## The Education Secretariat

13 May 1987

## ANALYSIS OF PLACEMENT FIGURES

According to the figures above there seems to have been fewer students going to the West during the 82/83 academic year compared to the number going to the East during the same period. In the following year there was no significant increase in placements in the West. Placements in the East during in the 83/84 academic year remain more or less at the same level, whereas there is a xxxxx steady increase in placements in the West, with a 100 students being placed in Africa and India alone between 1985 and 1986, and 74 being placed in Western Europe during the same period compared to a total of 92 in the whole of Eastern Europe including the USSR.

It has become common practice for our students to resist placements in the Socialist countries and in the majority of cases the reasons they give for seeking placements elsewhere are rather spurious. There would seem to be a strong argument in the light of this trend to make placement offers from the East as attractive to our students as those in the West. At the moment the fact that our students have an easy facility with the English language tends to create the impression that there would be far fewer problems of cultural disorientation in the English speaking countries than there would be in the Socialist countries. The access that they feel they have to the cultures of these English speaking countries reinforces the feeling of affinity. Therefore the conditions of making placement choices are heavily weighted in favour of the West.

Parity can best be achieved if Spanish, German, Russian and probably French are introduced in the school curriculum on an optional basis as early as the primary level. This programme could be a introduced as an extra curricula activity to begin with, with equipment for language laboratories as well as language specialists being provided for this purpose. Each student could later choose one of these languages to study up to '0' level.

Our close association with the Eastern countries goes back much further than our more recent friendship with Western countries and our relations with our Socialist friends can be cemented even further if we allow our children at an early age to acquire proficiency in the languages of our friends and give them access to the rich culture of these countries.

In the year of Advance to "eople's Power

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## Placement Distribution 1982/1983 and 1983/1984

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PLACEMENT DISTRIBUTION 1982/1983 and 1983/1984

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