bose**
- *Very sad news about Moses' passing. He was such a lovely man. May his soul rest in peace and may his family be comforted knowing that we are all thinking of them at this very difficult time.* **Beatrice Morgan**
- *Very sad news indeed. Moses made tremendous contribution to the secretariat .. our team worked closely with him regarding South Africa. He had a great sense of humour. Our prayers are with his family.* **Mohan Kaul**
- *So sorry to hear this news. Moses was a valued and respected colleague during my years in PAD. His insights into African issues and on conflict resolution were an asset to the Secretariat. My condolences to his family.* **Jonathan Sheppard**
- *This is shocking and very sad news. Moses was one of the finest; an outstanding intellect, a superb writer and a shrewd judge of people and complex issues. He also had an extraordinary empathetic sense which enabled him to connect emotionally with people of very different backgrounds, whether Zulu chiefs, Afrikaner policemen or Indian radicals. The first time I met him he knew somethings of my links with UK liberal politics and started an erudite discussion of nineteenth century liberalism (on which, of course, he was an expert). Within five minutes I had nothing more to meaningfully contribute. I think his doctorate was from Bologna University, on the Medici (I believe he was fluent in Italian). But he was more than being a formidable intellectual, he was also at the forefront of practical diplomacy and conflict resolution. Cultural and ethnic difference, for him, was never sharp-edged but a bridge to understanding the curiosities and the varied lived experiences of what was*

at root a single humanity. No wonder that his skill was used by the Commonwealth incessantly, not only in apartheid South Africa but across many areas of incipient conflict.

He became rather withdrawn in later years, sadly, and I know I am not alone in wishing that I had been able to reach him and enjoy more time in his wonderful company. **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)

- All these wonderful tributes to Moses have brought him back to life in my memory. I take pleasure in celebrating his creative and effective contributions to the work I was doing in the Secretariat to establish the Commonwealth's human rights program. As my first posting as an Australian diplomat was to Ghana, I felt a special connection with Moses. How sad it is to know that he is no longer with us. I send my condolences and all best wishes to his family. **Pera Wells**
- Moses Anafu was an intellectual giant. My first experience of his genius was when I brought my first draft of the minutes of the Committee of Whole for review by him. He read it and without a moment's hesitation transformed most of it into perfect prose in the neatest of handwritings.

He had a wealth of political knowledge and insights. One day in the kitchen in Marlborough house at a time when Zimbabwe was daily headlines in the Daily Mail I said rather provocatively to him "Brother Bob seems to be turning into something of a political thug". And so began a journey of understanding Zanu PF's threats to walk out of negotiations at Lancaster Gate and what had been the nature of the deal struck thereafter; Nyerere's role in reminding them that land reform was not a constitutional issue but rather a policy issue which an elected Government had the mandate to address. We talked thereafter about Toussant L'Ouverture, the head of the Haiti's revolution in bringing about change in European feudalism in the Caribbean and what that gave rise to. As CLR James' noted "The cruelties of property and privilege are always more ferocious than the revenges of poverty and oppression. For the one aims at perpetuating resented injustice, the other is merely a momentary passion soon appeased".

Moses was what can best be described as an African political patrician schooled and fully conversant with western traditions, values and culture, who stood head to head with the best of his European intellectual peers while having a profound understanding of the transformative challenges facing his region, Africa. He knew that there would be trials and tribulations in nation building in a post-colonial era and like the old guards of the ANC, he firmly believed that diplomacy, dialogue and democracy were infinitely better than violence to bring about political change and economic development. My deepest sympathies to his family. **Roy Rodriguez**

- Very sad news, and a reminder of the importance of high-level expertise and diplomatic skill at the Commonwealth Secretariat. **Richard Bourne**

