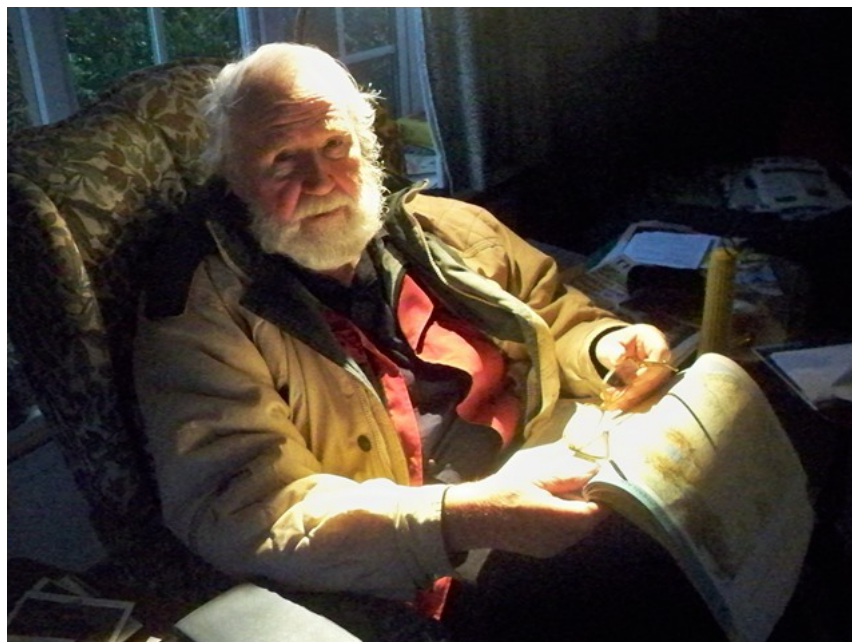


PROFESSOR MIKE FABER

(1929-2015)



Professor Mike Faber was a Secretariat and CFTC 'giant' of the 1970s and beyond. He was a stalwart in the then Technical Assistance Group of the 1970s (which has morphed into the Special Advisory Services Division now) and later was Director at the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex University. Professor Faber kept in touch with Commonwealth matters and in 1994 was commissioned as an independent expert to write a report on the CFTC, 'Do Different' - Report of the Commonwealth 'C' Programmes wholly or partly funded by the CFTC. He was one of the former staffers who joined The Commonwealth Association in its early years.

- *Our condolences to his family. Cheryl Dorall (Former Hon Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)*
- *The passing of Mike Faber is like the ending of an era. He was a jewel in the Secretariat's crown. He was a very special adviser not only to the many Commonwealth Governments the Secretariat helped through CFTC, but also to me personally. I am so glad that I saw and renewed contact with him at the launch of Glimpses of a Global Life last November. He was the first guest to arrive, and we had time to talk. We reminisced then about his giving me the title of my first book - One World to Share. And beyond his closeness to me he was a great Secretariat person contributing greatly to the stature it attained. His services to 'development' were manifold, and his understanding of the plight of small states and of the problems of under-development generally was as passionate as it was intellectual. His was a model of service to the Commonwealth. I join in your condolences to his*

family and ask that they be passed on to them. **Sonny Ramphal** (Sir Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1975-1990)

- *I wonder if I could add my own tribute to Mike Faber. Mike entered academic life after the Commonwealth Secretariat and, as Director of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, added to the lustre brought to it by Dudley Seers and Hans Singer. Mike could rightly claim his place as the third of the three giants of Development Studies - and the IDS was famed both for its analyses of structural conditions of under-development, and for its advocacy of HUMANE ways forward. It was a wonderful combination of rigour and KINDNESS - a combination so lacking in the instrumental world of policy advice from all quarters, including academic quarters. To the outside world, Mike's academic career eclipsed his Secretariat career. He added to the world, and I, as someone who still sits on Boards of the IDS, can say he will be as mourned there as within the Commonwealth association. **Stephen Chan***

- *What sad news! Working with Mike was a great opportunity for many of us in the Commonwealth Secretariat. EAD (Economic Affairs Division) and TAG (Technical Assistance Group) and Mike and I worked together on several projects, including some like assisting Sir Shridath in his work on the Brandt Commission, a major project on the BLS (Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland) as part of the Secretariat's assistance to Southern Africa and as members of a mission to Guyana in the late 1980s to prepare an Economic Recovery Programme. We continued this collaboration after we left the Secretariat when in 1994, he and I jointly headed a major Inter-American Development Socio-Economic Mission to Guyana and worked together on this for many weeks.*

*Mike was an eminent economist and as Stephen Chan mentioned contributed greatly to the high reputation of the IDS of the University of Sussex. He was a great economic analyst and writer and was remarkable in simplifying and make accessible complex issues. Our collaboration extended to many outside the Secretariat and I will be passing on this sad news to those with whom we worked closely. **Vishnu** (Professor Bishnodat Persaud)*

- *I did not know Prof. Mike Faber, but I am very sorry to hear that he passed away. A man with such achievements and talent is a loss for all of us. Please convey my condolences to his family. I hope they can bear their grief with calmness and God's grace. **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)*
- *Indeed a very sad news. I have fond memories of Mike Faber from both IDS and Comsec. I was fortunate for having worked with him both at the IDS and the Secretariat. Professor Faber was a professional Economist, with deep understanding of the economic concepts - both theory and practice as well as understanding of developmental issues. His contribution at the Secretariat and for the wider Commonwealth membership is well known to us all and has been highlighted by colleagues and specially by both SG and Dr Vishnu Persaud. I was*

indeed happy when he joined the Secretariat after IDS, more so as he contacted me prior to actually taking up his position.

