

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
at the 578th MEETING of the
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

held at

2 MARLOW ROAD MAIDENHEAD

on

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1989

Present:

GENERAL SIR ROBERT FORD GCB CBE
(Vice-Chairman of the Commission) - in the Chair

HIS EXCELLENCY THE HON DOUGLAS McCLELLAND AC
High Commissioner for Australia

CAPTAIN SIR MILES WINGATE KCVO

MAJOR GENERAL DESMOND SMITH CBE DSO CD

THE RT HON J D CONCANNON

SIR DEREK DAY KCMG

SIR NIGEL MOBBS DL

MR R L L FACER
Representing the Secretary of State for Defence in the
United Kingdom

MR R G S JOHNSTON
Representing the Secretary of State for the Environment in the
United Kingdom

MR L MADER
Representing the High Commissioner for Canada

BRIGADIER H M KHANNA
Representing the High Commissioner for the Republic of India

BRIGADIER R J ANDREWS CBE
Representing the High Commissioner for New Zealand

MR J G WILLIAMS
Representing the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

ADVISER

PROFESSOR G T PRANCE MA DPhil FLS
Honorary Botanical Adviser

SECRETARY

SIR ARTHUR HOCKADAY KCB CMG, Director-General

Also in attendance:

MR P S BLUNDEN FCA)

MR M HEDGES ACA) Representing Messrs Deloitte, Haskins and Sells

MR J SAYNOR JP, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Director-General
(Operations)

MR D KENNEDY, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Director-General
(Administration)

MR N B OSBORN OBE FRICS, Director of Works

MR G C REDDIE, Legal Adviser and Solicitor

MR T F PENFOLD, Director of Personnel

MR P J NOAKES BSc MIHort, Director of Horticulture

MR R D WILSON ACMA, Director of Finance

MR J P D GEE, Director of Information and Secretariat

MR S T BELL, Secretariat

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported from Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, Dame Janet Fookes, Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt and Professor Sir Peter Shephard.

WELCOME

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Professor Prance to his first meeting of the Commission since his appointment as its Honorary Botanical Adviser in June; Mr Mader and Mr Williams, who were for the first time representing, respectively, the Canadian High Commissioner and the South African Ambassador at a meeting of the Commission; Mr Blunden and Mr Hedges, who were representing Messrs Deloitte, Haskins and Sells at a meeting for the first time; and Mr Gee, who was attending a meeting in his capacity as Director of Information and Secretariat for the first time.

AWARDS

The CHAIRMAN reported that Captain M J du Preez, who had retired as Secretary of the Commission's South African Agency in 1988, had been appointed an Officer of the Order of the Star of South Africa (Non-Military) for his work in the South African government's share of the Commission's task.

APPOINTMENTS

The CHAIRMAN reported that since the last meeting of the Commission the Rt Hon Tom King had succeeded the Rt Hon George Younger as Secretary of State for Defence in the United Kingdom, and therefore as the Commission's Chairman, and that the Rt Hon Christopher Patten had succeeded the Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley as Secretary of State for the Environment in the United Kingdom, and therefore as an official Commissioner.

DEATHS

The CHAIRMAN reported the death on 7 April of Dr Hasso von Etzdorf, German Ambassador in London from 1961 to 1965 and a member of the Commission's Commonwealth-German-French Joint Committee while in that post; and the death on 6 July of Mr H Delbecque, a locally-engaged member of the Messines Mobile Group who had joined the Commission's staff in 1978.

The meeting stood in silence in their memory.

578.1 MINUTES OF THE 577TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

578.1.1 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

578.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 577TH MEETING

The Finance Committee

578.2.1 The CHAIRMAN reported that the Finance Committee was to be convened on 31 October next when, in accordance with the decision of the last meeting, it would be examining the corporate plan and estimates of expenditure before these were laid before the Commission in full session in December.

