

**DRAFT.**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

at the 448TH MEETING of the  
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

held at

32, GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.1.

on

THURSDAY, 20TH APRIL, 1961.

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Present:

MEMBERS

General Sir JOHN CROCKER, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Vice-Chairman,  
in the Chair.

Mr. H.F. CLARK,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Canada.

Air Vice-Marshal A.M. MURDOCH, C.B., C.B.E.,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Australia.

Mr. R.L. JERMYN,  
Representing the High Commissioner for New Zealand.

Lieutenant-Colonel A.K. SAHUKAR,  
Representing the High Commissioner for India.

Major BASHIR AHMED,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Pakistan.

Mr. J.H.H. VAUGHAN,  
Representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. J.W.T. PRITCHARD,  
Representing the Minister of Works.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, G.C.B., D.S.O.  
The Rt. Hon. Lord SPENS, K.B.E.

Sir ARTHUR RUCKER, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.

Admiral Sir JOHN EDELSTEN, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.B.E.

SECRETARY

Mr. W.J. CHALMERS, C.B.E., Director-General.

There were also present:

Mr. W. WYNNE MASON, M.C., (Assistant Secretary), Director of  
External Relations and Records.

Mr. A.K. PALIOT, (Assistant Secretary), Director of Finance and  
Establishments.

Mr. H.L. SIMMONS, LL.B., Legal Adviser and Solicitor.

Mr. D.H. LLOYD, A.R.I.C.S., Deputy Director of Works.

Mr. W.F.W. HARDING, O.B.E., B.Sc.(Hort.), Chief Horticultural Officer.

Mr. A.S. LAING, M.V.O.

Mr. P.J. COOK.



At the request of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY read the apologies for absence.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Major Bashir Ahmed who, as the representative of the High Commissioner for Pakistan, was attending a Commission meeting for the first time.

#### MINUTES OF THE 446TH MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that it had been agreed at the Meeting of the Commission held on 21st March, 1961, at which the Secretary of State for War had presided, that the Minutes of the 446th Meeting held on 16th March, 1961, should be dealt with at the present Meeting. They had been circulated: no amendments had been suggested.

1. The Minutes of the 446th Meeting of the Commission were approved and signed.

The following points arose out of the Minutes:-

- (a) Visit by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Delhi War Cemetery on 1st March, 1961. (Page 2).

The CHAIRMAN said that some photographs, taken during the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Delhi War Cemetery on 1st March, 1961, would be passed round for Members to see. (The photographs were passed round).

- (b) Commonwealth War Graves in Denmark, Norway and Sweden - Regroupment (Page 6).

The CHAIRMAN said that, in Denmark, the only graves which it had been proposed to move had been those of two airmen buried at the roadside near Tarm, which were not in a recognised burial place. In reply to the Commission's letter about this proposal, the father of one of the airmen had expressed deep regret which he said he knew would be shared by the local people. Further enquiries had been made through the Danish Government and it had been found that the Town Authority of Tarm, although it would not withhold its assent to the removal of the graves, would greatly regret it and many of the residents might be offended. The burials had been made in the corner of a roadside grove which was the property of the municipality and the place had been laid out and beautified at local expense and was well maintained as a perpetual obligation by the municipality. A memorial stone erected by the inhabitants had inscribed upon it in Danish "Enemy hands laid them in Denmark's soil - Friends erected this memorial in gratitude which could not be expressed in words."

In the circumstances, even though the burials were not in a recognised burial place, the relatives and the Danish authorities had been informed that the Commission would not proceed with the proposal to remove them.



The graves would be inspected periodically and if, at any time, they should become neglected, the proposal to remove them would be resuscitated.

This case confirmed what Lord Spens had said about local feelings when the matter had previously been considered by the Commission.

Lord SPENS said local feeling that the graves should not be moved was surprisingly strong and, although many of the burials were in isolated places, the local inhabitants did take an interest in them, as the case in question illustrated.