*At the IDS I worked with him as part of the Team then known as INTERPAG - International Problem Area Group; along with other well-known Economists including Hans Singer, Robin Murray and Gerry Helliener. Mike always appreciated good work and ideas and credited colleagues for "valuable" contributions - sign of his generosity and integrity. I recall an occasion when he was delivering a Keynote address, I think at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. He sought ideas from colleagues at the IDS. Among others I simply sent him a short sentence to use: "IDS is not only a Research Institution it is a School of Thought - School of Thought on Development Studies". He appreciated and used this quote in his address and credited me for the suggestion. His generosity. We shall all miss him. **Mohinder Puri***

- *The news about Prof Mike Faber's passing is sad. He was a stalwart in the development of the Technical Assistance Group, which I joined when he headed it. He understood professional integrity and freedom. His was an outstanding contribution to CFTC and the Secretariat. I wish his family well in their grieving his loss. **Carl Dundas***
- *I have been slow to offer my tribute to Professor Mike Faber, and I feel badly. I have read these many tributes to his professional work and influence, and enjoyed in particular Sonny's beautifully phrased tribute, which touched also on Mike's qualities as a very human colleague. I won't repeat what I have read. Please excuse the rambling that follows.*

For I want instead to recall moments of joy and companionship. Mike was one of the first friends I made when I went to Southern Rhodesia in March 1957 to help start the Central African Examiner a bi-weekly magazine, and he introduced me to some great people at the university. More than that: his wife Didon was the 'mother hen' of a group of youngish bachelors out from England, and their home was our haven. Mike had already had adventures as a journalist contributing to The Observer from Vietnam and he owned a small Salisbury paper called Rhodesian Woman and Home; and he managed to insert, among all the domestic advice, some progressive political writing -- which no doubt contributed to him and his family being expelled in the rumbling Sixties. (I was less publicly put on Edgar Whitehead's 'black list'.) My future wife Penny had a job selling ads to his paper, and came to know the Indian community quite well.

Through the Fabers we came to meet his friends, Jimmy and Joy Skinner, who lived high on Mlanje Mountain in Malawi, in an exquisite spot called Likabula where Penny and I (and no doubt others) swam and limbed and courted.

Mike wasted no time after his expulsion from Rhodesia, and after 1964 did most valuable work helping Kenneth Kaunda deal skillfully with the two large mining companies. And he worked in Sicily with an inspiring social reformer.

When Penny and I and our four sons were settled in Ottawa, and our twins in high school, Didon and Mike sent Charlotte (one of their twins) to live with us and attend the same school. The year Char spent with us was often hilarious and we've been friends through all her times in Spain and elsewhere. Mike came often to Ottawa, and his broad talents were all in use. He wrote a poem in our community newspaper and knew how to extract porcupine quills from our dog Tuzo's nose... and had wit in abundance: on one return trip from the Pacific he stopped in Ottawa and Penny asked him "And how was Vanuatu?" All he said was: "Keeping a low profile."

*We overlapped at the Secretariat for my two years, which culminated with the Lusaka CHOGM in 1979, a hectic time especially for us in the Information division. While Patsy and Dharani were coping with the Zambian secret police holding up registrations of several well known journalists including Colin Legum, I was trying as spokesman to bestride the three-mile distance between Mulungushi Hall (and all its happenings) and the downtown residence we set up for the press. I had no provision in my budget for transport, but it was Mike that saved me one crucial day. Out of the blue he arrived in a car, saying he had little to do for that day at the conference, and drove me around for hours. Bless him. Char was with him when he died without pain. He deserved every good word you all have written. **Clyde Sanger***

MR JOHN MACPHERSON

(-2015)

Mr John MacPherson served as a senior education professional in the Education Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, from the 1970s onwards.

- *This is sad news indeed. John was an outstanding servant of the Commonwealth and of the Secretariat - a role model for those of us who worked with him of what an international civil servant working in professional fields should be. He was a colleague of total professional and personal integrity who brought extensive practical experience - especially in the field of book development, publishing and libraries - to the Secretariat's Education Division from his lengthy and distinguished earlier service in Jamaica. Our publications programme benefitted over many years from his expertise in this area. He joined the Division at a time when it was heavily engaged in developing and sharing insights into best practice in school level education but demonstrated his versatility as we moved more into policy work and addressing issues of Commonwealth student mobility and higher education co-operation. Not only was he a completely dependable colleague but his friendliness, thoughtfulness for those he worked with and supervised, and his sense of humour put him at the heart of a close team of colleagues in Education at that time and earned him our respect and admiration. He was also of course at the centre of the Christian Fellowship in the Secretariat. He and Pam, who with their children and grandchildren are in our thoughts at this difficult time, were devoted to each other. **Peter Williams**, (Director of Education, 1984-94)*

- *I am impressed by your tribute to John Macpherson. He must have been a truly rare and good human being. You are lucky to have worked with him and the world has lost a great soul. Such people are rare indeed. In today's world we need such persons as they make the world better for us to live and work in. I am sorry I never met him. But your description is so vivid that it seems to me as if I had known him too. You are kind to share your thoughts of John with us. He was certainly a very cultured, civilised and a humane man with true professionalism and wise and understanding heart. I offer his family and friends my deepest condolence at this tragic period. May they have the strength to bear their sorrow with courage. **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)*
- *John MacPherson's passing comes as a deep shock, even though I knew four years ago that he was not well. In the early-mid 80s I had the privilege of working closely with John -- a most helpful, thoughtful and highly professional colleague. He frequently worked late, and many times offered to take on additional tasks large or small, including in our planning for the 1984 Commonwealth Education Ministers meeting in Cyprus. John possessed a cheery disposition, was deservedly very well-liked by all who worked with and knew him, and was notably eloquent and frugal with the English language.*

John's kindness was often evident, eg in giving me photos of us at the regional booklet development training workshop he organized and ran in Honiara. He occasionally mentioned his strong interests in palliative care, and wanting to become an Anglican priest – his third (at least) career.

