



ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

(Twenty-ninth Session)

The Annual Budget Session of the South Pacific Commission opens at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, on 17th October. Commissioners representing the participating Governments will meet for two weeks to deliberate on the Work Programme for 1967.

The member Governments and their Senior Commissioners are:

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|---------------------------|---|
| Australia:                | Mr R.S. Swift, First Assistant Secretary,<br>Department of Territories, Canberra;                           |
| France:                   | M. Henry Nettle, Conseiller d'Etat,<br>Ministère des Départements et des Territoires<br>d'Outre-Mer, Paris; |
| New Zealand:              | Mr R.Q. Quentin-Baxter, Assistant Secretary,<br>Department of External Affairs, Wellington;                 |
| United Kingdom:           | Mr A.J. Fairclough, Head of the Pacific and<br>Indian Ocean Department,<br>Commonwealth Office, London;     |
| United States of America: | Governor Carlton Skinner, San Francisco;  |
| Western Samoa:            | The Hon. Afoafouvale Misimoa, Apia.   |

The main task of the Session will be the consideration of the proposed Work Programme for 1967 which includes work in the fields of Health, Economic Development and Social Development, and the Budget for 1967.

At this Session the Commission will appoint a new Secretary-General, to succeed Mr W.D. Forsyth, whose term of office terminates on 31st December.

Decisions will also be made in preparation for the Seventh South Pacific Conference, to be held in Noumea in October, 1967.

The Chairmanship of the Session is taken by the Senior Commissioner of each member Government in rotation; this year's chairman is the Senior Commissioner for France, M. Henry Nettle.

The opening session will be addressed by M. Jean Risterucci, High Commissioner for the French Republic in the Pacific and the Condominium of the New Hebrides, Governor of New Caledonia and Dependencies.

(Attached hereto is a list of the members of each delegation.)

On the direction of the 28th Session (1965) the Commission arranged seven technical meetings or conferences during the year - on a variety of subjects including co-operatives, labour problems, cocoa production and housing - and inaugurated, at a Technical Meeting at Suva in July, SPC activity in the field of Livestock Production and Health. In addition six training courses were organized in maternal and child health in rural areas (January), vital and health statistics (April-May), environmental sanitation (with WHO; May), youth leadership (September-October), home economics for community work (12 month course) and library management (August-October). Further training courses were organized in collaboration with the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii.

A number of appointments have been made to both continuing posts and to positions created at the 28th Session - for example, Education Officer, Agricultural Economist, Fisheries Officer (short term appointment).

The SPC Internship Programme was advanced with the attachment of two further Interns - one in Health Education and one in Finance and Administration.

Work continued on many projects already under way - such as Health Education, Nutrition, Solar Still experiments, Plant Production, Plant and Animal Quarantine, Language Teaching, Urbanization Problems, etc. Preliminary surveys of South Pacific traditional medicines and medicinal plants and forestry training facilities were carried out by specialists as groundwork for development of SPC activity in these fields.

Negotiations were launched for United Nations assistance with major projects, such as training centres for marine mechanics and reef and lagoon fisheries.

The activity of the UN/SPC Rhinoceros Beetle Project was expanded.

Nouméa,  
New Caledonia.

15th October, 1966

Original text: English

Delegation Members - Twenty-Ninth Session of the South Pacific Commission

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Australia:

Mr R.S. Swift  
Mr R.N. Hamilton  
Mr I.E. Nicholson  
Mr D. Clifton-Bassett  
Mr Paul Lapun  
Mr C.G. Woodard  
Mr S. Kaumi  
Mr D.B. Rheault  
Senator K.A. Laught

United States of America:

Governor Carlton Skinner  
Governor Manuel F.L. Guerrero  
The Hon. Y. Baron Goto  
Mr Leo A. Falcom  
Mr R.S. Lindquist  
Mr Louis J. Link  
Miss F. McReynolds  
Mr C.E. Merrow

France:

M. H. Nettle  
M. J. Emond  
M. Pouillet  
M. Faure  
M. Reybas  
M. Kauma  
M. R. Langlois  
M. E. le Caill  
M. E. Salmon  
Mme C. Oopa  
M. F. Vanizette  
M. Fabre  
M. R. Simete

Western Samoa:

The Hon. Afoafouvala Misimoa  
Mr Iulai Toma

New Zealand:

Mr R.Q. Quentin-Baxter  
The Hon. A.R. Henry  
The Hon. R.R. Rex  
Mr R.B. Atkins  
Mr S.D. Wilson

United Kingdom:

Mr A.J. Fairclough  
The Hon. Ratu K.K.T. Mara  
Mr T.R. Cowell  
Mr L.M. Davies  
Mr Mand  
Mr Vakatora  
Mr Campbell  
Mr Mitchell



# Press Statement

NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

## COMMISSION APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Twenty-ninth Session of the South Pacific Commission opened at the Commission's Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia, on 17th October, under the Chairmanship of the Senior Commissioner for France, M. Henry Nettre.