Commonwealth-Tunisia War Graves Agreement

578.2.2 Mr KENNEDY said that during his visit to Tunisia the previous week meetings had been arranged in Tunis with representatives of government ministries, at which he was able to accompany the British Ambassador. A recent draft of the proposed War Graves Agreement served as a basis for discussion, and a most constructive meeting had resulted in agreement in principle on a French text. It had not been possible to achieve ideal provisions for the Commission in every respect, but the Ambassador and he believed that the outcome was entirely acceptable. The Tunisian government would now send the agreed French text to the British Ambassador who, in turn, would pass an English version to the Commission, while an Arabic version would be agreed locally between the British Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission would then seek the formal agreement of its member governments and invite them to issue appropriate powers to their local heads of mission. If such action could be taken quickly, and before the present opportunity was lost, it should be possible to finalise the long-awaited War Graves Agreement fairly soon. While in Tunisia, he had also called on the Canadian and Indian Ambassadors to inform them of these developments.

578.2.3 In the context of the proposed Agreement, Mr KENNEDY further spoke of his visit, while in Tunisia, to Sfax War Cemetery where construction of a service road for a neighbouring industrial site was likely to encroach upon the small Indian plot close to the main war cemetery. After inspecting the problem on the ground and discussing it with the Honorary British Consul in Sfax and, later, with the Indian Ambassador in Tunis, he saw three possible outcomes. The ideal situation would be a realignment of the road and wall to avoid the plot altogether, in which case no action by the Commission would be necessary. If this were not possible, the twenty graves under immediate threat could be transferred further back within the same plot. As a third possibility, however, all of the 53 graves in the plot, which was already surrounded by unmaintained and rather derelict land belonging to the French cemetery, could be moved into the main war cemetery some 90 metres away, thereby avoiding the possibility of further disturbance in the future. Further discussions were to take place between the Commission's staff and the municipal authorities in some three weeks' time. He hoped to report further on this matter at the next meeting of the Commission.

Conclusion

578.2.4 **The Commission took note of these reports.**

578.3. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMISSION 1988-89

578.3.1 The CHAIRMAN said that the draft Report had been circulated to Commissioners and he thanked them for their comments, of which note had been taken in the final version. Mr SAYNOR added that there had been no changes of significance and the text had now been passed to the printers.

578.3.2 Mr KENNEDY introduced the Commission's Accounts for 1988-89. Although total net expenditure for that year was some £500,000 higher than the 1987-88 out-turn, staff costs were some £300,000 lower, the result largely of a failure to fill all posts all through the year. These savings however were offset by increases of some £300,000 in travelling and administrative costs, largely the result of advanced purchase of vehicles, further construction of base site accommodation for gardening groups, and the extension of computerisation. Structural costs had also risen by some £280,000, reflecting a catching-up of slippage, mainly in contract work, from previous years. A comparison of funding over the two years showed that the increased expenditure in 1988-89 had been offset to some extent by some £130,000 more in income from the Endowment Fund and from other investments, and the surplus balance brought forward from the previous year had been higher than anticipated.

578.3.3 A comparison of the 1988-89 out-turn with the estimate showed an underspend of some £200,000 or of just over 1%. An underspend of almost £500,000 on staff costs, and some gains in rates of exchange, were largely offset by bringing forward expenditure on replacement vehicles and by increased expenditure on horticultural equipment. Concerning funding, income from investments had exceeded the estimate by some £150,000 and had reduced the requirement accordingly, and an unexpended balance of around £350,000, in addition to the working balance of £600,000, had been brought forward into the current financial year.

578.3.4 Mr BLUNDEN, invited to comment, said that the audit procedure had presented fewer problems than in the previous year, a consequence both of a general improvement in the Commission's standards of accounting and of the evolution of a more practical method of auditing on the part of Messrs Deloitte, Haskins and Sells.

578.3.5 The Commission approved the 1988-89 Annual Report and authorised signature of the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1989.

578.3.6 The Statement of Accounts was then signed by General Sir Robert FORD and Captain Sir Miles WINGATE, and the auditors' certificates were completed by Mr BLUNDEN on behalf of Messrs Deloitte, Haskins and Sells. The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr Blunden and Mr Hedges for their services in auditing the accounts of the Commission, of the Imperial War Graves Endowment Fund attached to the paper under this item, and of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Superannuation Scheme (1952) to be raised separately under the succeeding item. Mr Blunden and Mr Hedges accepted the Chairman's invitation to remain as observers for the remainder of the meeting.

578.4 COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (1952) - ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1988-89

578.4.1 The Commission took note of the Annual Report of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Superannuation Scheme (1952), incorporating the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1989, which had been adopted by the Trustees at their meeting on 6 September 1989.