#### MINUTES OF THE 447TH MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the Minutes of this Meeting held on 21st March, 1961, when the threat to Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery and Extension had been discussed, had been circulated: no amendments had been suggested.

2. The Minutes of the 447th Meeting of the Commission were approved and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes:-

The CHAIRMAN said that the Foreign Office had no further developments to report on this matter and he would like to ask if any of the High Commissions had had a report on the Egyptian reaction to the approaches made in Cairo.

Mr. CLARK said that he had nothing definite to report as yet. He understood, however, that Canada's Mission in Cairo had made informal representations to the Egyptian authorities.

Major BASHIR said that Pakistan's Ambassador had had certain unofficial conversations about the matter in Cairo.

The CHAIRMAN said that time was getting on and the Commission were hoping to have some definite information fairly soon.

The SECRETARY said that, perhaps, the outcome the Commission would most wish for was that there should never be any formal approaches or demands made by the Egyptian Government but that the whole matter should die a natural death before it got on to a formal level.

#### HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND

The CHAIRMAN said that on Tuesday, 11th April, accompanied by the Secretary, he had called on His Excellency Mr. T.L. Macdonald the new High Commissioner in London for New Zealand and had welcomed him on behalf of Members as a Member of the Commission.



UNVEILING OF THE ATHENS MEMORIAL ON  
WEDNESDAY, 10TH MAY, 1961.

The CHAIRMAN said that preparations were now almost complete for the Ceremony at which His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester would unveil the Athens Memorial on Wednesday, May 10th. The Ceremony would take place in the presence of Their Majesties The King and Queen of the Hellenes and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, who would accompany the Duke. Their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince, Princess Sophia, Princess Irene and Prince Michael of Greece would also be present at the Ceremony.

The Memorial would be dedicated by the Chaplain-General to the Forces, who would be assisted at the Service by the Deputy Chaplain-General, and the Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain and the Imam of the Liverpool Mosque would also take part. A Chaplain of the Greek Army would offer prayers during the Ceremony on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Black Watch would mount the Guard of Honour on behalf of the Armies of the Commonwealth and, at The King's instance, His own Royal Guard, the Evzones, would mount the Guard on behalf of the Greek Army. The remainder of the parade would be representative of the three Services, Greek and Commonwealth, and would include detachments from Australia, New Zealand and Cyprus.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester would arrive in Athens in H.M. Yacht Britannia and a number of Her Majesty's ships would also be there on a naval visit.

The British Legion had organised a pilgrimage of 160 relatives from the United Kingdom. The Australian and New Zealand Governments were sending representative parties from their countries and considerable numbers of relatives were making long journeys individually from many parts of the Commonwealth to be present. All told some 250 relatives would be present.

The War Office had arranged for Officers who had commanded formations in the fighting in Greece to attend and a number of senior Air Force Officers who had likewise commanded during these operations would also be present. Many of the individual Corps and Regiments whose casualties the Memorial commemorated were sending representatives to the Ceremony. Commanders and Regimental Representatives were, for the most part, travelling on the chartered aeroplane which the Commission had arranged and Commissioners who were travelling with this party would by now have received particulars of the journey and of the arrangements in Athens so far as they were at present known.

The B.B.C. were producing a recorded broadcast of this Ceremony from 4 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. on the afternoon of Wednesday, 10th May. He had been asked to do the epilogue to this broadcast which would be repeated on the various overseas services that evening. The Greek Radio was broadcasting the Ceremony live and they had asked Lieutenant-General Sir Ronald Scobie, who had commanded in Greece from 1944 to 1946, to do the foreword and the epilogue to their broadcast.



After the Ceremony the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, in Britannia, were making a tour of the Commission's work in the Eastern Mediterranean including the cemeteries and battlefields in Macedonia and on Gallipoli, Rhodes and Crete. The cemeteries and memorials in Macedonia and on Gallipoli were little visited and he knew that this visit, by Their Royal Highnesses, would be greatly appreciated by many people and not least by those in Australia and New Zealand.

