



Australia
GH

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 November, 1980

Telephone Call from Mr Fraser

Further to Laing's letter of 1 November to the Duty Clerk, I should record that Mr Fraser rang the Prime Minister late on Saturday evening. The only point of substance which came up was, as foreseen in Laing's letter, the identity of the new Australian High Commissioner in London. As you will have seen in the papers, it is to be Mr Vic Garland, Minister for Consumer Affairs in the outgoing government. The Prime Minister told Mr Fraser that she saw no difficulty in his announcing the name of the new High Commissioner the next day but she suggested that Mr Fraser inform Buckingham Palace as a matter of courtesy. Mr Fraser undertook to put this in hand. I myself informed Robert Fellowes of what Mr Fraser had said: I do not know whether in the event Mr Fraser's Office got in touch with Buckingham Palace.

Mr Fraser told the Prime Minister that Mr Garland would not be coming to London until well into next year and that Sir James Plimsoll, who had always known his appointment to London would be a short one, would be here for several months further.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R M J Lyne, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

(Cheques)

You may wish to ask
Mr. Fraser if the appoint-
ment is to be made public
immediately, or whether
he would first wish
Buckingham Palace to be
informed as a courtesy?

N.P.G. Mitchell

Duty Clerk

1/11/80

MS
Spoke - agreed
Asked MF to
visit Palace
before issuing
statement
ms

CONFIDENTIAL

NEWFAX COPY SEEN BY
PM AT CHEQUERS 1/11/80.
CONVERSATION HELD 9.30 p.m.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 November 1980

The Duty Clerk
No 10

Dear Duty Clerk,

MR FRASER'S TELEPHONE CALL TO THE PRIME MINISTER,
1 NOVEMBER

1. In our telephone conversations today I undertook to give you some background for use by the Prime Minister when Mr Fraser telephones her this evening.
2. From contacts with the Australian High Commission in London, we understand that Mr Fraser wishes to give the Prime Minister advance details of his new Cabinet and the name of a new High Commissioner to London. Mr Murray, Deputy High Commissioner here, does not know who has been selected for this appointment.
3. There has been press speculation that Mr Killen, the Minister of Defence in Mr Fraser's last Government, might be appointed to London. Other possible candidates are Mr Lynch, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, and Mr Peacock, Minister for Foreign Affairs. (There has been open speculation that Mr Peacock would be replaced at Foreign Affairs and be given a domestic appointment.)
4. Mr Fraser, as Prime Minister of a Realm, does not require HMG's formal approval for the appointment of a new High Commissioner. Normally he would inform the Prime Minister in advance by letter and she would respond by welcoming the choice and stating HMG's intention to offer him full cooperation. On this occasion the exchange will be oral, although Mr Fraser may still intend to follow up with a formal letter. The Prime Minister need make no further comment although she may wish to express regret at Sir James Plimsoll's departure.
5. If Mr Fraser does use this telephone call for this purpose, you may, in addition, wish as a courtesy to inform Buckingham Palace of the new High Commissioner designate. Normally this would be done by Protocol and Conference Department at the same time as the Prime Minister herself was informed. Obviously in the present unusual circumstances this will not be possible and (assuming, as we suspect, that Mr Fraser releases the name of the High Commissioner designate simultaneously with his Cabinet appointments) you will no doubt wish to ensure that the news reaches the Palace in advance of any Australian press announcement.

Yours ever,

J S Laing

J S Laing
Resident Clerk

PM: - You may wish to ask Mr Fraser if the appointment is to be made public immediately, or whether he would wish Buckingham Palace to be informed as a courtesy?

CONFIDENTIAL

Duty Clerk



bcc: PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
Mr Carruthers
Mr du Boulay
Mr Fenn

GRS 470
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Australia

FM CANBERRA 200551Z OCT 80
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 575 OF 20 OCTOBER

MY TELNO 570 : AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTION 1980

1. MR FRASER'S COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RETURNED WITH ABOUT HALF ITS PREVIOUS NEAR-RECORD MAJORITY. WITH NINE SEATS STILL IN DOUBT (AND FINAL RESULTS UNDERTAIN FOR A WEEK OR MORE BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ALTERNATIVE VOTING SYSTEM) THE COALITION MAJORITY IN THE LOWER HOUSE WILL BE BETWEEN 13 AND 23. TWO SENATE SEATS ARE STILL DOUBTFUL AND MAY REMAIN SO FOR THREE WEEKS. THEIR FATE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT MR FRASER WILL HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE SENATE FROM NEXT JULY, WHEN, AND ONLY WHEN, THE NEWLY-ELECTED SENATORS TAKE THEIR SEATS.

2. ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR MAJOR OPINION POLLS, ALL OF WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY A GOOD TRACK RECORD, PREDICTED A COALITION WIN, AND EVEN THEN IT CONSIDERABLY UNDER-ESTIMATED THE SIZE OF THE MAJORITY. ALTHOUGH LABOR CAME CLOSE TO THE FORECAST NATIONAL SWING OF 6% PLUS WHICH, ON SIMPLE ARITHMETIC, THEY NEEDED TO GAIN OFFICE, THE SWING WAS TOO UNEVEN IN TERMS OF SEATS TO GIVE THEM VICTORY. THE MAJOR SWING IN MANY CASES WAS IN SEATS ALREADY HELD BY LABOR. SOME LIBERAL SUCCESSES AGAINST THE TREND ARE SEEN AS A TRIBUTE TO THE PERSONALITY AND HARD WORK OF THE INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES CONCERNED. THUS THE COALITION WON CONVINCINGLY IN SEVERAL MARGINAL SEATS, INCLUDING THOSE OF TWO MINISTERS AND, PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THAT OF DENISON IN TASMANIA, WHERE A SWING OF 3.1% WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE SEAT TO MR KEN WRIEDT (UNTIL THE DISSOLUTION THE ALP SENATE LEADER, OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND A POTENTIAL CHALLENGER OF MR BOB HAWKE FOR EVENTUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE ALP).

3. LABOR'S GAINS WERE LARGELY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS, WHOSE VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS CONSIDERABLY DECLINED. THE APPEAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS AS A VEHICLE FOR PROTEST SEEMS CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED. YET, FOR THE SENATE, THE DEMOCRATS HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY GAINED TWO FURTHER SEATS AND MIGHT YET PICK UP A THIRD. THE SOLE INDEPENDENT SENATOR, RETURNED WITH AN INCREASED VOTE, MAY HOLD THE BALANCE OF SENATE POWER, DEPENDING UPON WHETHER FOUR OR FIVE DEMOCRATS ARE RETURNED.

4. MR FRASER'S PREVIOUS LARGE MAJORITY HAS BEEN HALVED, BUT THIS IS SEEN AS MUCH AS A RETURN TO THE NORM AS A SETBACK. HE CAN RIGHTLY CLAIM TO BE THE ONLY AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, OTHER THAN MENZIES, TO HAVE WON THREE CONSECUTIVE ELECTIONS. MR HAYDEN, FOR HIS

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