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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 December 1986

Thank you for your letter of 22 December about the proposed appointment of Mr McClelland to be Australian High Commissioner in London.

The Prime Minister agrees that we should inform the Australian Government that we would be happy to welcome Mr McClelland to London.

Charles Powell

A C Galsworthy, Esq., CMG.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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cc: [handwritten initials]



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 December 1986

Prime Minister Agree?

CDP 22/xii

Sean Charles,

Les [handwritten initials]

We have been informed that the Australian Government propose to appoint Mr Douglas McClelland, at present President of the Australian Senate, to be Australian High Commissioner in London in succession to Mr Alfred Parsons. I enclose a brief curriculum vitae.

The Foreign Secretary welcomes this appointment. As you will be aware, it is not the practice between Commonwealth countries of which Her Majesty is Queen to seek formal agreement to the appointment of a High Commissioner. Sir Geoffrey Howe would be grateful, however, if the Prime Minister would agree to our informing the Australian Government that the British Government will be glad to welcome Mr McClelland in London and look forward to continuing with him the happy association which they enjoyed with his predecessor.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Heseltine.

Les [handwritten initials]
[Signature]

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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McCLELLAND, SENATOR THE HON DOUGLAS

President of the Senate since 1983.

Born 5 April 1926, Wentworth, NSW. War service (AIF) 1944-47. Former court reporter, then Senator (ALP) for NSW since 1962. Minister for the Media 1972-75. Deputy President and Chairman of Committees 1981-83. "Father of the House" - longest serving current Senator.

Married, three children.

A relatively lightweight figure these days in Labor Party politics.

Likes gardening, reading, swimming. Friendly.

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