VISIT BY AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR LONGMORE  
TO NORTHERN REGION (HOLLAND, GERMANY, BELGIUM  
AND FRANCE) - 10TH TO 14TH APRIL, 1961.

The CHAIRMAN said that Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore had recently carried out a tour of cemeteries and memorials in Holland, Germany, Belgium and France, and he asked him if he would care to say something about them.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE said that, in the Netherlands and Germany Area, as well as visiting the new Area Office premises at Worth Rheden with which he was very favourably impressed, he had seen cemeteries and memorials in Holland at Amsterdam, Amersfoort, Apeldoorn, Arnhem, Jonkerbos and Groesbeek and in Germany at Reichswald Forest and Rheinberg. The cemeteries were in first-class condition and the horticulture, which he had seen at the best time of the year, was everywhere magnificent. At Amersfoort, he thought that the cemetery was rather overgrown with conifers and there was an unusual treatment of the headstone borders, which were planted with ivy. Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, which he had seen in the light of evening, looked extremely beautiful, although fungus on the headstones was causing trouble both there and at Rheinberg, where, in spite of a shortage of labour, the cemetery was otherwise in excellent condition.

In Belgium he had visited the Area Office at Ypres and cemeteries and memorials around Ypres (Menin Gate Memorial, Aeroplane Cemetery, Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial, Red Farm Military Cemetery, Berks Cemetery Extension and the Ploegsteert Memorial) and at Rekem, Heverlee and Brussels. Rekem was a typical communal cemetery with dilapidated private memorials. The Commonwealth war graves had been kerbed and centre-filled with chippings and he thought that this was the only effective treatment for these graves. The remaining cemeteries and memorials visited in Belgium had all been well maintained. While in Ypres, he had attended the daily ceremony of the sounding of the Last Post at the Menin Gate Memorial.

Crossing into France, he had visited the Regional Headquarters at Arras and cemeteries and memorials at Armentieres, Saily-sur-Lys, Neuve Chapelle, Faubourg d'Amiens, Souchez, Vimy, Givenchy-en-Gohelle, Thelus, Roelincourt, Thiépval and Villers-Bretonneux. The Regional Headquarters had been redecorated and, as in the other countries he had visited, the cemeteries and memorials were well maintained. The Indian Memorial at Neuve Chapelle, which had recently been cleaned and siliconed, looked in excellent condition. Maintenance work at the Arras Memorial and Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, which was mentioned in the



report of the Finance Committee for this meeting, had been completed and looked well. Lichfield Crater Cemetery, which had been included in his itinerary, had been inaccessible by car because of heavy rains. At the Somme Memorial, Thiepval, the brickwork was flaking in places, but he understood that the question of remedial action was in hand.

In concluding his report he thought that the Commission were to be congratulated on the extremely good standard of maintenance he had seen throughout his tour.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore for his report.

The SECRETARY said that Mr. H.D. Morgan, the Commission's Honorary Consulting Engineer, accompanied by the Director of Works, had kindly arranged to visit the Somme Memorial, Thiepval, in May, to advise on the problems there.

VISIT BY DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
AND RECORDS TO EASTERN REGION AND ANZAC  
AGENCY FOR THE PACIFIC REGION -  
17TH FEBRUARY TO 1ST APRIL, 1961.

The CHAIRMAN said that, at the beginning of April, Mr. Wynne Mason had returned from an extensive tour in the Eastern Region and the Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region. He was sorry to say that he had been confined to his bed since his return as a result of an infection suffered during his tour. Members would, however, be glad to see him back on duty this morning and he would ask him to give an account of his tour.

Mr. WYNNE MASON said that the purposes of his six-weeks tour had been, firstly, to carry out a Head Office inspection of a cross-section of Eastern Region; secondly, to investigate the situation in Indonesia; thirdly, to see a cross-section of the work in Australia of the Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region; and, fourthly, to make a liaison visit to New Zealand and while there to see a sample of war graves and servicemen's graves, which the New Zealand Government had always maintained, and to take a few days' leave in his country of origin.