I last spoke with John in mid July 2005. At the Secretariat's 40th anniversary observance at Marlborough House. Peter Snelson mentioned that John and Service Farrant would shortly be at Peter's residence for lunch. I phoned and spoke with them, finding John like he always was two plus decades before: upbeat, incisive, informative, and most of all caring. Alas, now, all three highly respected colleagues are no longer with us. And deeply missed.

*How I wish I could join many of you at St. John's Parish Church Markyate, and then at Tanglewood, tomorrow. My deepest sympathies to Pam and family. You will be uppermost in my thoughts and prayers from Toronto. **Michael Sinclair***

John contributed his reflections to the Commonwealth Oral History Project at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: [Some personal reflections on working at the Commonwealth Secretariat](#)

MR TONY DONELLAN
(-2015)

Mr Tony Donellan served as chauffer to Commonwealth Secretaries-General and others in the Commonwealth Secretariat.

- *More than a generation of former ComSec staffers will remember Tony's quiet dedication to work, professionalism and cheerfulness. **Cheryl Dorall** (Former Hon Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)*
- *The news of Tony Donellan's death at a relatively young age of 55 is indeed sad news. Tony was an extraordinarily professional chauffeur who served the Secretariat and me with unfailing devotion. I knew that he had not been well for some time but thought that he had recovered ; I therefore received the news with shock. Most regrettably I have commitments in Nigeria and so will miss attending the funeral .My wife joins me in sending our deepest condolence to Dawn and Shannon. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*
- *Sorry to hear this. Please convey my deepest condolence to the family. Such dedication cannot be forgotten. **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)*
- *This is so very sad. I worked with Tony in the Private Offices of Chief Anyaoku and Sir Don McKinnon. He was an exceptional driver and regularly scored full marks on his staff appraisal. He was a dedicated and efficient worker - I never knew him to be late once during his tenure at the Secretariat. Tony was an amiable colleague who kept us in stitches with his Cockney phrases including referring to his wife, Dawn, as "Er indoors" and to a young colleague as "Li'l Legs".*

*I regret very much that absence overseas will prevent me from paying my respects on Thursday. My heart goes out to Dawn and Shannon, to whom I extend my deepest condolences. **Lorna McLaren***

- *I too was very shocked to hear to hear this terrible news. Tony was superb at his job (did he serve three SGs?) He was a man of relatively few words, at least on duty, and often had to do the impossible by taking the Secretary-General to catch a plane through heavy London traffic with far too little time. His knowledge of the route and his skill meant that he never failed (to my knowledge), diving down backstreets and using every second to the maximum, but always safely and seemingly within the law.*

I well remember him at the Edinburgh CHOGM in 1997. David Steel, then the first Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, had invited the SG and around half a dozen Heads of Government to his ancient fortified tower (every Lib Dem should have one..) in his Borders constituency. We were lead there by a police outsider who rode at breakneck speed, followed by Tony in CSG1 whose task was to stick to his tail no matter what. The motorcyclist throughout the route judged perfectly what gaps the following cars could negotiate down little Selkirkshire lanes and expected his judgement to be followed, down to the split second and to the narrowest of inches and at the highest of speeds. Tony, trained to the very highest standard in security and defensive driving, never wavered for a moment. Immaculately dressed, in his grey chauffeur's uniform and gloves, and just a thin bead of sweat emerging from under his cap betraying the intensity of his concentration.

*I was sitting in the front seat and it was a white-knuckle ride I will never forget. In the back, Chief Anyaoku was relatively composed but, on arrival without mishap, Mrs Anyaoku emerged many shades paler and not really feeling like her dinner. A great guy, a true professional and an untimely loss. Half-term commitments will prevent me from going to the funeral but I will be thinking of Dawn and the family at this very sad time. **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*

MS AMITA PATEL

(-2015)

Ms Amita Patel worked in the Secretary-General's Office and other divisions of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

- *Our heartfelt condolences to her family. **Cheryl Dorall** (Former Hon Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)*
- *This is extremely shocking news. Very sad indeed. **Munawwar Alam***
- *Deeply saddened and shocked to hear this news. Amita will be greatly missed. **Rumman Faruqi***
- *I am distressed to hear that Amita Patel passed away when she was making plans to join the Association , attend the AGM and probably had many other plans for the future. I pray for the deceased and her family.*

*I understand she was in her 50s. This is indeed tragic. It reminds us that death is close by and may strike us at any time. I am reminded of the famous lines by the poet John Donne, " Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)*