At its opening Plenary Session, the Commission provided for the appointment of a new Secretary-General, Sir Gawain Bell, for a term of three years. The present Secretary-General, Mr W.D. Forsyth, will terminate his period of office on 31st December, 1966.

The following resolution was adopted:

"The Commission

offers the post of Secretary-General to Sir Gawain Bell for a term of three years, subject to six months' notice in writing on either side, as from the conclusion of the appointment of the present Secretary-General; and

authorizes the Senior Commissioner of the United Kingdom to administer on its behalf the oath of office to Sir Gawain Bell as Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission."

Sir Gawain's Curriculum Vitae is attached.

Noumea, New Caledonia,  
17th October, 1966

Original text: English

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### GAWAIN WESTRAY BELL

#### Personal History

Date of Birth: 21st January, 1909  
Address: Hidcote Bartrim Manor,  
Chipping Campden,  
Gloucestershire  
Telephone, Mickleton 305  
Marital Status: Married, three children

#### Education

Winchester College 1922-1927  
(School Prefect; Captain Shooting VIII)  
Hertford College, Oxford 1927-1930  
(2nd Class Honours in Modern History; Half-Blue;  
Captain Shooting VIII)  
Colonial Service Course at Oxford 1930-1931; Arabic

#### Military Service

Territorial Army Commission 1929-1932  
Commanded Squadron Druze Cavalry, Syrian Campaign, 1941  
Headquarters Arab Legion GSO 2. 1942  
Commanded Third Mechanised Regt. Arab Legion 1943-1944/5  
Demobilised with rank of Lt. Colonel 1945  
Regular Army Reserve of Officers 1949-1959  
Awarded Military M.B.E. 1942  
Awarded Jordanian Order of Independence 1944

#### Career in H.M.O.C.S. and Sudan Government

Appointed Sudan Government Political Service 1931  
Seconded to Colonial Service (Palestine) 1938  
Reverted to Sudan Political Service 1945  
Deputy Sudan Agent in Cairo 1949-1951  
Assistant Civil Secretary Sudan Government (Political) 1951-53  
Deputy Civil Secretary 1953  
Permanent Secretary Ministry of the Interior 1954-55  
H.M. Political Agent Kuwait (Foreign Office) 1955-57  
Governor Northern Nigeria 1957-1962

#### Career outside H.M.O.C.S.

Secretary General, The Council for Middle East Trade 1963-64  
Part-time Chairman of Civil Service Commission Selection Boards 1964  
Autumn 1964 - early 1965, Member of United Kingdom Civil Service  
Commission Selection Boards  
September 1965 to February 1966, Jointly with Sir Ralph Hone,  
Constitutional Adviser to the Federal Government of South Arabia  
March to April 1966, Visited Muscat as Adviser on Administrative  
Organisation to the Sultan of Muscat

#### Experience

##### Administrative

As a District Commissioner in charge, at one time, of the largest district in the Sudan, and in Palestine during the rebellion period. As a Permanent Secretary in the Sudan during a period of preparation for, and change-over to, Self-Government and Independence. As President of the Executive Council of Northern Nigeria from 1957-1959.

Diplomatic

As Sudan Agent in Cairo; as H.M. Senior diplomatic representative in Kuwait, especially during the Suez crisis; as Governor of Northern Nigeria for nearly two years after Independence.

Commercial

Close liaison with the Kuwait Oil Company from 1955-1957, and with representatives of many Commercial and Industrial interests during five years in Nigeria.

As Secretary General to the Council for Middle East Trade responsible for the day to day working of the Council, for organising and taking part in the Council's Trade Missions and for drafting the Missions' reports.

General

Member of the Chapter General of the Order of St. John and Jerusalem, 1963-1966.

Member of the Appeal Committee for the Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem of the Order of St. John and Jerusalem.

Awards

Military M.B.E. 1942; Jordanian Order of Independence 1944;  
Civil C.B.E. 1955; K.C.M.G. 1957;  
K. St.J. of J. 1958;  
Nigerian Boy Scouts' Award of Golden Eagle, 1962.

Original Text: English



## Press Statement

NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION - TWENTY-NINTH SESSION  
17th - 28th October, 1966

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The twenty-ninth Session of the South Pacific Commission was held at its headquarters at Noumea, New Caledonia, from Monday 17th October to Friday 28th October. The Senior Commissioner for France, M. Henry Nette, was Chairman.

The Commission adopted a Budget for 1967 totalling £stg.362,793, of which contributions by the six member Governments amount to £stg.320,000, an increase of about 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  % on 1966 contributions.

The Commission offered the position of Secretary-General to the United Kingdom nominee, Sir Gawain Bell, whose acceptance was subsequently received. Sir Gawain is expected to arrive in New Caledonia in January 1967.

