

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZAMBIA

Mr B.T. Burne, of the Commonwealth Archives Office, Canberra, has contributed a brief note about the work of the National Archives of Zambia. Mr Burne was, up till the early part of 1966, a member of the Commonwealth Archives Office staff stationed in Melbourne, but as a result of an invitation issued by the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Australian Overseas Service Bureau in 1965, Mr Burne resigned from the Victorian Branch of the C.A.O. and went to Zambia. Over the next three years he was able to adapt the National Archives of that country to the changing needs of a developing nation. As the National Archives included the country's legal deposit library, Africana and reference sections, map and pictorial collections and historical manuscripts in addition to government records there was much to be done. Staff training was very necessary and as a member of the Professional Board of Library Studies he was able to effect useful co-operation between archivists and librarians in this field. He strengthened the records management program which was a legacy of the former Federal Archives (of Rhodesia and Nyasaland) and he introduced new legislation to replace that of the Federation. As any technical assistance was most valuable to him, and in order to lessen the feeling of isolation (not unlike Australia in that respect) he welcomed co-operation with institutions in other countries and with international bodies. In 1968 he was Zambian Government Delegate to the VIth Congress of the International Council on Archives in Madrid and in June 1969 he was able to arrange, together with the Chief Archivist of Kenya, a successful Conference of Archives Institutions of East and Central Africa in Nairobi. At this Conference a Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives was established.

At the beginning of 1970 Mr Burne was re-appointed to the staff of the Commonwealth Archives Office, and is now stationed in Canberra.