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meeting
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Australia

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 May 1981

Dear Mike,

Australian High Commissioner's call on the Prime Minister
on 19 May

I enclose a brief for the above call together with a biographical note on Mr Garland.

The brief is largely defensive. However the Prime Minister may wish to raise the CHGM (paragraph 6 of brief) and to ask how Australian thinking is progressing on ways of limiting the damage that may be caused in Melbourne by the Springbok tour of New Zealand (paragraph 7 of brief).

Mr Garland may refer to press speculation about possible defence cuts. The Prime Minister may wish to say that the UK continues to recognise that we have common interests with Australia and face similar threats. We should continue to seek ways of facing these threats in concert.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing St



INITIAL CALLS BY THE HON R V GARLAND, THE NEW AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

Background Note on Anglo-Australian Relations1. General

Courtesy calls only. No points to make. Relations close and generally cordial.

2. Poland - Contacts with non-NATO countries

The Australian Ambassador in Brussels has been kept informed of NATO's contingency planning on Poland by a contact group composed of the British, Canadian and Netherlands Permanent Representatives. The Australians have welcomed this arrangement, which is designed to meet their request that they should be aware of, and have the chance to comment on, the measures the Western Allies would take if there were a Soviet invasion of Poland. The Australians are aware that, in the event of an invasion, there would be an emergency session of NATO Foreign Ministers in Brussels. They have asked that this should be accompanied by a separate discussion, in parallel, with the Australian Foreign Minister who would go to Brussels for this purpose. We have expressed support for this idea, but there is resistance from some other NATO countries. In general, the Australians support the NATO proposals but consider that the trade embargo should also be applied to imports from the Soviet Bloc. NATO members are opposed to such an inclusion which would be hard to monitor and could hurt the West more than Russia.

3. EC - Australia

The Australians are long-standing and vociferous critics of the CAP. They dislike EC trade barriers. (Their agricultural exports to the UK have dropped 80% since 1973 but they have found other markets). They also dislike, perhaps even more, the subsidised disposal by the EC of high-cost surpluses on world markets in competition with Australian produce. Within the Community the UK is working to curb surpluses and reduce the disproportionate budgetary expenditure on the CAP. This will be a major element in the negotiations on the restructuring of Community policies which are to begin in the second half of this year.

During the last twelve months the Australians' specific grievances have been:

(a) Sheepmeat where an agreement was eventually reached in September 1980. UK opted for deficiency payments instead of intervention. Australians obtained a halving of the tariff on their exports to the Community in exchange for voluntary restraint on quantities. The latter were generous in comparison with traditional sendings.

/(b)



(b) Manufacturing beef where the Australians interpret an ambiguously worded agreement (negotiated by Mr Garland himself) as a firm commitment by the Community to set the quota at not less than 60,000 tonnes per year. This figure was finally agreed for 1981 by the March Agriculture Council. The Australians made a major issue of it and threatened indiscriminate trade retaliation against all Member States (including the UK, despite the fact that we supported them throughout).

(c) Sugar where the Australians secured a GATT ruling that the EC used export subsidies in 1978/79 to obtain a 'more than equitable share of world trade'. We hope the new EC sugar regime (starts 30 June) will prevent this recurring. It involves some reduction in production quotas (particularly for the UK) and discourages surplus production by shifting a significant part of the financial burden of disposal onto the producers themselves.

The Australians are not immune from charges of protectionism themselves. The EC is pursuing complaints in the GATT over Australian restrictions on imports of cars, textiles and fork-lift trucks.

4. Defence

The UK is a signatory of the Five Power Defence Arrangement with Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore, set up in 1971. Representatives of the Five Powers met in Canberra recently to discuss the revival of the Arrangement and the holding of air, naval and land exercises this year. We have close defence and intelligence links with the Australians.

5. Constitutional Issues

We understand that at a meeting of the joint committee of the Commonwealth and States Attorneys General in April, a wide measure of agreement was reached on proposals to sever the residual constitutional links with the UK. These will be submitted to the next Premier's Conference in July. If they are approved, which is by no means certain, then necessary legislation in UK and Australia will be considered.

6. CHGM

We attach considerable importance to such Commonwealth meetings and have high hopes for this one. Mr Street's visit in June will provide an opportunity for exchanging views on Commonwealth matters before Melbourne. North/South issues expected to be dominant topic but Southern African issues, especially Namibia and the Gleneagles Agreement, will no doubt also be important.

7. Springbok Tour of New Zealand (July 1981)

Mr Street has already raised with the Secretary of State the damaging effect this tour could have on the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982. There could be a boycott by African States and the atmosphere at CHOGM soured. (We have recommended to the Secretary of State that UK should avoid intervention).



8. Nuclear Matters

If raised, Australia and Community have reached agreement on safeguards covering imports of uranium into Community. We attach importance to Australian sources of uranium although we have no immediate need due to slowdown in UK nuclear programme. We hope future decisions on Australian enrichment plant will utilise URENCO offer.

9. Ministerial Visits

Mr Fraser is due to visit Britain for the Royal Wedding in July and again in October. Mr Street will start his visit on 10 June. Mr I Macphee, the Immigration Minister, will be here from 26 June. Mr P Nixon, Minister for Primary Industry arrives on 22 May. Mr D Killen, Minister of Defence arrives on 26 May.



GARLAND, THE HON (RANSLEY) VICTOR

High Commissioner-designate to the UK

Born Perth, WA 1934

Educated Hale School and University of Western Australia, Perth. A chartered accountant by profession. Senior Vice-President, WA Division of Liberal Party 1965-69; Federal Councillor of Liberal Party 1966-71. Liberal Member of the House of Representatives for Curtin, WA, (former seat of Sir Paul Hasluck) since 1969. Federal Minister for Supply 1971-72 (and Minister assisting the Treasurer 1972). Chief Opposition Whip 1974-75. Federal Minister for Posts and Telecommunications November 1975-February 1976. Resigned as Minister for Posts and Telecommunications in February 1976 following a request by the Attorney-General to the Police to investigate allegations of bribery of ACT independent Senate candidate during 1975 elections, which implicated him. (Although case was dismissed, presiding magistrate considered that a prima facie case had been established against him). Reappointed to the Government as Minister for Veterans' Affairs (1977-78). Minister for Special Trade Representations and Minister assisting the Minister for Trade and Resources 1977-79. Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce December 1979-November 1980.

Intensely ambitious, sometimes devious, but with a pleasant urbane and easy manner. Quiet rather than flamboyant. Personally well-off the pressures of commuting between Perth and Canberra are known to have contributed to his decision to decline a Ministerial promotion in favour of his present appointment.

Married, 1960, Lynette Jamieson, a musician of professional standard. 2 sons, 1 daughter.

Recreation: reading.