

欧 文 概 要

The Establishment of the Commonwealth Secretariat

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As K. Srinivasan, the then Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General and former Foreign Secretary of India wrote, so the Commonwealth Secretariat, set up in 1965 at Ghana's suggestion, served to diminish Britain's influence. Up to that time, Britain had been responsible for the organisation of meetings.

The Commonwealth is the present name of what was previously the British Empire. It consists of the United Kingdom and 52 sovereign states which were formerly the British colonies. All members accept Queen Elizabeth II as Head of the Commonwealth. The Secretariat has its headquarters at Marlborough House, London. In 1976 the Secretariat was granted observer status at the UN. The significance of the Secretariat in a *sui generis* association of states should not be ignored.

This paper outlines a process of establishment of the Secretariat and some legal issues. Accordingly this paper reviews the background to establishment since 1902 ; the Final Communique 1964, the Agreed Memorandum 1965 and the Commonwealth Secretariat Act 1966 as the instruments of establishment ; the functions of the Secretariat ; and the legal personality, immunities and privileges of the Secretariat.