- *Such sad news about Moses Anafu's passing. We were good friends when we served at the Comsec around the same time. He was such a helpful colleague, always ready to share his knowledge. I remember he went out of his way to take me to a talk by Nelson Mandela on the sidelines of the Zimbabwe CHOGM in 1991 and to introduce me to the great man after the talk. Please convey my deepest condolences to his family. **Farida Arrifin***
- *It is really tragic to hear that Moses Anafu has passed away. I knew him and he could be very witty as well as intelligent. His contribution for Africa was great and I always had a soft spot for him. I remember his smiling face. What a loss. Please convey my deep condolences to his family members. They must be devastated. **Selina Mohsin***
- *There is not much I can add to all the wonderful tributes and memories of Moses, except to say that he was a lovely man, with a great sense of humor, as well as a tremendous zest for laughter and life. He became an expert on Southern African affairs and his ability to develop close relationships with the great and the good as well as his colleagues in the Secretariat, was the basis on which he built his years of exemplary service in the Secretariat. He joined us when our work in ending racism in Southern Africa was gaining support and momentum and Chief Anyaoku and Moses were the two officers who the then Secretary General Sir Sonny Ramphal relied on to work closely with Heads of Government as well as the leaders of the opposition movements and their followers in many key countries.. He was also instrumental in building and nurturing relationships of friendship and trust with the brave men and women who were in the forefront of the struggle in many countries including in the UK. He succeeded because he was brilliant and hardworking.*

I had left the Secretariat when the end game began and colleagues who shared the honour of participating in the elections which brought Nelson Mandela to power have told me about his phenomenal ability to have and maintain warm friendships not only with the ANC leaders but even with Chief Buthelezi . It is a matter of great regret that he was not allowed to finish this noble task.

*Through a mutual friend, I have been told that there will be a service in Ealing, and that he will be interred in this country. His family are here and as soon as I or anyone else gets further details, they will be shared with members. If however the family wishes to limit attendance , there is no reason why we should not have a small memorial service in the chapel or in Marlborough House, where those of us who worked with him for decades can come together to remember him. Incidentally I have been told that Moses was the Chief of an area in Northern Ghana, and I am trying to verify this, as he deserves a special send off. **Patsy Robertson** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*

- *Dr Moses Anafu who died on 29 November 2018 was a cerebral international diplomat from Ghana. He served in the Commonwealth Secretariat at Marlborough House, London from 1979 to 2000.*

I first met Moses in 1979 when as Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General I chaired a panel that interviewed him for the post of Research Officer in the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Although he had earned his PhD at Cambridge University from a thesis on an aspect of Italian history, he impressed the members of the panel with the depth and articulation of his views on Africa and the developing Commonwealth countries. He was hired and soon began through brilliance to work his way to becoming a Chief Research Officer in 1987 and thereafter was appointed Assistant Director and effective head of the Africa section in the Division.

On becoming the Commonwealth Secretary-General in 1990, Moses and others from my private office often accompanied me on my mediatory missions to existing and potential African Commonwealth member countries in conflictual situations. He had an uncommon capacity for brokering peace and reconciliation between parties in virtual or actual conflict. As a result, he served as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to follow up on a continuing basis my mediatory interventions in several conflicts within and between African Commonwealth countries.

To recall only two of his notable services as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Moses Anafu accompanied me and three other colleagues on my visit to South Africa early in November 1991 to discuss with the then State President, F W de Clerk, how the Commonwealth might assist the South African Government's declared plan to begin formal negotiations with the country's anti-apartheid organisations. Thereafter, following the formal launching of the negotiations at Kempton Park in Johannesburg on December 1 1991, Moses was virtually resident in South Africa as my Special Envoy helping to deal with the eruptions of violence that seemed at times to threaten the continuation of the negotiations.

As was testified to me by Nelson Mandela leader of the ANC party and Mangosuthu Buthelezi leader of the IFP party on my many visits to South Africa during the period of the negotiations, Moses established excellent personal working relations with the two gentlemen and their colleagues, and was able to play a seminal role in dealing with the violence that occurred from time to time especially in Kwazulu Natal; violence that seemed capable of aborting the negotiations which were successfully concluded on 17 November 1993.

Again in 1996 while Sierra Leone was being wracked by a disastrous civil war between the Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and the rebel Revolutionary United Front led by Corporal Foday Sankoh, it was Moses that I sent as the Commonwealth Special Envoy to go and assist with the other special envoys from the UN and the OAU in brokering a cease-fire between the Sierra Leone's warring parties at the talks hosted in Abidjan by President Konan Bedie of Cote d'Ivoire. The talks had been made possible with the help of the BBC World Service who, at my request, had through its broadcasts enabled Foday Sankoh to contact my office from his unknown location in the West African bush. The Abidjan Peace Accord signed on 25 February 1996 between President Tejan Kabbah and the rebel leader Foday Sankoh had as its additional signatories President Konan Bedie of Cote

d'Ivoire, Berhanu Dinka of the UN, Adwoa Coleman of the OAU, and Moses Anafu of the Commonwealth.