A growing number of proposals for technical meetings, seminars, training courses and conferences, developing from territorial requests, recommendations of earlier technical meetings or surveys, and resolutions adopted by the South Pacific Conference, are examined each year, from which are selected those of most pressing importance. This year over twenty meetings (including conferences, seminars, training courses - long or short term, etc.) will be arranged, several in conjunction with the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii.

A substantial part of the Budget for 1967 has been allocated to training activities, partly as a result of the recruitment of an Agricultural Extension Methods/Business Training Officer and a Mass Media/Teaching Aids specialist. Training courses to be conducted during 1967 include courses in dental health, nutrition, health education, mental health, business methods, extension materials, home

economics for teachers, youth leadership and two courses to be organized by the East-West Center - on plant protection and animal husbandry.

Technical Meetings will be held to discuss the health problems of coral atolls, helminthiasis and eosinophilic meningitis, maternal and child health (including family planning), coconut production, agricultural education, plant protection, South Pacific trading relations, social welfare problems and the selection and assessment of pupils for promotion or vocational guidance.

In addition, longer range plans have been investigated for training in forestry, marine mechanics and the establishment of a Reef and Lagoon Fisheries Centre, which will provide both training in improved techniques and opportunity for research into fish populations and their exploitation. Each of these projects envisages the establishment, with United Nations financial aid, of major regional training centres which will provide courses of up to two to three years duration.

This year only a new technical staff member will be appointed - a demographer, who will assist territories in preparation, conduct and analysis of censuses. Much of the planning of effective work programmes both by the South Pacific Commission and the territorial administrations is hampered by a lack of accurate data on total populations, population movements, age ratios, etc. The South Pacific territories are in general poorly provided with statistical services, a state of affairs which the Commission has endeavoured to ameliorate since 1964, when a Medical Statistician was appointed. The appointment of a demographer will further increase SPC assistance in this field.

The Commission endorsed its support for the project (begun in 1964) to improve the attainment level of English teaching in South Pacific schools, continuing the services of two language-teaching specialists and the preparation of a series of basic readers, the first of which has been published while others are now in press.

Allowance has been made for support to research in each

of the fields of SPC activity - health, economic and social development - and specifically in the cases of urbanization, nutrition and parasitology.

Work will continue on established projects in health education, environmental sanitation, plant production, plant protection (including the UN/SPC Rhinoceros Beetle Project in Western Samoa), urbanization problems, community education, etc., with increased emphasis given to fisheries, rat control, education, youth work, mental health.

Commissioners noted with appreciation the increased practical co-operation between SPC and UN specialized agencies and other outside bodies and encouraged further development for the future, stressing the rôle the South Pacific Commission can play as a focal point for the expression of peculiarly regional needs and as a catalyst for the attraction of UN technical and financial assistance to these needs.

The Seventh South Pacific Conference will open at SPC Headquarters at Noumea on 2nd October, 1967, and will consider and advise on the proposed SPC Work Programme and Budget for 1968. The next regular Session of the Commission will be held immediately afterwards - from 10th to 23rd October, 1967.

At the Twenty-ninth Session, delegation members attending a Session for the first time included Mr D. Clifton-Bassett (District Commissioner, Madang, Territory of Papua and New Guinea), the Hon. R.R.Rex (Leader of Government Business, Niue), M. J. Emond (Administrateur en chef de classe exceptionnelle des affaires d'outre-mer, Noumea), M. Pouillet (Administrateur des affaires d'outre-mer, Noumea), the Hon. A.R.Henry (Premier of the Cook Islands) and Mr L.M. Davies, C.M.G., O.B.E. (Chief Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission, Honiara, British Solomon Islands Protectorate).

Other new personalities were Mr Paul Lapun (M.H.A., Papua/New Guinea), Mr C.G. Woodard (Department of External Affairs, Australia), Mr S. Kaumi (Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Papua/New Guinea),

Mr D.B. Rheault (Department of Territories, Australia), Messieurs Faure and Reybas (New Caledonia), Messieurs Robert Langlois (Secrétaire-Général), Emile le Caill (Conseiller de Gouvernement) and Elie Salmon (Président de la Commission Permanente de l'Assemblée Territoriale) and Madame Céline Oopa (Membre de l'Assemblée Territoriale) (all from French Polynesia), M. Fabre (New Hebrides), M. Richard Simate (Wallis and Futuna), Mr R.B. Atkins (Department of External Affairs, New Zealand), Mr S. Nand (Co-operatives Officer) and Mr T.R. Vakatora (Department of Labour) (both from Fiji), the Hon. J. Campbell (Member of the Executive Council, British Solomon Islands Protectorate), Mr A.G. Mitchell (British Administration, New Hebrides), Messrs Robert S. Lindquist and Chester E. Merrow (Department of State, U.S.A.) and Mr Leo A. Falcam (Assistant Administrator, Ponape District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands).

28th October, 1966

Nouméa,  
New Caledonia

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