- *I am deeply shocked and saddened to learn of Amita Patel's sudden passing. She was my secretary in WDP and was a hardworking and dedicated colleague . We had been keeping in touch all these years and her last email to me was just a few weeks ago. We had planned to get together this September when I'm planning another trip to London.*
- *Please convey my deepest condolences to her family. Please let us know the cause of death if and when you receive this information. **Noor Farida Ariffin***
- *I have been saddened by Amita's passing. I will remember her as a very friendly colleague. May her soul rest in peace. May her family be comforted at this very difficult time for them. Adieu Amita! **Beatrice Morgan***

- *Shocked and saddened to hear this. Although we didn't work closely together, when our paths crossed, Amita was always a helpful and friendly colleague with a nice sharp sense of humour. RIP Amita. **Roy Chalmers***
- *Very sad and shocking news. Amita was a very cordial and helpful colleague. Condolences to her family and may her soul rest in peace. **Chris Luswata** (Uganda)*
- *Such tragic news. We will all miss Amita deeply - she was such a lively person and so committed to the Commonwealth. My condolences to her family. With deep sorrow,
Matthew Neuhaus*
- *This is devastating news, which I cannot quite believe. Amita and I were in touch barely a month ago over a new job she was going for and we were planning to meet up for a catch-up. She always seemed in the best of health*

Amita worked with me for many years in the Private Office, following Catherine Sebastian (whose untimely and tragic death shocked all of us last year). Amita was the very best of colleagues - extremely good at what she did; uncomplaining and dedicated; intelligent and informed; loyal and supportive. She was also a really nice person, with a wry sense of humour. The Commonwealth Secretariat at its best.

*I feel for her family and all her friends - and all of us bewildered by this cruel loss.
Stuart Mole (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*

- *Like Stuart, I am devastated and numb with shock. I inherited Amita from Stuart as my Executive Assistant in the SG's Office. I then had the opportunity to work with her again when I moved to the Political Division, notably when she was pressed at short notice into the role of Documents Officer for the 2013 CHOGM in Sri Lanka. She was the epitome of professionalism and competence, a wonderful comrade-in-arms. That we could be robbed of her so early in her life and so suddenly is a cruel blow indeed and very difficult to come to terms with.*

Amita had also emailed me recently, to say that she had returned to work after enjoying several months of being a lady of leisure, and to plan a long-deferred lunch date after a holiday to Barcelona. I understand that it was her travelling companions, who found that she had not turned up at the airport, who raised the alarm, leading to the worst being discovered.

*My heart goes out to her aged parents and to the rest of her family. She leaves behind an army of friends and admirers. May her soul rest in peace and may we all have the strength to accept and reconcile to this tragedy. **Amitav Banerji***

- *This is shattering news. Amita worked with me for a brief period when some secretarial shuffles were taking place. In that short time she showed herself to be a colleague devoted to her work and indeed to the Commonwealth. Her sense of humour was something to be experienced - she could say something with an*

*absolutely straight face and one (well, I certainly) would take more than a moment to realise that there was a piece of sharp wit embedded in her words. It was never abrasive and invariably a laugh would result. It was a privilege knowing Amita and working with her. May she rest in peace. **Raja Gomez***

- *I am saddened to hear of Amita's sudden passing. My prayers are with her family and that she may have a smooth transition from the physical to the spiritual. May her soul rest in eternal peace. **Justina Mutale***
- *I have just read the sad news of the passing of Amita and I am numb with shock! I had the great pleasure of working with Amita while serving as Head of Office of the Deputy Secretary General, Ransford Smith. Amita was an international civil servant of the highest standard and repute who distinguished herself with aplomb. We know that it is the hard work and dedication of the Secretariat's most important asset, its staff, which has allowed it to respond to the challenges facing its member states. Without Amita and her like, we would not have been able to function as well as we did in the DSG's Office and at the Secretariat! She won the confidence and respect of all those that she communicated with and who dealt with her on a day to day basis. She reflected the consensus building nature of the organisation's culture. She was perceptive, insightful and thorough in collecting and marshalling information in an impartial way and letting the facts speak for themselves. She organised our lives and our work and was generous with her time.*

Amita was extremely loyal and exemplified the concept of owing a duty of loyal service to those that she worked for and the organisation that she served. She displayed the highest standard of conduct, was diligent and completely dependable and steeped in the traditions and protocols of the Secretariat. Her loyalty and dedication to her place of work was a great asset for us in the SGO – an asset I am sad to say is increasingly in short supply. She sought to contribute to a wider common good without the benefit of national or political favour and was not wedded first and foremost to national or regional interests.

*Amita gave so much of her time to the Secretariat and it saddens me that her enjoyment of her retirement has been cut so sadly short. She was a kind, generous, humorous and gentle person - a great human being. I have lost a great colleague with whom I shared many a happy time at the Secretariat and who I will always be grateful too. May she rest in peace. **Roy Rodriguez***

- *I am deeply shocked and saddened to read about Amita's passing. May she rest in peace. **William Rezel***
- *How awful. Terrible news. In Addis and just read this. Can't believe it. So sad. **Joel Kibazo***
- *Amita was a wonderfully warm and helpful person. I most vividly remember her bringing Diwali sweets for me and reminding me that I would be entitled to a day*

off... I am deeply saddened by her death and extend condolences to her family and friends. **Nirad Tewarie**

- *Very very sorry, a most friendly and helpful person in every way. Our sympathy to all her friends and extended family.* **Don and Clare** (Sir Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2000-2008)

MR DES BARRY

(-2015)

Mr Des Barry served as Assistant Director (Finance), Commonwealth Secretariat, in the 1980s.

