

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Mr Coles  
Mr Murray

MR. BUTLER

We had a word yesterday about Henry Stanhope's proposal that we pass to him material allowing him to write a piece on how I see my role.

Attached is a copy of the Speaking Note prepared at the time of Tony Parsons' appointment. Unfortunately it contains nothing directly meeting Stanhope's request. Since there is no sacred text we shall have to decide the question de novo.

My feeling, having tried my hand at a very short description of my role, is that anything said publicly would be tricky and that it would probably be wiser to say nothing. Mr Stanhope wrote a piece on Monday, copy attached, presumably on material provided by News Department, FCO, which should go some way to meet whatever appetite exists.

Perhaps the best way of settling this would be to have a very short meeting.

*h*  
*- 18h*  
PERCY CRADOCK  
18 January 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

SIR PERCY CRADOCK

*File 6*

cc: Mr. Coles  
Mr. Murray

Thank you for your minute of today. The words I had in mind were in the Press Notice itself about Sir Anthony Parsons' appointment and in the first paragraph of Notes to Editors. I attach a copy. You will see that the words are very few indeed.

I have, however, remembered another source. Shortly after the announcement of Sir Anthony's appointment the Chairman of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee asked for the Prime Minister's agreement to Sir Anthony's appearing before the Select Committee. The Prime Minister withheld her agreement but sent a note about Sir Anthony's appointment, of which I also attach a copy. I drafted this and it was cleared with the Cabinet Office and the FCO.

Perhaps we could have a word about this tomorrow morning.

H. E. R. BUTLER

18 January 1984

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Man in the news

**Whitehall mandarin with a Chinese background**

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A new but not entirely unfamiliar face crossed the narrow threshold of 10 Downing Street last week - and will be much in evidence today when members of Hongkong's executive council, the colony's "Cabinet", arrive for talks with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

It belongs to Sir Percy Cradock, who at the age of 60, has succeeded Sir Anthony Parsons as Mrs. Thatcher's special adviser on foreign affairs. Like Sir Anthony he is a recently-retired diplomat and again like his predecessor he has gone to No 10 after a round of complex negotiations over a residual legacy of empire. But the resemblance largely stops there.

Parsons' piece was the Falkland Islands, when he was Britain's permanent representative at the United Nations during the 1982 war with Argentina. Cradock's is Hongkong, in whose uncertain future he became involved while conducting the Anglo-Chinese talks as our ambassador in Peking.

Again, unlike his predecessor he will be at No 10 for only part of the time, crossing Downing Street to a second desk he is retaining at the Foreign Office, from where he will keep an official eye on the Hongkong talks. But for his wife's health he would probably have remained in China to see the talks through.

Intellectually at least the dual responsibility should present him with few problems. Sir Percy might lack Sir Anthony's

broad experience, having spent most of his career in the Far East or in the East-West forum. But he has long been regarded as having one of the best brains in the Foreign Office with an elegant "succinct" prose style which has made his telegrams from abroad without classics of their kind.

He took first-class honours in English and Law at Cambridge (St John's College) where he went after war service with the RAF.

He served in Kuala Lumpur, Peking, Berlin - where he was ambassador to East Germany - and Geneva (as leader of the British delegation to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty talks) before returning to China as ambassador in 1978. In the late 1960s he was frequently in the news as British chargé d'affaires in Peking during the Cultural Revolution, when he worked hard for the release of Mr Anthony Gray, the Reuters correspondent held under house arrest.

More recently he entered the headlines when Watford FC footballers and their famous pop-singing chairman Elton John objected to being entertained by the British Embassy in what was described as a "scout hut" while playing China in Peking. Sir Percy was said to be "fuming" over the incident, but did not apparently attend the match.

The Chinese found him a tough nut anyway and admired his negotiating skill. They found him, by all accounts, wonderfully inscrutable. It is a quality he should find useful at No 10.