578.5 COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (1952): TRUSTEES' POWERS OF INVESTMENT - MODIFICATION OF TRUST DEED

578.5.1 Introducing the paper, Mr REDDIE said that its principal proposals were to move from a book value to a market value assessment of the Scheme's investments, in order to remove the restraints imposed by the former upon day to day normal dealings, and to divide the categories of investments more positively in order to provide a prospect of better overall performance without jeopardising the security of the fund as a whole. At the same time the opportunity had been taken both to simplify the language of Clause 9 of the Trust Deed, and to recognise that the investment advisers rather than the Trustees select investments on a day to day basis. Sir Nigel MOBBS, Chairman of the Trustees, commented that the proposals brought the management of the fund more into line with modern methods. He further suggested, and it was agreed, that the word "professional" in paragraph (C) of Clause 9 should be replaced by a formula which would give greater protection, perhaps by reference to the Financial Services Act 1986.

578.5.2 Replying to Brigadier KHANNA, who asked whether the fund's performance would have been significantly better today if these proposals had been implemented earlier, the SECRETARY said that the investment advisers had from time to time felt constrained by the calculation of the 25% capital conservation element of the fund in terms of 25% of book value and that occasionally an opportunity to invest in equities had been lost; such changes would nevertheless have had an incremental rather than a dramatic effect upon performance over the years, since the amounts involved were relatively small. In a further reply to Brigadier KHANNA, the SECRETARY confirmed that, while the fund's assets did not belong to the Commission and therefore did not directly affect the contributions of its member governments, improvement in performance could, if sufficiently large and maintained for sufficiently long, permit a reduction in the Commission's contributions. In reply to Sir Derek DAY, Mr REDDIE confirmed that the performance of the investment advisers was reviewed periodically by the Trustees.

578.5.3. The Commission signified approval in principle of the proposals contained in paper CWGC 578.5 and of the form of wording, subject to the amendment suggested by Sir Nigel Mobbs and to any requirement of the Superannuation Funds Office or the Occupational Pensions Board.

578.6 COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION SUPERANNUATION SCHEME (1952): APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE

578.6.1 Introducing the paper, the SECRETARY said that the four Trustees of the Scheme comprised two Commissioners and two members of the Scheme, one of whom was himself. All of the Trustees acted collegially, not as representatives of constituencies; nevertheless his own role might be seen from outside as primarily belonging to the Commission's management rather than to the membership of the Scheme. Indeed, when matters of concern both to the Trustees and to the Commission were under consideration, it was not always easy to distinguish precisely between his roles as a Trustee and as chief executive of the Commission. He had therefore come to decide, with the full agreement of his designated successor, that even though the Director-General was a member he should not be a Trustee of the Scheme. For some time also he had considered it appropriate that a Trustee should be drawn from the ranks of the beneficiaries, on pension, who had the most immediate interest in the Scheme, as well as from the contributing members. A very suitable candidate for this position was Mr P R Matthew, who had retired as Deputy Director-General three years previously and who at an earlier stage had been Solicitor to the Trustees. He, the Secretary, was sure that Mr Matthew would enjoy the confidence of both pensioners and contributing members. The CHAIRMAN added that this proposal had been discussed extensively at the last meeting of the Trustees, of whom he was one, and he endorsed the Secretary's comments.

578.6.2 The Commission:

a. on the resignation of Sir Arthur Hockaday KCB CMG as a Trustee of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Superannuation Scheme (1952), recorded its appreciation of the service he had rendered in that capacity since 1982.

b. approved the principle that in future one Trustee should be appointed from among those former members in receipt of retirement benefits from the Scheme.

c. approved the appointment for a period of three years of Mr Philip Reynolds Matthew CBE as a Trustee of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Superannuation Scheme (1952) to fill the vacancy arising on the resignation of Sir Arthur Hockaday.

d. directed that the appointment of Mr Philip Reynolds Matthew be effected by a Deed of Appointment of New Trustee under seal and signed by a Proper Officer.

578.7 PROGRESS OF EXPENDITURE 1989-90

578.7.1 Mr WILSON said that, with four months of expenditure in the current financial year reflected in the Appendix to the paper, the variation from the approved estimate had not been great. The later in the year that each projection occurred, the more accurate it was likely to be; by the time of the next meeting, when the estimates were to be considered, he hoped that a reasonably confident forecast of the out-turn at the end of the year would be available.