- *Des was a charming person and a splendid colleague .We exchanged Christmas cards every year until this year when I received a copy of his Requiem Mass in celebration of his life .I will be writing to Cathy shortly .If anyone wishes to send their condolences I will be happy to forward them.* **Rickie Sankar**

PROFESSOR ADE ADEFUYE

(1947-2015)



Professor Ade Adefuye served as Head of the Africa Section, Political Affairs Division as well as Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Evaluation Unit between 1994 - 2008, after stints as High Commissioner in Jamaica and Deputy High Commissioner in the UK. He died suddenly in August 2015 while serving as Nigerian Ambassador to Washington DC. On 25 October 2015, at a special service to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN where an address was given by Sir Peter Marshall, there were prayers for Professor Adefuye.

- *The Association sends its condolences to Professor Adefuye's family.* **Cheryl Dorall** (Former Hon Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)
- *This is a shock. Ade was a good friend and mentor.* **Rudo Chitiga**

- *Very sad news. May his soul rest in peace. **Beatrice Morgan***
- *WHAT? This is crazy and too terrible for words. We spoke a few weeks ago and we were to meet next month before he returned to Nigeria. A very good friend to all. **Joel Kibazo***
- *This is a very sad news indeed. I knew him well and at times I spoke to him in Yoruba since I had lived in Nigeria in Yorubaland. He was very friendly. May his soul rest in peace and the family may gather courage to bear the terrible loss. **Ved Goel***
- *MHSRIP. He was such a supportive and nice person. **Gertrude Nkhuwa***
- *Sad news indeed. Please convey my wife Ann's and my condolences to his family. Ade was a colleague and friend throughout my 6 years as Director, PAD and made an extremely valuable contribution to the work of the Secretariat, especially on African affairs but also in the Pacific, during that time. More than that however, he added an always cheerful and positive aspect to the work of the Division, and it is for these qualities that I will remember him. **Jon Sheppard***
- *Very shocking and sad news! There are so many good things to say about Ade! Very sad indeed! Heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.
Chris Luswata (Uganda)*
- *There are no words... Ade was such a wonderful and sincere friend to all. I find it difficult to believe that he is gone, so full of life, love and laughter. His life was an example to many. Gone but never forgotten especially our conversations on his time in Jamaica where he has so many friends. May his soul rest in peace. **Elaine Lowe***
- *I cannot believe what I am seeing on the screen. It is so shocking that it cannot be true. Ade was such a lovely, lovely man. A good man. I am truly heartbroken. Life is truly fragile. **Lorna McLaren***
- *I find it so hard to accept this sad and shocking news. Ade was a great friend and colleague in PAD, and the Commonwealth and Africa owes so much to him and his wisdom. He was a consummate diplomat, with a wonderful personality and a unique and very successful way of operating. He symbolised the best of Nigeria, and was sustained by an inspiring faith and generous good humour. His smile was infectious and his integrity an example to us all.*

His commitment to Commonwealth values was second to none. There are few people who could so easily engage both leaders and their people from the Solomons to Swaziland in seeking to build peace and justice. His good offices work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific was outstanding and leaves a tremendous legacy. We could never have organised the Abuja CHOGM in 2003, and kept the Commonwealth together over Zimbabwe, without him. One of my abiding memories will be of him, in typically good humour, dressed in traditional Swazi dress

at the famous reed dance, going the extra mile to build a crucial relationship with the King!

I had hoped to see far more of him in retirement, after our diplomatic careers in recent years kept us apart. Sadly this is now not to be. Secretaries General, Kings, Presidents past and present and many ordinary people will also mourn his passing and know they have lost a true friend. Our hearts go out to Shola and his whole family at this time. Ade's spirit will be in our hearts always and we pray his soul now enjoys the reward in Heaven of one of God's truly good and faithful servants on earth.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the Sons of God". In memoriam

Matthew Neuhaus, Angela and Georgina

- *I am dumbfounded by the news of the sudden death of Ambassador Ade Adefuye in Washington. Professor Ade Adefuye was an accomplished scholar and diplomat. He brought great intellect and panache to Nigeria's diplomatic representation abroad and reached the apogee of his outstanding service as the country's Ambassador in Washington. Among his latest accomplishments was his brilliant orchestration with the officials of the United States government of the widely acknowledged successful State visit of President Buhari to Washington in July 2015.*

Before his appointment as Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States of America, Professor Ade Adefuye had served as the Nigerian High Commissioner in Jamaica with con-current accreditation to some other Caribbean countries as well as Deputy High Commissioner in the United Kingdom.

Ade Adefuye had also served meritoriously for over eight years in the Commonwealth Secretariat in London where among his other duties he was, on many occasions, an effective emissary to Commonwealth African countries during both my tenure as Secretary-General and that of my successor. He also subsequently served as an officer in the ECOWAS Secretariat.