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SPEAKING NOTE FOR BERNARD INGHAM

A press notice has been issued from 10 Downing Street about the appointment of Sir Anthony Parsons as adviser on foreign affairs. This appointment is the result of the consideration which the Prime Minister has been giving to the advice available to her within 10 Downing Street. The Prime Minister has concluded that reinforcement was needed in the areas of foreign affairs and defence to complement the assistance already given to her by the Economic Adviser, Professor Walters, and the small policy unit headed by Ferdinand Mount, who concentrate on domestic affairs. In addition to Sir Anthony Parsons, an Assistant Secretary from the Ministry of Defence, Mr Roger Jackling, will also be joining the Prime Minister's office to cover defence matters. Mr Jackling will take up his post on 31 January.

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

1. Any other appointments envisaged ?

Not at present. But as the Prime Minister said in the House on Thursday 11 November:-

"I am not setting up a Department. I have a Prime Minister's Office. From time to time, there have been considerable changes in that Office .....

I feel that we should have some foreign affairs advice in addition to the other advice available in No 10, but through the Prime Minister's Office, not a non-existent Prime Minister's Department".

2. Will Sir Anthony Parsons and/or Mr Jackling assist with intelligence material ?

We do not comment on the handling of intelligence material.

3. Mr Jackling's background ?

Aged 39. Educated Wellington College, New York University and Jesus College, Oxford (International Politics). Married with two sons (born 1978 and 1981). Son of Sir Roger Jackling, former Ambassador to Bonn.

He joined the Ministry of Defence in November 1969. He has a good understanding of Private Office work having served as Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary (Army) (1970-71) and as Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State (1976-79). He has a very sound working background on NATO, Nuclear policy and crisis management. Most recently as Head of DS11 he has been dealing with non-NATO Defence policy and was and is very deeply involved in Falkland Islands business. He was awarded the CBE for the part he played in the Falklands Operation.

4. Will Mr Jackling be working for Sir Anthony Parsons ?

No: he will be complementary to him, concentrating on defence while Sir Anthony Parsons concentrates on foreign policy. Because the two subjects are so inter-linked, they will work closely together.

5. Status of Sir Anthony Parsons and Mr Jackling ?

Sir Anthony Parsons will be a special adviser, engaged like other special advisers under a contract which will expire at the next General Election. Mr Jackling is a civil servant, who will be seconded to 10 Downing Street like other civil servants working there.

6. Sir Anthony Parsons's political views ?

He is a foreign affairs adviser not a political adviser. His political views are entirely a matter for him. We have no idea what they are.

7. Numbers at 10 Downing Street ?

Sir Anthony Parsons's and Mr Jackling's appointments are not expected to require the appointment of additional support staff at 10 Downing Street. On 1 November 1982, staff in the Prime Minister's office totalled 67 civil servants and 4 special advisers. This compares with 65 civil servants and 4 special advisers in 1 May 1979.

8. Does appointment of Jackling rather than, say, Cooper signify greater priority given to foreign affairs than defence ?

No. The priority given to any area of government depends on circumstances and events.

But the workload on the foreign affairs side tends to be heavier, given the Prime Minister's involvement in the European Council, Economic Summit and frequent meetings at home and abroad with foreign statesmen.

9. Pay of the two

Sir Anthony Parsons will be paid at three fifths of the Second Permanent Secretary rate (i.e.  $3/5 \times \text{£}35,000 = \text{£}21,000$ ). Mr Jackling is paid on the normal Assistant Secretary scale.

10. Can we expect further expansion of the office after the Election ?

These two appointments have been made to meet a specific need. The Prime Minister's Office is still about the same size as under the last Administration. There are no grounds for suspecting some deep-laid plot to move towards a Prime Minister's Department.

11. Do these appointments stem from the Prime Minister's experience over the Falklands ?

Not directly. They reflect the Prime Minister's reflections about the support she has needed over the whole of her three years in office so far. She knew Sir Anthony Parsons well before the Falklands campaign.

12. Further changes following the Franks report, particularly on intelligence ?

We must wait and see what Franks says.