He had been able to carry out all these objectives although, as the Chairman had said, a virus he had picked up somewhere in South-East Asia had been somewhat of a handicap during most of his time in New Zealand and more particularly on the homeward journey to London. At all the places he had visited he had made contact at the highest appropriate level with the local authorities and with all Commonwealth representatives, all of whom had been most helpful. He had also visited all local war cemeteries and war grave plots. As a full account of his tour would take a long time to give he had prepared a summary and would mention points that had particularly struck him.

As in the Middle East, an adequate water supply was of prime importance for the horticultural development of the cemeteries in the Eastern Region. Although creditable



results had already been achieved at places like Karachi, Taukkyan, Thanbyuzayat and Kanchanaburi, adequate horticultural development could not take place until a full water supply was guaranteed. One of the Commission's increasing problems was likely to be the combating of threats to the tenure of the sites of their cemeteries in foreign countries, and they would always be in an immeasurably stronger position if the cemeteries were fully developed and beautified. Wherever possible he had pressed the question of water with local authorities and with Commonwealth representatives.

The Commission were, on the whole, fortunate in the locally recruited staff of group and cemetery supervisors, who were, generally, men of initiative, responsibility, energy and diligence, without whose services direction by necessarily fairly infrequent visits from Delhi would be inadequate. He thought, therefore, that the Commission must consider at an early stage the training of younger men to succeed them. Without men of this calibre in the field the Commission's work might well suffer in these places situated at great distances from Regional Headquarters.

The British Embassies and High Commissions gave the Commission's local supervisors much help in dealing with problems that arose in between visits of Regional officials. Both the British and other Commonwealth Ambassadors and High Commissioners took a keen interest and pride in the War Cemeteries in all the countries he had visited.

Places such as Taukkyan and Kranji had become objects of great local interest and admiration: bus-loads of visitors went to Taukkyan every week-end and Kranji was now one of the sights of Singapore.

Where the Commission had rather extensive areas of land within their fenced boundaries he thought that these should be retained and developed rather than risk having shanties built against the boundaries and only a few yards from the rows of graves near the fence, as at Rangoon, where there was now little or no chance of getting rid of them altogether. In his opinion the land in front of the main entrance at Kranji should be fenced to prevent encroachment by squatters there.

Travel at as frequent intervals as possible by all the Commonwealth based staff from Regional Headquarters at Delhi was the key to successful management of the Region both for providing the necessary on the spot guidance and stimulus to the locally engaged staff and also for maintaining the interest and goodwill of local authorities and Commonwealth Missions. The cemetery at Taiping was a place where, although it looked well, guidance was needed. Travel in that Region could be arduous: for example, in order to visit Thanbyuzayat in Burma, the journey was by plane to Moulmein, thence by car to the cemetery, returning by car to Moulmein, and then by plane to Rangoon, all to see one cemetery.

Indonesia was a country that was coping with great problems. It took time for things to be done and one had to be patient. Indonesian officials were very friendly to the Commission and the Commonwealth and there was ample goodwill and willingness to help. He believed that the



regroupment of Commonwealth war graves in that country would be carried out without difficulty and that the site at Djakarta should develop into a fine war cemetery. Although there were now no outstanding points of substance, it was impossible to say at the time of his visit how long it would be before the Commonwealth-Indonesian War Graves Agreement was signed. The Australian Ambassador had assured him that he would continue to press the Indonesian Foreign Office on the highest level for an early settlement.

In Australia, he had visited Perth, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney and had motored considerable distances inspecting war cemeteries and graves en route. The standard of maintenance throughout was high and was excellent at war cemeteries such as at Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. He had been impressed with the keen interest taken in war graves by local and State Branches of the Returned Servicemen's League. Administration of the Agency was efficient and there was close control of every aspect of the work. A great deal of extensive travel was necessary and this was highly organised.