*Ambassador Ade Adefuye was an outstanding patriot and servant of Nigeria. He will undoubtedly be fondly remembered by many former colleagues and associates in Nigeria and abroad. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*

- *It deeply pained and sharply lacerated my heart to learn of the untimely demise of Professor Ade Adefuye (fondly addressed as "Ade") on 27 September 27 2015. Professor Adefuye's passing away evoked, in my mind's eye, nearly a decade of both colleague-ship and personal interaction that I had with Professor Adefuye at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Professor Adefuye joined SPEU, in the Commonwealth Secretariat, in 1994, at a time and a period when the whole of the Secretariat was busy transiting to find its own level with the concept and practice of formal evaluation of projects. At the heart of the various evaluation seminars at the*

time of Professor Adefuye's arrival was the LOGICAL FRAMEWORK APPROACH in Project Management. Professor Adefuye's arrival in SPEU was quickly felt, as his presence in the midst of project managers in the Secretariat became a-brim with an aura of profound leadership which accompanied the various discourses that took place on the Logical Framework. I am proud to have been part of the numerous project evaluation discourses in which Professor Adefuye's leadership helped shape the consensus that modelled what became the final form of the LOGICAL FRAMEWORK APPROACH. In the realm of Commonwealth Secretariat Staff Association (CSSA) politics during the period 1994-2004 [during which time I served as Chair of the CSSA for more than 50% of the period] I got to know Professor Adefuye as a splendid orator whose stand on a staff issue was always in good faith and without prejudice. I had the pleasure of liaising with Professor Adefuye from time to time on matters pertinent to staff politics.

Professor Adefuye commanded respect among friends and colleagues and he, wittingly or unwittingly, reciprocally respected all. His camaraderie was legion. He was always friendly. He was always supportive. To Professor Adefuye I pay silent homage to a life that was archetypal. My memory of Professor Adefuye projects a cameo of a life that vanished too soon. For the Adefuye family, colleagues and friends, Professor Adefuye's departure endows us, I believe, with musing and dark melancholy, lachrymose and subdued, agony in our countenance. Flowers bud, flourish, wither and fall. Professor Adefuye has not fallen. To us, his physical absence in our midst is an 'aloneness' in the serenity of space and time that separate us. Our trials and tribulations continue as the pains inflicted on us persist – only Time will nourish us with the healing. May the Providence of the Almighty Rest his soul In Peace (RIP).

On a personal note, I am proud to have been introduced by Professor Adefuye to his scholarly work entitled, **Political History of the Palwo, 1400-1911**, by Adefuye, Adebowale Ibadago (1973), Thesis submitted for Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, The University of Ibadan. What is the significance of this? I am a **Lwo/Luuo** by parental ethnicity. President Obama is a **Luuo/Lwo** by paternal ethnicity. The name **Luo/Lwo/Luuo** is used to denote a generic, collective identity of the Nilotic group of people originally found in or in close proximity of, the lacustrine and riverine locations of the Nile Valley, all the way from Egypt to the Source of the Nile. In his scholarly body of work, Adefuye spent an extended period with a 'segment' of the **Lwo/Luuo** known as the **Palwo** in a small part of the Albertine Graben belt of Uganda to research into the political history of the Palwo. The result of Adefuye's research work was to unravel what he termed in literature, "the Palwo Concept of Governance", which during the period 1680 – 1780 was instrumental in the formation of 50-60 independent sovereign states in the area of Uganda that came to be known as ACOLILAND, which is the modern homeland of the **Acoli-Lwo** of Uganda. As if by irony of Fate, I had embarked on a comprehensive project on **The Ethno-History of the Lwo/Luuo: Five Millennia of Existence and Migration - 3000 BCE – 2000 CE** [working title]. Discussing this with Professor Ade in 2003/2004, he encouraged me to go for it "in full", in the same way as Professor **Diop**, Cheikh Anta (1974) in *The African Origin Of Civilisation: Myth or*

Reality? had gone ahead to revolutionise African History. I have accordingly gone ahead “in full”. A profoundly significant hallmark in this body of work is the causal linkage and historicity relating to the ethno-historical Luuo heritage of Barack Obama [in the period circa 1500 – 2000 CE,] who is to date, easily Luuo’s most famous son ever bequeathed to posterity. This scholarly piece of work seeks to respond, in part, to the curiosity expressed by Barack Obama in his book **Dreams from My Father**:

“Along with news of my father, she [my mother] began to stuff me with information about Kenya (...). But nothing my mother told me could relieve my doubts, and I retained little of the information she offered. Only once did she really spark my interest, when she told me that my father’s tribe, the **Luo**, were a Nilotic people who had migrated to Kenya from their original home along the banks of the world’s greatest river. This seemed promising (...). I had visions of ancient Egypt, the great Kingdoms I had read about, pyramids and pharaohs, Nefertiti and Cleopatra”.

“[In a pursuit to find out about my heritage] I went to the public library near our apartment and (...) I found a book on East Africa. Only there was no mention of pyramids. (...) the Luos merited only a short paragraph. Nilote, it turned out, described a number of nomadic tribes that had originated in the Sudan along the White Nile, far south of the Egyptian empires. (...) [I was disappointed!]

In The Ethno-History of the Lwo/Luuo: Five Millennia of Existence and Migration - 3000 BCE – 2000 CE, out of the initial driving force, partly seeded by Professor Adefuye’s scholarly work, I find myself getting closer to realising, *inter alia*, Obama’s expectations, by probing aeons into the past of the **Luo/Lwo**, to bring home in a comprehensive ethno-history of the Nilotic **Luo** the very essence of Obama’s heritage as bequeathed to posterity by his Luuo/Lwo ancestors.

What did Professor Adefuye, President Barack Obama and Dr Rogers Okot-Uma have in common? A common concern and curiosity on the historicity and ethno-history of the Nilotic **Lwo/Luuo**.

As a Last Word, Professor Adefuye was, undoubtedly, a scholar of pedigree and an intellectual of academic standing. His legacy is our inheritance: a common weal for humanity, Africa, the Commonwealth and Nigeria. **Rogers W'O Okot-Uma**

- The Deputy Director of our Central, Equatorial and West Africa Division and I represented NDI at the Celebration of Life for HE Prof Adefuye held this evening at the Nigerian Embassy here in Washington DC.