578.7.2 Replying to Mr JOHNSTON, who observed that so small a variation as £17,000 between the estimate and the projected out-turn in expenditure on staff costs suggested a confidence that almost the entire provision for this heading would be taken up, Mr KENNEDY explained that the current financial year was the first in which a shadow cut, arbitrarily set at £200,000, had been imposed on this item of expenditure. The Commission had been facing great difficulty in filling its establishment of staff and, without the shadow cut, the variance between the estimate and the projected out-turn would have been considerable.

578.7.3 The Commission took note.

578.8 AIR CONDITIONING - HEAD OFFICE

578.8.1 Introducing the paper, Mr KENNEDY said that the air conditioning system, installed in 1972 at the time of the construction of the present Head Office building, had reached the end of its working life and problems were being encountered with all its major components. Concerning future remedial action, which was now unavoidable, the consultants' technical report annexed to the paper had identified four possible options: Option 1 provided for an overhaul of the present system at a cost of £70,000; Option 2 provided for a similar overhaul, but with the removal of the cooling facility, at a cost of £36,000; Option 3 provided for a completely new system at a cost of £139,000, but with only a heating facility and without provision for cooling or, more importantly, air flow; and Option 4 provided for a completely new air conditioning system which appeared to be greatly superior to the current system, but whose estimated cost was £525,000. Options 1 and 2 could be regarded only as short-term palliatives. Option 3 had the attraction of

relatively low cost, but the resulting working environment would be inferior to one to which staff in the building had become accustomed. Since it was necessary to consider the installation of a system within the existing constraints of a building designed for air conditioning with the exclusion of external airflows, he recommended Option 4 as the only one which fully satisfied the requirements.

578.8.2 General support was expressed for Option 4 as the most appropriate of the four in the circumstances. Mr JOHNSTON supported it on the assumption that the system would last at least twenty years. Captain Sir Miles WINGATE said that any of the other options were at best short-term solutions, deferring rather than resolving the problem. Sir Nigel MOBBS suspected that the cost of Option 4 would, in the event, be higher than estimated but he supported it as an essential step in maintaining the fabric and the value of a building with an air-conditioning system integrated into its construction. Mr McCLELLAND said that the recent abnormally hot summer reinforced the need for an effective system, despite the cost. Brigadier KHANNA also expressed support for Option 4. Replying to Mr WILLIAMS, Mr KENNEDY said that the consultants had assessed the running costs of the system proposed under Option 4 as in the order of 80% of that of the old system. Brigadier ANDREWS said that in his experience with the system installed in the New Zealand High Commission offices in London, which was also failing, it was unwise to opt for a second-best solution. Mr FACER, while favouring Option 4 on the ground that a good working environment was necessary both to recruit and retain staff, asked for an assessment of the remaining life of the building, since many other buildings dating from the same period were now showing signs of premature age. Replying, Mr KENNEDY said that the building had given no significant structural problems as yet and he foresaw that its useful life was likely to exceed considerably the twenty years that the proposed system was expected to last. Mr FACER expressed doubt also over the estimates suggested by the consultants, and proposed that a more detailed analysis of the likely cost be made before this expenditure was authorised. Captain Sir Miles WINGATE suggested that the meeting now in session should give its approval in principle to expenditure on the basis of Option 4, but that the matter should be brought back to the Commission in December when estimates had been received from different firms. Mr KENNEDY confirmed that a delay in authorising expenditure would not affect the timetable for the installation of the new system to begin in the Spring of 1990, as was proposed in the paper. Some prior expenditure, principally in the preparation of drawings, would however be necessary.

578.8.3 The Commission approved in principle the installation of a replacement air conditioning system in its Head Office building as proposed under Option 4 contained in the consultants' report attached to paper CWGC 578.8, subject to approval of a more detailed estimate of the cost at its meeting to be held on 13 December 1989.

