

DAVID GORDON-SMITH
Director-General



Born October 6, 1925. Attended Trinity College, Oxford University. Called to the bar, Inner Temple, London, 1949.

Member of legal staff, Colonial Office, 1950-1953; senior legal staff, Colonial Office, 1954-1963, and Commonwealth Relations Office, 1963-1965; Deputy Counsel, Colonial Office, 1965-1966; Counsel, Commonwealth Office and, from 1968, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1966-1972; Deputy Chief of legal staff, Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1973. Named Fellow of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1971.

In the Colonial Office, advised on all legal aspects of the United Kingdom's relations with territories under colonial rule, including their constitutional development, federations and other forms of association, and the granting of independence, as well as on questions of international law relating to these territories. Also, drafted constitutions and other laws, and participated as a member of the United Kingdom delegation in numerous constitutional conferences and several intergovernmental committees and conferences.

In the Commonwealth Relations Office, advised on all legal aspects of United Kingdom relations with various independent Commonwealth members, including Cyprus, Malaya, Malta, and Rhodesia, as well as on the dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

In the Commonwealth Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave legal advice to the departments handling relations with various African countries (including South Africa and Rhodesia) and countries of Asia and the Far East (including the Indian subcontinent), to the departments administering diplomatic relations and diplomatic personnel affairs, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Communities.

Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Vienna Conference on the Law of Treaties (1968-1969).

Special Counsel to the United Kingdom delegation at the Second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (1973).

Appointed Director-General in the Legal Service of the Council of the European Communities in 1977.

Common Market Reports