

Witness Seminars on Colonial Service Topics

In conjunction with OSPA, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS), of the School of Advanced Studies (SAS) of London University, is holding a series of "Witness Seminars" on topics relating to the end of the colonial period and the early stages of independence (the "End of Empire"). These give OSPA members and other interested people an opportunity to share their views and experiences with an academic and non-academic audience. They thus contribute to the overall Colonial Service historical record.

The purpose of the seminars is to encourage discussion and debate among all those attending rather than to listen to formal papers. Each seminar has a distinguished Chairman and a panel of speakers who give informal presentations of up to 10 minutes, followed by a discussion open to everyone present.

Two seminars have been held this year. **The first one on 25 May 2011** had the topic *The Westminster Model and Representative Government in the Era of Decolonization*. The programme and panel speakers are shown below:

11.00-11.15	Registration, tea/coffee
11.15-11.30	Welcome and introduction by Professor Philip Murphy (ICwS)
11.30-1.00	<u>Session One: The Pacific/South Atlantic/Caribbean</u> Chair: Professor Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield Mr Christopher Cochran: <i>The Solomon Islands</i> Mr Thomas Russell CMG, CBE: <i>The Solomon Islands and the Cayman Islands</i> Mr Simon Gillett: <i>St Helena and Nauru</i> Professor David Murray: <i>The Gilbert Islands</i>
1.00-2.00	Sandwich lunch
2.00-3.30	<u>Session Two: East Africa</u> Chair: Professor Philip Murphy Mr Ian Buist, CB: <i>The Colonial Office, Kenya and the East Africa High Commission</i> Mr Hubert Allen: <i>Uganda</i> Mr John Twining: <i>Uganda</i> Mr Wyn Reilly: <i>Tanganyika/Tanzania</i>
3.30-4.00	Tea/coffee
4.00-5.30	<u>Session Three: West and Central Africa</u> Chair: Professor David Killingray Mr John H Smith, CBE: <i>Nigeria</i> Sir Brian Barder, KCMG: <i>Nigeria</i> Professor Colin A Baker, MBE: <i>Nyasaland/Malawi</i> Dr Jonathan C Lawley: <i>Northern Rhodesia/Zambia</i>
5.30-7.00	Drinks reception

The proceedings of this first seminar are available to view on or download from the ICwS website at: <http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/events/videos-and-podcasts/ospa1.html>.

The second seminar on 29 September 2011 had the topic *Economic Development in the British Commonwealth before and after Independence*. The programme and panel speakers are shown below:

11.00-11.30	Registration, tea/coffee
11.30-11.35	Welcome by Professor Philip Murphy (ICwS)
11.35-1.00	<u>Session One: The View from the Field – examples from Africa</u> Chairman: Professor Paul Collier, CBE Mr John Smith, CBE: <i>Development in Nigeria</i> Mr Peter McLean, CMG, OBE: <i>Economic and Commercial Development in Uganda</i> Mr Charles Cullimore: CMG: <i>Development in Tanganyika</i> Dr Jonathan Lawley, PhD: <i>Developing African Administrative and Management Potential</i>

1.00-2.00	Sandwich Lunch
2.00-3.15	<p><u>Session Two: Issues and Policies before and after Independence</u> Chairman: Sir Peter Marshall, KCMG, CVO : Mr Gordon Bridger : <i>Economic Policies and British Administration in pre-and post-independence</i> Mr Stuart Harbinson, OBE: <i>The Pacific</i> Mrs Hilary Sunman: <i>The Story of Agriculture in Kenya</i></p>
3.15-3.45	Tea/coffee
3.45-4.45	<p><u>Session Three: Issues and Policies before and after Independence (continued)</u> Chairman: Sir Peter Marshall, KCMG, CVO Professor Jonathan Kydd: <i>The CDC – reflections from a Board Member</i> Dr Patrick Spread: <i>The Economic Missions</i> Mr Derek Smith: <i>Developments of UK Aid Policies and Administration</i> Dr Nick White: <i>Development in Malaysia</i></p>
4.45-5.30	<p><u>Session Four: Round-up and Conclusions</u> Chairman: Professor Philip Murphy Mr Alistair Boyd, CMG: (<i>Former Deputy Chief Executive, CDC</i>) Mr Barrie Ireton, CB: (<i>Development Economist, Zambia, The Gambia, ODA/DFID 1965-2005</i>)</p>
5.30-7.00	Drinks reception



The Seminar programme ended with a Reception hosted by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Shown here are the Director, Professor Philip Murphy, and the OSPA Secretary, David Le Breton

The proceedings of this second seminar are now available on the same ICwS website. With the end reference /ospa2.html instead of /ospa1.html (<http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/events/videos-and-podcasts/ospa2.html>)

A main purpose of holding the seminars is to put on permanent public record the primary evidence of OSPA members along with other views and experiences. However, it is not easy to produce a written version. OSPA staff are working on this and a not-quite-verbatim text of the first seminar will be completed soon. The same will be done later for the second one. Each one will then be put out on the ICwS website.

The third Seminar will be on Thursday 29 March 2012. The topic will be *Indirect Rule – Right or Wrong*. Speakers for this seminar have not yet been determined. As a general rule we hope to have fresh and different speakers for each seminar, though discussion from the floor will be open to people who have taken part in earlier ones. **Please let the OSPA Secretary know if you, or anyone else you know of, would like to attend this seminar, either (and preferably) as a potential speaker or as an ordinary participant.**

The fourth Seminar will be on Thursday 25 October 2012. The topic will be *Localisation of the Civil Service in Colonial Territories before and immediately after Independence*. Here again, **please send in your suggestions and recommendations about who might be invited to speak at this Seminar or who might wish to attend, perhaps to contribute to the discussion from the floor.**

We remain most grateful to Professor Philip Murphy, the Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, for his positive support for these seminars as elements in the Institute's programme, and for his personal interest. Also for the essential work of the other members of the Institute's staff for all the preparations and arrangements made.