578.9 THE GARDENERS' REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

578.9.1 The SECRETARY said that it was with some sense of sadness that he presented the paper under this item. The Commission had however already been made aware of some doubts aired recently over the value and relevance of the service today. When it was conceived over fifty years before, most of the gardening staff were veterans of the 1914-18 War and it was natural that some of them should have been invited to attend the remembrance ceremony at the Cenotaph and the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance and that they themselves should have wished to lay a wreath in Westminster Abbey. While the Commission's task of remembrance remained today as fundamental as ever, the personal commitment of its staff inevitably took a rather different form and, although many of those attending the Gardeners' Service in recent years might have found the experience rewarding in itself, the event had inevitably lost something of its sense of spontaneity. Gardening staff on the continent, from whose ranks the two wreath-layers were drawn, tended to view their own participation in the numerous local ceremonies at Commission sites as a more appropriate form of remembrance than attendance at the service in Westminster Abbey. Moreover Commissioners and senior members of staff took part in numerous ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday, for example at the major naval ports. The suggestion that it be discontinued had not emanated from the Abbey; rather from a feeling within the Commission's own staff that the effort that went into the preparation for the service was now out of proportion to its significance in today's context.

578.9.2 The CHAIRMAN, who had attended almost every service over the last eight years, said that he himself had sensed, sadly but inevitably, a change in its atmosphere over that time. Sir Derek DAY expressed sadness at the prospect of the disappearance of the event. He had found it to be a moving experience on the single occasion that he had been able to attend, and if it were to be discontinued, he suggested that there might be other ways in which Commission staff could be associated with national events at Remembrance. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the major service in Westminster Abbey, conducted in parallel with that at the Cenotaph, could also provide a possibility for participation by representatives of the Commission, and the SECRETARY offered to explore this further through his own contacts with the Abbey. Mr CONCANNON, reluctantly agreeing with the proposition of discontinuance of the Gardeners' Service, felt that some form of Commission participation at a remembrance service organised on a national scale was important.

578.9.3 The Commission agreed to explore the possibility of increased official participation in ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday and to review at its meeting in December 1989 the proposition that the forthcoming Gardeners' Remembrance Service should be the last.

578.10 BURIALS AND COMMEMORATIONS

Unmaintainable graves in the United Kingdom - alternative commemoration

578.10.1 The Commission approved the alternative commemoration of seven war burials in accordance with the proposals summarised in paper CWGC 578.10.

578.11 COMMONWEALTH-FOREIGN JOINT COMMITTEES: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

578.11.1 The Commission took note of the nine appointments set out in paper CWGC 578.11.

578.12 EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

578.12.1 Replying to the CHAIRMAN, Mr REDDIE said that document serial number 275 referred to a case brought against the Commission by a former member of staff alleging racial discrimination. It had not been possible to determine the precise grounds of his complaint. The Industrial Tribunal had felt unable to entertain his case and had struck out his allegation.

578.12.2 The Commission took note of the execution on its behalf of the documents serial numbers 634-639 and 272-275 referred to in the Schedule laid before the meeting and signed for identification by the Commission's Legal Adviser and Solicitor.

578.13 TOURS BY COMMISSIONERS AND HEAD OFFICE SENIOR OFFICIALS

578.13.1 Commenting on his tour of South-East England with Sir Derek Day in July, Captain Sir Miles WINGATE said that he had been agreeably surprised at the condition of sites, all but one of which were in good order. Sir Derek DAY added his agreement; one particular site had matched the highest Commission standards.

578.14 DIARY

578.14.1 The CHAIRMAN reported that he would be accompanying the President and the Chairman of the Commission at the ceremony at the Neuve-Chapelle Indian Memorial in November to mark the 75th anniversary of the battle. He also reported that in the near future Her Majesty The Queen, when attending the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government, would be visiting Commission sites in Malaysia and Singapore and that Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales would be visiting Commission sites in Hong Kong and Indonesia. He also reported that The Hon George Hees, former Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs, had visited Enfidaville War Cemetery in Tunisia the previous day.

578.14.2 The CHAIRMAN announced that this year's Remembrance Broadcast would be given by Mr Kenneth Kendall. He had also written to the Chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation proposing, additionally, a televised version and had been informed that this was under consideration for future years.

578.14.3 The SECRETARY drew attention to paragraph 1 of the paper to make clear that Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, had not attended the ceremony at the Thiepval Memorial on 1 July, although she had been present at the rededication of the Ulster Tower on the same day.