It was a testimony to our former colleague and friend to many of us, that some 400 people (at least) gathered to fill the Atrium on the ground floor of the Embassy and participate in 2 hours of hymns, readings, tributes and prayers. A further tribute to Ade’s leadership of the Embassy here was that it was a well-run event: started on

time and barely ran 10 minutes over. Some of the loudest 'Amens' and applause rang out when the evening's Pastor spoke about how the Embassy (and its staff) had only become a place that served and welcomed Nigerians after Ade's arrival. Tributes were presented by the Deputy President of the Senate of Nigeria, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and former US Ambassador to Nigeria Robin Renee Saunders. The Board of the Martin Luther King Jr International Service Awards have resolved to dedicate their 25th ceremony in January 2016 to Ade. He had chaired the 2015 function with great aplomb last January - I was present and can attest to its great success. The Diplomatic Corps turned out in force, as did many other DC luminaries.

Shola and the Children were brave and dignified throughout. Not a dry eye in the house when Bunmi addressed the gathering to pay tribute to "the best Dad in the world" on behalf of the siblings. So, the first part of Ade's last journey home is done. **Sandra Pepera**

- *What a wonderful and deserving tribute. Would have loved to have been there.* **Don** (Sir Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2000-2008)
- *I will be with you in spirit on this occasion, and just regret I cannot be with you in person. My prayers are with you and the whole Adefuye family as they remember Ade in this most fitting way. Thank you Sir Peter.* **Matthew Neuhaus**

Selected links:

[4 years after his death, remembering some of Amb Ade Adefuye's iconic moments in pictures](#)

[Outspoken Nigerian Envoy to Washington Dies Suddenly Just days before he was slated to head home, the Nigerian ambassador to Washington died suddenly Thursday.](#)

[OBITUARY: Ade Adefuye, the 'most effective diplomat' who hated to talk about himself by Mayowa Tijani](#)

MS MITE JUDY KAPIJIMPANGA

(-2015)

Ms Mite Judy Kapijimpanga worked in the Education Division from 1990 to 1993.

- *Our condolences to her family on their loss.* **Cheryl Dorall** (Former Hon Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)
- *Very sad to learn about the death of one of the colleagues from education fraternity. I join you all to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mite. May his soul stay in perfect peace. Amen.* **Ved Goel**

- *Very sorry to hear that Mite Kapijimpanga passed away. I did not know her but I find she was in the Education Department. My profound condolences to her family at this tragedy. There seems to be a series of deaths of former colleagues, both known and unknown, at a relatively early old age. This is unnerving but may the families bear their losses with fortitude. **Selina Mohsin (Bangladesh)***

DR RASHMIKANT RUPARELIA

(1945-2015)

Dr Rashmikant Ruparelia worked in the Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat.

- The Association send its condolences to his family for its loss. **Cheryl Dorall** (Former Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)
- Rashmi was a veteran member of the Economic Affairs Division's Statistics Unit for many years where he contributed to several statistical publications on commodities. After the Unit was restructured, he worked with me in the Division's Environment Unit and was also a major contributor to the Division's bulletin on Small States. He was a wonderful colleague, a conscientious worker, modest and soft-spoken. He was well-liked by all his colleagues and was always willing to take on any tasks assigned to him with a warm smile. May his gentle soul rest in peace. **Chandrashekhar Krishnan (aka Chandu Krishnan)**
-

MR MICHAEL DAVENPORT

(- 2015)

Mr Michael Davenport worked in the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

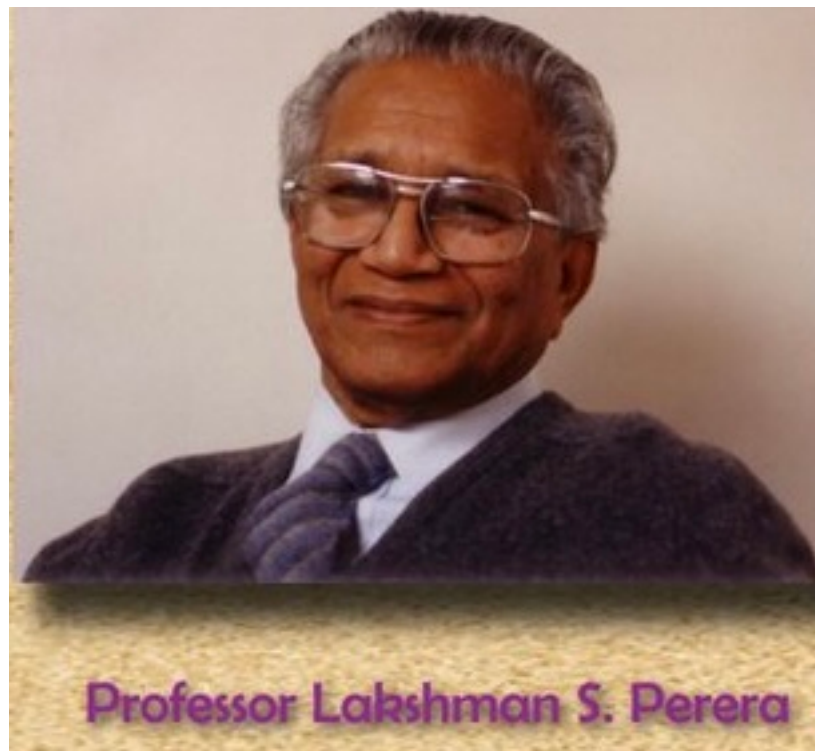
- *I am sad to have to let you know that Michael Davenport, who worked for a number of years in EAD and was an expert on international trade issues, passed away in his sleep on 30 November. He was suffering from motor neurone disease, which progressively got worse. **Amitav Banerji***
- *I too was very saddened to read of the death of Michael Davenport. Although I had left EAD (and the Secretariat) before Michael joined, I was well aware of his competence as an economist with deep knowledge of international trade issues. Indeed during my time at EAD he had produced several excellent papers for us as a consultant. Doubtless he will be deeply missed inside and outside his family. **Ian Thomas***
- *I was fortunate to have known Michael as we served together as trustees of the charity, Bridge of Hope (www.bridge-hope.org). I admired and liked him very much.*

