

Mr Clive Jordan

(1939-2026)

Mr Clive Jordan worked as Assistant Director in the Information Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat from the late 1980s to early 1990s.

- I'm sorry to have to tell you that Clive Jordan died on 28 January. I don't have any other details. If anyone does and wishes to pass them on, please let me know.
David Blake
- Sorry to hear about Clive passing. My condolences to the family. **Rickie Sankar**
- I'm sorry to read this and hope you will pass on the Association's condolences. He was a good friend of the late Peter Lyon. **Richard Bourne**
- I knew Clive well when he worked on Sony Ramphal's Commonwealth speeches and also supported him in his work on the Brandt Commission and other similar work. Sadly I lost touch with him after he left the Secretariat, but he was a wonderful man and great to chat with on a variety of international issues. Please pass on my heartfelt commiserations if you do find any family contact. Sadly I do not have any information in that regard. **Mark Robinson**
- I am saddened to hear that Clive passed away. I got to know him well when I was Senior Executive Secretary to Sir Shridath Ramphal. He was an excellent speechwriter and his speeches were well researched. He quoted Rabindranath Tagore in the SG's speeches.

We both lived in Islington where he and his delightful partner had an enviable flat in Camden Passage. He had expert knowledge of antique and tribal jewellery and on many weekends my partner and I would stop by their antique stall in the Passage. He was a true professional and an amiable colleague. With deepest condolences to his family and friends. **Lorna McLaren**

- I too am sorry to read about Clive. He was a good colleague and I am sure he would not mind my pointing out that it was I who introduced the Tagore quote into the SG's speech at the Delhi Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. **George Dickson**
- I am very sorry to hear of Clive's passing away. While my work in the Secretariat did not bring me into regular contact with Clive, I found that Peter Lyon and Clive and I had many areas of common interest. We had many enjoyable lunches and teas discussing everything that was wrong with the world (especially the non-Commonwealth world!). My sympathies to the family. May Clive rest in peace. **Raja Gomez**

- I too was very sorry to read of Clive's passing. Though we were never in the same Division of ComSec, Clive and I worked closely together drafting the records of Heads of Government and other Ministerial Meetings during the 1980s and into the early 1990s. I always found him a most friendly and helpful colleague. May his soul Rest in Peace. **Ian Thomas**
- I was very sorry to hear of Clive's death, though we had heard that he was too unwell to attend Sonny Ramphal's memorial service last July.

He was already well established in the Secretariat by the time I arrived in 1984. I remember him as an accomplished wordsmith, working in the Information & Public Affairs Division on many publications, though he also worked on documents and records for the International Affairs Division. In particular, I remember him as a core part of the Secretary-General's speech-writing team, and he was much valued by Sonny Ramphal for his writing ability. He was an easy person to work with - erudite and cultured, and conscientious and creative in his writing, with a fine attention to detail. All this could have been expected of a former BBC broadcaster, but he also had an easy manner and a dry wit and was good company.

South Africa was of course a constant preoccupation at that time. He worked with Patsy Robertson, his Director, on the Commonwealth initiative (in concert with the UN) to counter apartheid propaganda and he also played a special role in the extraordinary Secretariat effort to write and produce the report of the mission to South Africa of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, of 1986. This group was given the improbable task of negotiating an end to apartheid and, after extensive talks with all parties over many months, the apartheid regime made it clear that it was not ready to countenance change.

The next phase, after the group's return, was for the speedy production of its report, with its recommendations on what measures were now necessary to compel the South African government to change. An agreement was already in place for the report to be published as a Penguin Special, and a writing group under the direction of Moni Malhoutra worked through the night on the draft report, which was approved by the SG and the EPG, in formal session, in double-quick time. Following final amendment, the report arrived at the Penguin editor on the morning of 9 June. Clive, who had not been part of the writing group, was the Secretariat's key liaison point with Penguin throughout the production process, working with the publisher on typesetting, proof reading, illustrations and cover, and the printing and binding process. Finished copies left the printer in Suffolk first thing on Thursday 12 June for its noon launch at Marlborough House. It was in bookshops the same day, and rapidly became a best-seller, supplanting "The Hunt for Red October" in popularity. It was reputedly the fastest book ever published and John Mortimer described it as 'a miracle of publishing at the moment of truth'. In all, 80,000 copies were printed, being translated into a variety of languages. More to the point, it was highly influential in the campaign for economic and financial sanctions against South Africa, including in the USA.

My apologies for writing at length but I hope the above illustrates that Clive, like so many of his Secretariat colleagues, played a vital part, at a crucial point, in the making of the Commonwealth's history. I am sure he will be remembered with affection and gratitude.

Our thoughts will be with his long-term partner, Susie, and his wider family. **Stuart Mole**

- I am also sorry to hear about Clive's passing. I enjoyed his company a lot. **Chris Bowman**

Professor Reg Austin

(1935-2026)



Professor Reg Austin

Professor Reg Austin served as Director of Legal Division from 1993-98.