Moses had an uncommon gift of being able to capture and render in very readable English prose thoughts given to him for a speech and accordingly, was among the select few of my speech writers during my tenure as Commonwealth Secretary-General. He became such a friend and collaborator that even after my retirement from office in 2000, I called on him in 2002 to accompany me to the University of Cape Coast in Ghana where I gave the three Kwame Nkrumah lectures, and in 2003 to a meeting of the Africa Forum in South Africa (a forum of former African Heads of State and former Secretaries-General of pan-African and global organisations).

Dr Moses Anafu played an outstanding role to the overall contribution of the Commonwealth to conflict resolution and pursuit of democracy and development in several African member countries during the period of his service at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

*My wife and I join Ernestina his widow, their children and the people of his dear Ghana in mourning his passing. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*

- *I am very mindful that later today in London Moses' funeral mass will be celebrated. I cannot tell you just how often in recent days I have thought of Moses and those good days back in IAD - full of hard work, youthful enterprise, fun and adventurous travel, excitement at working for a Commonwealth that was visionary and making a difference; that we were all contributing together to doing something really worthwhile*

But more than that, I have reflected on how much I admired Moses as a person - for his quiet dignity and charm, how proudly he wore his African heritage, the stories of his boyhood in Ghana with his honour for his teachers and leaders, where his talents were clearly recognised early as his Cambridge academic success would later show, his wicked sense of humour; the muted European reflected in his immersion in his Cambridge ways, his classy sense of Italian style and his vast familiarity with western literature. And pervading all of this a natural modesty and humility at ease with all and the world.

I especially admired how greatly his profound knowledge of Africa, its history, culture and politics contributed to our critical work and thinking in ComSec even though, as we all know, he often had to be prodded to bring out his best!! We should be very grateful for Emeka's full and warm tribute to him, and also that of Patsy.

*In July Lynne and I were so glad to have lunch with him in Carmaline's home; it was good to catch up with him and to see him, again fit and well and happy after his accident. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and close friends - and with us all. **Hugh Craft***

Selected links:

[Commonwealth Oral History Project interview with Moses Anafu](#)

[Moses Anafu talks about Mandela. Conference at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies](#)

DR JASBIR SINGH

(1937-2018)

Dr Jasbir Singh served as Chief Programme Officer, Education Programme, Commonwealth Secretariat, from 1990-1997.

- *Colleagues who knew her during her eight-year period of service as Chief Programme Officer with the Commonwealth Secretariat's Education Programme from January 1990 to late 1997 will be deeply saddened to learn of the passing away of Dr Jasbir Kaur Sarjit Singh yesterday, October 11th, in Kuala Lumpur, news of which her close friend and colleague Hena Mukherjee - also at the Secretariat for some of the same period - has kindly conveyed. Jasbir, a Malaysian, was 81 and was suffering from pancreatic cancer. It is comforting to know that her end was peaceful and that her son Suresh was with her (Sarjit, her beloved husband of many years, died several years ago).*

Both in her time at the Secretariat and afterwards Jasbir made an immense contribution to Commonwealth co-operation in higher education, one that was recognised on her retirement by the award by the Association of Commonwealth Universities of its annual Symons Medal in 1998. Succeeding Gail Larose who had returned to Canada Jasbir came to the Secretariat in 1990 from the University of Malaya where she had held senior posts as Dean of Advanced Studies and Professor of Sociological Studies in Education and whence she had already undertaken consultancy work for the Secretariat.

At the time of Jasbir's arrival higher education development and co-operation was a key concern of the Secretariat. The full-cost fees crisis triggered by Margaret Thatcher's Government had prompted the establishment of the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Student Mobility and Higher Education Co-operation, a body of which Jasbir became Co-Secretary with myself. The Committee's work gave rise to the decision by Education Ministers meeting in Barbados in 1990 (11CCEM) to create a Commonwealth Higher Education Support Scheme (CHESS) and Jasbir was at the centre of the work to implement its various manifestations which included (a) promotion of Commonwealth student mobility through the work of the Standing Committee, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and the newly-formed Commonwealth Universities Study Abroad Consortium (CUSAC) (b) a focus on higher education management leading to the establishment in 1994 with CFTC help of the Commonwealth Higher Education Management Service (CHEMS)

directed for a highly productive six years by Dr John Fielden (c) work on making academic journals more accessible and affordable for universities in developing countries and (d) a programme for supporting and advancing the status of women in Commonwealth Universities. This last was delivered in partnership with the ACU and was a cause particularly close to Jasbir's heart, so that after her retirement from ComSec she continued work in the field for a long period as consultant to ACU's gender programme collaborating with Dorothy Garland and preparing reports on the status of women in Commonwealth universities and assisting in training workshops.