While in Canberra, he had called on The Honourable Gordon Freeth, the Minister for Interior and Works, who was the Commission's Anzac Agency. He took a keen interest in the Commission and the work of the Agency and was thoroughly conversant with all the problems confronting it.

There were in Australia a great many small war cemeteries situated in or near small townships. There was usually no water supply and treatment had to be by means of some form of hard-cover over the graves, together with horticulture consisting of drought-resistant shrubs and trees. Some very effective results had been obtained. The many single graves situated in civil cemeteries were also given this standard treatment of hard-cover and chippings.

As usual, Australian hospitality had been unbounded and he would long remember the kindness and generosity with which he, as a Commission official, had been received wherever he had gone.

It was some 14 years since he had last visited New Zealand and, as a representative of the Commission, he had been generously received and no arrangements or facilities had been too much trouble to the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs, local mayors and councillors and branches of the Returned Servicemen's Association. He had called on the Governor-General, the acting Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs and had had most useful departmental discussions. As well as Auckland, he had visited Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa and had thus been able to see an example of what was being done in the Servicemen's plots in New Zealand.

Having reached the Antipodes, he returned via North America. While in America he had taken the opportunity of visiting the Farmingdale (National) Cemetery on Long Island.

He returned to London on April 1, after 42 days away, during which time he had travelled more than 25,000 miles.



The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Wynne Mason for his report and said that, apart from the value of such a long and extensive tour, it had been most highly successful and would help in dealing with a number of outstanding problems. He had been particularly interested in the point made about the retention by the Commission of additional land at certain cemeteries in order to avoid the risk of its being used for purposes which would destroy their appearance, and he asked what the present position was at Rangoon War Cemetery.

Mr. WYNNE MASON said that the area at the entrance to the cemetery on both sides of the main drive had been cleared of squatters' dwellings and the authorities now proposed to construct new houses in the area which he did not think would detrimentally affect the cemetery at all. In the south-west corner of the cemetery, however, alongside the bamboo fence of the cemetery, temporary wooden huts were interspersed with more substantial dwellings and the best that could be hoped for was that it would become a better residential area with the demolition of the temporary dwellings.

In reply to Mr. JERMYN, the SECRETARY said that since Mr. Wynne Mason's visit to Indonesia, there had been no further news concerning the signing of the Commonwealth-Indonesian War Graves Agreement.

#### REPORT OF THE 491ST MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN said that Item 1 dealt with two cases of excess expenditure on major maintenance works under the term contract with Entrepise Reynes. The first was one which Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore had mentioned and covered an excess of £3,363 over the amount authorised of £12,918 on the Arras Memorial and Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, which had been the subject of an earlier report to the Finance Committee. The need for the additional expenditure had come to light on cleaning the extensive area of the roof of the Memorial, when a far higher proportion of defective stonework than had been anticipated had been disclosed.

Item 3 covered an expenditure of £1,913 on repairs to the approach road at Acroma War Cemetery. The road was just under half a mile long and was used almost exclusively for reaching the cemetery.

Item 4 covered expenditure of £1,980 on the construction of stores and a rest room for the cemeteries on the Gallipoli peninsula. The stores, which were in central positions in the Anzac and Cape Helles groups, were used for the tools and equipment for all the cemeteries, as there were no individual storage facilities at the various sites. The present buildings, which consisted of decaying wooden frames and corrugated iron, had been erected as temporary structures during the time when the cemeteries were being built in the 1920's.



Item 7 covered the direct expenditure of £1,750 on the Unveiling of the Athens Memorial. Included in the figure was all site expenditure on such items as the unveiling mechanism, dais, stands and tentage. As on past occasions, the Army and the other two Services were bearing the not inconsiderable cost of their participation and the Commission was receiving every co-operation from the Greek Authorities.

It was proposed by Mr. CLARK, seconded by Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, and carried unanimously:-

3. That the Report of the 491st Meeting of the Finance Committee be adopted.

COMMONWEALTH-FOREIGN JOINT COMMITTEE:  
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and dealt with the appointment of His Excellency Monsieur Jacques de Thier, the new Belgian Ambassador in London, as an Honorary Member of the Commonwealth-Belgian Joint Committee to fill a vacancy caused by the return of his predecessor, Monsieur René van Meerbeke, to Brussels.