- I'm sorry to hear of Reg Austin's passing. He was head of the Legal Division when I joined the Secretariat in 1996. He was certainly a fount of knowledge on Zimbabwe and southern Africa, and had an outstanding career as an international champion of human rights. **Jon Sheppard**
- A great Zimbabwean, and advocate for human rights. **Richard Bourne**

Selected Links

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/thestandard/standard-people/article/200054564/professor-reg-austin-the-best-of-the-best-by-a-mile>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/08/reg-austin-obituary>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2026/05/15/reg-austin-un-commonwealth-lawyer-rhodesia-ian-smith-zapu/>

Mr Peter Unwin

(1932-2026)

Mr Peter Unwin served as Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat from 1989-1993.

Selected links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/feb/09/peter-unwin-obituary>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2026/02/16/peter-unwin-ambassador-hungary-oversaw-thatcher-visit/>

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/obituaries/article/peter-unwin-obituary-distinguished-diplomat-and-writer-r70t2jvlt>

<https://oa.churchillarchives.libnova.com/view/1793>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Unwin

Ms Rosemary Minto

(1942-2026)



Rosemary with her husband Shekhar

Ms Rosemary Minto joined the Commonwealth Economic Committee in 1963 and worked at the Commonwealth Secretariat from 1966-2002. She was Chief Economics Officer, Economic Affairs Division (EAD) and then Chief Programme Coordinator in the Technical Assistance Group (TAG - later known as Economic and Legal Advisory Services Division (ELASD) and Special Advisory Services Division). Rosemary also served as a Trustee of the Commonwealth Secretariat Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1979) from 2008-2026.

- I am very sad to inform that Rosemary Minto, who worked in the Economic Affairs Division and then TAG/ELASD/SASD of the Secretariat, passed away this morning. **Shobhna Rattansi**
- That is terrible news. I first knew Rosemary in 1963 when she joined the Raw Materials Section of the Commonwealth Economic Committee - the forerunner on the economic side of the Commonwealth Secretariat which she, I and others joined in 1966. I have known her ever since, though not closely after my retirement in 1996. Within those thirty years Rosemary worked hard and productively in a variety of very different spheres, ranging from meat and dairy products to monetary and financial matters in the Economic Affairs Division, and to various aspects of the Programme Coordination work of CFTC. After her retirement she involved herself in a capacity concerned with the financial wellbeing of ComSec pensioners. I shall miss Rosemary greatly, as I'm sure many others will too. **Ian Thomas**
- Very sad news. Thank you for sharing. Rosemary was a helpful TAG/ELAS colleague for many years and more latterly a member of our ComSec pension board. I recall how she and Sundar worked together very productively. **Roger Nellist**
- So very sorry to hear of Rosemary's passing. She was a friendly and pleasant colleague to staff members outside her Division and always had a big smile. **Cheryl Dorall**
- This is such sad news. I did not know Rosemary well. We engaged professionally when we're were both on CFMM staff teams in far flung places and socially at the legendary EAD Christmas parties. She was always friendly and pleasant. The last time we spoke was some three years ago at a CA event at Marlborough House. We exchanged pleasantries and she appeared to be happy and well. This news of her passing is quite a shock. With deepest condolences to her family and friends. **Lorna McLaren**
- I visited Rosemary in hospital and she was absolutely with it but very, very frail. It is so sad. Take care everyone, **Mary Mackie**
- I am very upset and sad at this news. I worked very closely with Rosemary Minto for many years in EAD and she once comforted and looked after me when I was ill at work. Please let me know if there is any funeral I might be able to attend for her. **Annie Carlton**
- Very sad news. Rosemary was a great colleague over several years. We were in the International Finance and Capital Markets section of EAD. Did many FMMs. We persuaded KBK to become a member of RAC club (we paid the membership fee) and then used his spouse card to swim in their lovely pool! We used to tease KBK about his having two wives. So many wonderful memories. Once she moved to TAG we lost touch. **Bishakha Mukherjee**
- Rosemary was a good friend and colleague, and as Cheryl says always a smile on her face, despite losing her partner Shekhar last year and finding it quite difficult to settle the children whom she and Shekhar adopted when Rosemary retired from Comsec. But she

achieved that goal, and did many other good things in her life. I shall miss her. **Antony Ellman**

- Lovely lady. May she rest in peace. **Rickie Sankar**
- Like many others, I too was very saddened to learn of the passing of Rosemary Minto. I knew Rosemary quite well during my time at the Commonwealth Secretariat and remember her as a warm and highly respected colleague. Rosemary was indeed a valued and supportive colleague, and it has been heartening to learn a little more from these exchanges about her later years and the memories she left with so many of us.

Please convey my sincere condolences to Rosemary's family, friends, and former colleagues during this difficult time. I am sure the Association will extend the sympathies of all members to her loved ones. May she rest in peace. **Marlon Lezama**

- I too remember Rosemary very well and she was a very helpful colleague around Staff Association issues. Time has moved on - it's now longer since I left ComSec (2000) than the period I was there. But Rosemary's personality is still a bright memory. I'm glad to have picked up from these messages something of her recent years. RIP. **Chris Bowman**
- I met Rosemary when I joined TAG in the mid-80s and she was a great help in helping with settling into the job as she knew ComSec so well.