Jasbir's responsibilities involved her in regular collaboration with senior leaders in Commonwealth higher education including Sir Roy Marshall, Chair, and members of the Standing Committee; Professor James Downey who presided over the meeting on formation of CHESS, and Sir Alastair McIntyre who chaired the third triennial review of CSFP. At ACU she had particularly close working relationships with Dr Anastasios (Chris) Christodoulou, John Fielden and Dorothy Garland. Her work involved a great deal of travel and as well as the three CCEMs she attended in Barbados (1990) Pakistan (1994) and Botswana (1997) she paid professional visits for the conduct of conferences and workshops to 15 different countries round the Commonwealth - indeed the only time I myself have ever made a complete round the world trip was in her company in search of an accommodation among Commonwealth Governments on student fees and mobility issues.

Jasbir was thus at the centre in what was surely the heyday of Secretariat involvement with higher education development. Diminishing Secretariat resources and global pre-occupation with primary school Education for All (the Jomtien Conference was in 1990 the year Jasbir joined ComSec) resulted in a rather abrupt change of mood in relation to education on the part of the Secretariat. Jasbir and her colleagues were well aware of the way the wind was blowing and she included in her advocacy for higher education a study for the Secretariat emphasising the linkages between levels of education and the dependence of progress in basic school education on a vigorous and healthy higher education system. Nevertheless her own higher education post was discontinued on her retirement. This disappointing decision was clearly no reflection on Jasbir's own productive work. It has never been reversed, but Jasbir may have taken comfort in the last few months of her life by 20CCEM's decision (February 2018) to reinstitute a Commonwealth Education Partnership involving the Secretariat and ACU as two of the leading partners.

Jasbir was an effective, hardworking and highly regarded member of the then-substantial professional Education team at the Secretariat, enjoying the best of relations with her in-house colleagues and always a source of wise counsel. Her extensive professional knowledge of education development issues enabled her to give advice across a wide range of issues not confined to the tertiary sector. She was also well respected in the wider education community beyond the Secretariat. Her previous experience in the UK - she had obtained her original teaching certificate in 1956 at Kirby, one of the colleges set up in the UK to train Malayan

teachers in the 1950s, and had also spent sabbatical time at the Institute of Education in London - brought her many UK connections and friendships. She and Sarjit lived in Hertfordshire during her time at the Secretariat.

This account is understandably Commonwealth-centric and so represents a partial and very inadequate record of Jasbir's overall professional contribution across her lifetime. Her period of service with the Secretariat was a relatively short interlude in a much longer professional career in Malaysia. This included 22 years prior to 1990 as academic and institutional leader at the University of Malaya (from which she obtained her doctorate in 1974), and a further two decades as a national and international consultant (World Bank, ILO etc) frequently in collaboration with Hena Mukherjee, on her return. As late as the eve of her 80th birthday last year she wrote to me asking for suggestions for a lead speaker for a conference she and Hena were organising in KL. She is author of many academic books and papers.

Jasbir will be very sadly missed by family, friends, colleagues and former students in countries across the globe. May she rest in peace. (I am grateful to Dorothy Garland, Stephen Matlin, Hena Mukherjee and Hilary Perraton for information enabling me to prepare this tribute, though they are not in any way responsible for the text).

Peter Williams (Director of Education, 1984-94)

- *I am very sorry to read of Jasbir's death. She made a huge contribution to higher education in the Commonwealth, and Peter's tribute recalls a time when the Commonwealth Secretariat was a significant engine for educational advance among member nations. **Richard Bourne***
- *I knew Jasbir well and we worked together. Her contribution to the Commonwealth Higher Education and to other areas of education were great indeed. As a person she was helpful, kind and hospitable. She was an asset to the Education (HRDD) Department.*

Intelligent, knowledgeable, hardworking, efficient and thoughtful Jasbir was a great loss. Her valuable work at the Secretariat and in her country will not be forgotten by those who knew her. .

*I can still see her smiling face. I grieve for her. I do not know where to send condolences to her family but I shall do so if and when I get to know the link. Jasbir will be sorely missed. This is indeed a sad day to hear such painful news. **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)*