He was a really lovely man and I will miss him very much indeed. I will be attending the funeral **Bob Newell**.

- *I too got to know Michael well in recent years, and liked him very much indeed. Though we did not overlap at the Secretariat we have been part of the same French conversation group for several years. A lovely and courageous man. I will be attending the memorial.* **Antony Ellman**

DR LAKSHMAN PERERA

(-2015)



Dr Lakshman Perera worked as an Senior Education Officer in the Education Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, in the 1970s.

- *Probably only a few of us remember him in his working life. He was with ComSec even before my time there though I knew him reasonably well from previous contacts and because he was involved for a long period with the Council for Education in the Commonwealth. Several of you will remember that he came with Marlene for a brief period to the lunch we had in Marlborough House a couple of years back.*

Prior to joining ComSec, he had had a distinguished academic career as a historian

*and academic administrator at the University of Ceylon before coming to ComSec where his remit focused on higher education. I believe he served with the Education Division from about 1973 to 1983, which includes the period of 8CEC (CEM) in Colombo in 1980. **Peter Williams***

- *Sad news about Lakshman. A gentle and good man; a loyal and supportive colleague. A scholar. **Steve Packer***
- *Very sad to hear of Lakshman's death. I did not know him in Sri Lanka but we became good friends at the Secretariat - as Steve has said, a gentle and good man, a scholar. All who knew Lakshman will miss him. **Raja Gomez***
- *I had not worked with Lakshman in the Education section but had interactions with him through CEC and was with him in the lunch which Peter has talked about. Indeed he was a kind soft spoken and gentleman. His loss is a shock. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and pray for his soul to find peace. **Ved Goel***
- *I am so sorry to hear that Lakshman has passed away. He was such a sweet person, so unassuming and caring - a wonderful role model for the Commonwealth. I was proud to have been one of his higher education successors in the Education Division. My sincere condolences to his family. **Gail Larose***
- *Very sad news indeed. Lakshman was a great source of knowledge, information, insight and wisdom to me when I joined the Education Division in early 1982. He had been Acting Assistant Director, and was always enormously helpful during the limited time we worked together.*

Fortunately, I shall always cherish my long conversation with Lakshman and Marlene in April 2009, over tea at the President Hotel in London. Again, I was impressed with his graceful manner, and kindness (a box of Ceylon Tea).

Peter refers to his pre ComSec career as an historian, and Steve as a scholar. The extent of his scholarly contributions, and recognition, is perhaps not well known among his Commonwealth friends.*

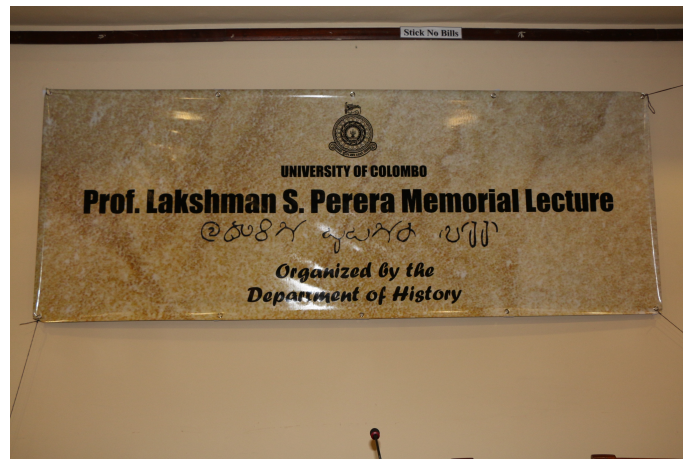
During this time of grief, we can take comfort in having known Lakshman, and that he was widely respected, and very well liked, as a colleague and friend.

Michael Sinclair

- *I am so sorry to hear of Lakshman's death . We worked together years ago and he and his wife Marlene were lovely, always gentle, courteous and supportive of colleagues in the Secretariat . Lakshman was an early member of our Association and always expressed his appreciation of the relationships which the CA helped to maintain and foster with his former colleagues. He will be missed and I hope that Marlene will take some comfort in knowing that he was loved and respected by so many of us. **Patsy Robertson** (Chair, The Commonwealth*

Association, 2001-2020)

- *Very sorry to hear of Dr Perera's demise. He was a very sweet and gentle intellectual who will be missed. My heartfelt condolences to his wife and family.* **Shobhna Rattansi**



Selected links:

[Surfacing of Sri Lanka history after five decades](#)

[Tribute by Dr Tilak S, Fernando on Lankaweb, 2015](#)