Monsieur de Thier had stated his willingness to serve on the Committee, if appointed by the Commission.

It was proposed by Lord SPENS, seconded by Air Vice-Marshal MURDOCH, and carried unanimously:-

4. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.13/14/2 dated 6th April, 1961,

RESOLVE:

That the following be and is hereby appointed a member of the Commonwealth-Foreign Joint Committee as set out hereunder:

COMMONWEALTH-BELGIAN JOINT COMMITTEE

Belgian Honorary Member

H.E. Monsieur Jacques de Thier  
(Belgian Ambassador in London)

WESTON MILL CEMETERY, PLYMOUTH

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and requested authority for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and the Proper Officer to sign the Duplicate Deed of Grant by the City of Plymouth of the exclusive right of burial, costing £5, in a War Grave of the 1914-1918 War in the Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth.

It was proposed by Mr. JERMYN, seconded by Sir ARTHUR RUCKER, and carried unanimously:-



5. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.225/1/167/L dated 10th April, 1961,

RESOLVE:

That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign the Duplicate Deed of Grant by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Plymouth of the exclusive right of burial in a War Grave of the 1914-1918 War in the Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth.

AUTHORITIES FOR LOCAL LAWYERS

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper dealt with authorities for local lawyers, when they were asked to act on the Commission's behalf.

Whilst it was in most cases the Commission's practice to avoid, where possible, becoming involved in Court proceedings, the occasion nevertheless arose from time to time when it became necessary for the proper protection of the Commission's legal interests to defend proceedings in a local court. Even more exceptionally, it might be desirable for the Commission to initiate proceedings. On these occasions, after reference to the Secretary, appropriate action was taken by the Commission's Legal Adviser and Solicitor and, in cases arising overseas, suitable instructions were provided to a local lawyer to act on the Commission's behalf.

In certain countries overseas it was the practice in such circumstances for the local lawyer to require a written authority for this purpose and, in order to simplify this procedure, the Commission were asked to approve the formal resolution authorising a Regional Director, or other official in a Region, to sign such an authority on the Commission's behalf when this was requested by the Commission's Legal Adviser and Solicitor.

In reply to the CHAIRMAN, who asked if there was anything further to say about the paper, Mr. SIMMONS said he would like to say that the purpose of the paper was in order to deal with those cases where a formal document might be required. There were certain territories overseas where such a document could take the form of a power of attorney and, rather than have any question raised possibly as to the authority for the signing of such a document, a resolution such as the Commission was now being asked to approve could facilitate matters and, where required, a copy of the resolution could be legalised before being sent out.

Another point he would like to mention was that it was a concept of international law that a government when acting in the territory of another government, might be entitled to immunity from the jurisdiction of the local courts. As the Commission acted on behalf of the participating Commonwealth Governments, such an immunity might be applicable and this point was always considered whenever a case arose of the Commission becoming involved



in legal proceedings. So far, there had not been a case where the Commission wished to raise any objection to the jurisdiction of a local court and, therefore, the procedure followed had been to bring to the notice of the court that the Commission might be entitled to claim immunity, but that it was not desired to claim immunity for the purposes of the proceedings in hand. This procedure had worked well and had not led to any difficulties with local courts.

It was proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel SAHUKAR, seconded by Major BASHIR, and carried unanimously:-

6. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.210/4/LC dated 11th April, 1961,

RESOLVE:

- (1) That the Regional Director for the time being of each of the administrative Regions established by the Commission overseas, (namely, Northern Region, Southern Region and Eastern Region) be, and is hereby authorised, when so requested in writing by the Commission's Legal Adviser and Solicitor, to provide to a local lawyer practising in a country overseas situated within the Region concerned, such written authority as may be required in accordance with local practice and procedure, to enable such lawyer to act on behalf of the Commission in all that concerns any legal proceedings instituted locally by or against the Commission including legal representation in any proceedings before a local Court or Tribunal.
- (2) That in the event of it being found inexpedient for the foregoing authorisation to be exercised by the Regional Director, then it may if so requested in writing by the Commission's Legal Adviser and Solicitor, be exercised by another Official of the Commission serving in the Region.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS AND THE COMMISSION.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was a report for the information of the Commission and concerned arrangements made with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for the security and maintenance of Commonwealth war graves on that Island.