578.14.4 Brigadier KHANNA drew attention to a memorial in Brighton which commemorated war dead of the Indian Army, and where an annual ceremony was organised by the Royal British Legion. Unfortunately, it did not appear to be receiving regular maintenance and its condition had deteriorated recently. The SECRETARY confirmed that the Commission had been approached with a request that it take over its maintenance and he understood that a reply had been sent in the sense that the Commission could not assume responsibility for local memorials. He would however arrange for confirmation, if this had not already been done, that all of those named on this particular memorial were officially commemorated elsewhere at one of the Commission's own sites. If it were to prove not so, the Commission's approach to this request would be re-examined.

578.15 OTHER BUSINESS

Situation in Iraq

578.15.1 Mr SAYNOR said that the name of the United Kingdom-based member of staff who had been nominated for the post of Local Supervisor in Iraq to oversee the rehabilitation of Commission sites in the country had been submitted to the Iraqi government, and confirmation of his acceptance was awaited. It was hoped that the appointee would be able to start work in Iraq in January. Regarding Mosul War Cemetery, the Iraqi authorities had recently made known their wish to complete the construction of the road through a part of the site as quickly as possible, and he took the opportunity of thanking Mr McClelland for his success in securing his government's speedy endorsement of the wording of the Agreement implementing the acquisition of new land and the transfer of burials, all at the cost of the Iraqi government. It was possible that the Agreement had already been signed, but confirmation had not yet been received.

578.15.2 The Commission took note.

Pakistan's membership of the Commission

578.15.3 The SECRETARY referred to the recent announcement that Pakistan would rejoin the Commonwealth with effect from 1 October. The announcement, in confirmation of rumours which had been in currency for several months, had been made since the issue of the papers for the meeting now in session, and it had therefore been necessary to raise this important matter under "other business". In 1972, when Pakistan left the Commonwealth, its government also gave notice of discontinuing its membership of the Commission. With the agreement of all other member governments an invitation to remain was left open, but in 1978 was explicitly declined by the Pakistan government. The Commission made clear that it would welcome Pakistan's eventual return but at the same time put its membership into abeyance and adjusted the financial contribution to redistribute the nearly 1.1% of the Commission's budget which Pakistan had been contributing up to 1972. Pakistan's return to membership of the Commonwealth had come about through a process of informal consensus, and he hoped that resumption of membership of the Commission could be achieved in a similarly informal manner.

He proposed that, shortly after Pakistan's membership of the Commonwealth had come into effect, either the Vice-Chairman or himself should call upon its High Commissioner in London in order to ascertain his government's attitude towards rejoining the Commission in the new circumstances created by its membership of the Commonwealth. It was to be hoped that a positive report could be made to the Commission at its meeting in December, by when the dormant invitation to resume membership might have been taken up.

578.15.4 **The Commission took note.**

Brigadier R J Andrews

578.15.5 The CHAIRMAN announced that this was the last meeting to be attended by Brigadier Andrews before his retirement, and he thanked him for his contribution to its discussions over the last three years. He was to be succeeded as the representative of the New Zealand High Commissioner by Commodore J G Leonard RNZN.

Sir Arthur Hockaday

578.15.6 The CHAIRMAN announced that this was also the last meeting of the Commission to be attended by Sir Arthur Hockaday before his retirement as Secretary and Director-General at the end of October. He was sure he spoke for all Commissioners in expressing his regret that Sir Arthur's time in this key appointment was drawing to a close. The Commission had been exceedingly fortunate in enjoying the benefit of his expertise and experience over the last seven years. He, the Chairman, had worked with Sir Arthur in various capacities since the early 1960's and, over the years, had come to appreciate his diplomatic skills and his ability to master and summarise complex subjects. He, the Chairman, also paid tribute to the wide range of contacts which Sir Arthur had established through his considerable touring, thereby creating an increased awareness of the ideals and work of the Commission. On behalf of Commissioners and staff he expressed his gratitude for the way in which Sir Arthur had conducted the Commission's affairs and he wished him a long and happy retirement.

578.15.7 Replying, the SECRETARY thanked the Chairman for his kind words. He said that he had enjoyed every moment of his time at the Commission, and that it had been a great privilege to have the constant support of Commissioners and to work closely with dedicated people both at the Commission's Head Office and all over the world.