She then became a close friend and we have been in close touch ever since. We went to India with her and Shekhar, spent many holidays together with them and later their children. When their daughter gave birth to a boy 11 years ago, Lucas became the light of their later years and they took him everywhere including to visit us in Italy.

She was devastated when Shekhar died last year as she was already ill herself and it was not easy but, as always, she faced it with her stoicism and her wry smile. I will miss her terribly.

I will make sure all your wonderful messages reach her family and will pass on funeral details when we have arranged it. **Anne McGlone**

- May Rosemary's soul rest in perfect peace. She was great as a colleague. Pleasant disposition always. **Kofi Date-Bah**
- I never knew Rosemary - though I may well have attended CA events at MH with her over the years - many of these messages have affected me deeply. Only this week I have been finalising and submitting my Chapter on the Imperial and Commonwealth Economic Committee (CEC), 1925–1966 for my PhD at ICWS being supervised by Professor Philip Murphy on Commonwealth Trade 1926-2015. While I have drawn on largely overlooked reports at the National Archives and elsewhere, CA members' moving and personal memories of Rosemary Minto, her work in the final years of the CEC and then over a long career at ComSec, provide a rich testament and evidence base for the importance and enduring impact of this work not least as another CHOGM beckons.

If possible, I would like to capture this in a paragraph or two in my final chapter, which I would also like to dedicate to Rosemary's memory and all those who worked for the Commonwealth Economic Committee. As a preliminary step and to ensure this aligns with the University of London research ethics requirements, I will informally discuss this with Philip first when we meet to review this chapter.

Thank you to the many who have shone a light on Rosemary for those less familiar. May she rest in peace. **Arif Zaman**

- Thank you for an update about dear Rosmary's funeral. Please send everybody my good wishes for a respectful day. May Rosmary rest in peace and my condolences to her family. **Martin Smith**
- I had the privilege of working with Rosemary for several years at the Commonwealth Secretariat and I came to value her not only as a colleague but also as a friend.

Rosemary was exceptionally efficient in her work, always ready to help, and a calm, steady voice of reason in an often hectic environment. She will be remembered as kind, compassionate, and deeply considerate. Rosemary had a natural ability to listen and to offer guidance and support to those around her.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all who are mourning her loss. She will be remembered with respect and affection. **José Maurel** (from Mauritius)

- I'm very sorry to hear about Rosemary's death. I worked in ELAS in the 80s and Rosemary Minto was one of my line managers. She was a quiet and dedicated worker, very kind and thoughtful and never gave me a bad appraisal throughout the time I worked with her. Furthermore, she would always give me a Christmas present at Christmas time. May her gentle soul rest in peace. My sincere condolences to Anne and Rosemary's family. **Isatu Tholley**

MESSAGES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT PENSION BOARD TRUSTEES AND SECRETARY

- May Almighty God Rest Her Soul in Peace. A dear friend has left us for heavens - all that remains with us is the fond memories. Amen. If we are allowed to attend the funeral, then I would like to put my name forward to paying my deep respects. I propose that as a mark of respect, as Trustees we contribute to her chosen charity. **M Jasimuddin**
- On behalf of First Actuarial, our condolences to her family and loved ones. Rosemary was a joy to work with, and we are honoured to have received the pleasure of her company. **Sarah Allison**
- This is very sad news. My sympathies and thoughts are with her family. **Kimberly Cliff**

- Condolences to the family and to all the friends and colleagues. A sad day and may she rest in peace. **Alia Zafar**
- Sad to hear Rosemary passed away. I would like to go to her funeral. **Elvis Gannon**

Dr Amrit Sarup

(1926-2026)



Dr Amrit Sarup worked as Chief Legal Officer and Editor of the Commonwealth Law Bulletin, Legal Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, from the 1970s-1980s.

- I knew Dr Sarup very well during my days at the Secretariat. I recall her working on Roots with great enthusiasm. My condolences to the family. **Rickie Sankar**
- As one of the few remaining former Comsec staff members who Deepak Sarup says knew his mother, I was deeply saddened to hear of Dr Amrit Sarup's passing.
- Although we worked in different divisions - Amrit in Legal, I in Information - we got to know each other well, partly because we were both Indian. She was a charming lady who always had a friendly word with you and will be much missed.

I send my deepest condolences to Deepak, his sister and the rest of their family at Amrit's passing. May she rest in peace. **Asif Khan** (Information Division 1978 -1997)

Selected links:

<https://www.thecommonwealth-ilibrary.org/index.php/comsec/catalog/download/1019/1015/8855?inline=1>

https://assets.cambridge.org/97805214/64338/frontmatter/9780521464338_frontmatter.pdf

Mr Paul Vishnu Kowlessar

(-2026)

Mr Paul Kowlessar worked as Finance Officer in the Finance Department of the Administration Division, Commonwealth Secretariat. He dealt with matters related to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

Paul Kowlessar was a colleague in Finance Department and a friend of mine. My sincere condolences go out to the family, relatives and friends. He shall surely be missed.

Anne Ogola