Members might remember that, at the meeting of the Commission in June, 1960, the Secretary had reported that he had had discussions with the Governor of Cyprus and his staff, and also with Archbishop Makarios and Dr. Kutchuk, about the future maintenance of those graves.



When the independence of Cyprus had become imminent, discussions had taken place with the Colonial Office and Commonwealth Relations Office concerning the best method of safe-guarding the Commission's interests after independence, and it had then been agreed that there should be an exchange of letters between the Secretary to the Commission and the Government of Cyprus. This proposal had been further discussed at the London Conference on Cyprus and had finally been approved by the Standing Joint Council at Nicosia in July, 1960.

Subsequently, the text of the letters to be exchanged having been agreed, a formal letter had been addressed by the Secretary to the Minister of the Interior, Government of the Republic of Cyprus, on 17th November, 1960, and the Minister's reply formally confirming the arrangements as set out in the Secretary's letter was dated 3rd March, 1961. Copies of these two letters were attached to the paper and the enclosure with the Secretary's letter of 17th November, 1960, gave details of the cemeteries and memorials on the Island.

Replying to Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, the SECRETARY said that the non-war military cemetery at Nicosia (Wayne's Keep), which adjoined the war cemetery, was maintained by the Commission on behalf of the War Office. Although the question of the future of the military cemetery had been dealt with in the discussions in which he had taken part in Cyprus, the Commission had not so far been informed by the War Office that they had concluded arrangements with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus concerning the future of that cemetery.

#### GENERAL NOTES

The CHAIRMAN said that Members would see that Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore had introduced the Commission's film at the headquarters of the Victoria League on Thursday, 6th April, and he would ask Sir Arthur if he wished to say anything about this showing.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE said that the showing had gone off well and that while the film was being shown, with the accompanying music muted, he had occasionally made a running commentary. Among the audience had been a number of people from Australia and New Zealand and he had been asked many questions about the Commission's work. He thought that, although the audience had been limited owing to the size of the room, the showing had been a valuable one.

The CHAIRMAN said that, under the heading of "Forthcoming Events", members would see that Her Majesty The Queen was to lay a wreath at Rome War Cemetery on Wednesday, 3rd May.

Lord Spens had kindly consented to represent the Commission at the Annual Act of Commemoration at the Air Forces Memorial, Runnymede, on Tuesday, 9th May, at 3.15 p.m.



Accompanied by Mr. Wynne Mason, he would represent the Commission at the Anzac Day Service in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, 25th April, at 12 noon and the Secretary would be present at St. Clement Danes Church, in the Strand, on Sunday, 7th May, at 11 a.m. when the Royal Air Force Books of Remembrance, containing the Roll of Honour of the Second World War, were to be dedicated.

Since the paper had been circulated a report had been received that the President of Burma, His Excellency U. Win Maung, had made an unannounced visit to Taukkyan War Cemetery, Burma, on the 24th February, 1961, and signed the Visitors' Book. He had written to the President expressing the Commission's appreciation of his visit.

Information had also been received that the Adjutant-General, General Sir Richard Goodbody, had visited Berlin War Cemetery, during March.

#### MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN MAY, 1961.

The CHAIRMAN said that, in view of the unveiling of the Athens Memorial on Wednesday, 10th May, the meeting of the Finance Committee in May, which would normally have been held on the morning on which the unveiling ceremony was to take place, would now be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, 15th May.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the next meeting of the Commission would be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 18th May, 1961.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 12 noon.