

COMEX 111

The Third Commonwealth Expedition - July 15th to October 8th 1969.

Comex is a biennial overland expedition to Pakistan and India, begun in 1963 under the special patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh. It is mainly composed of young people between the ages of 18 and 25, who come from all walks of life.

This year twenty coaches, each containing 26 people representing different regions of the British Isles, are to travel some 15,000 miles through a dozen countries, undergoing all the rigours of the Middle Eastern summer and the monsoon. Cultural performances, in which all the members of the expedition join, are to be made in various cities en route, and the proceeds are to be given to local charities. As much contact with the local population will be made as is possible, especially in India and Pakistan, and particularly with people of a similar age group to that on the expedition.

The general purpose of Comex is to contribute to a better understanding of cultures and peoples, especially among the youth of the Commonwealth. It is felt that, by facing the many hardships and disappointments together, a tolerance and loyalty for others, adaptability and a sense of responsibility and initiative is developed. Members of former expeditions readily admit that, for them, Comex means all of this - and more.

It is hoped that, this year, we will leave behind us in India more tangible evidence of these feelings. We are to make a plea, along with other countries of the Commonwealth, that a permanent Commonwealth Centre may be created in India, to perpetuate the spirit of understanding, and to inspire all who share in it.

The Secretary of the Edinburgh Contingent is:-

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