

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

The new Australian High Commissioner, Mr. McClelland, is to pay a courtesy call on you tomorrow. He is a former Labour politician and has recently been President of the Senate. He is close to Mr. Hawke.

There are notes on Mr. McClelland and on Australian-British relations in the folder.

Points which you might discuss are:

- the political situation in Australia. There has to be an election by March 1988. Mr. McClelland is well placed to hold forth on the prospects.
- prospects for the Australian bicentennial (for which we have presented a sail training ship) and EXPO in Brisbane. You have been invited to the latter in August next year.
- our wish to give more substance to relations with Australia. The Foreign Secretary is going there next month.

He may raise our decision - now public - not to sign the Protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. You can point out that we have said that we do not intend to base or test nuclear weapons in the area.

C.D.P.
C.D. POWELL
7 April 1987

CC/C
CC/B/JP010
Mr Martin
Protocol DepartmentFrom: A E Furness
South Pacific Department

Date: 24 March 1987

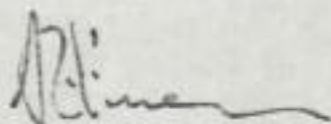
CC: PS ^{PS/ N° 10}
APS
PS/Lady Young
PS/PUS
Mr Gillmore
Mr McLaren o.a.
Mr Samuel, ODA
Mr Hervey, Protocol Dept
Mr Macan, CCD

INITIAL CALLS BY NEW AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

1. As requested in paragraph 5 of your minute of 23 March, I attach a biography of the new Australian High Commissioner, the Hon Douglas McClelland, and a short brief on our relations with Australia.
2. It may be convenient to recall that his programme of calls is:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Head of SPD	Fri 27 Mar	10.45am
Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps	27 Mar	11.15am
Permanent Under Secretary	27 Mar	11.45am
Deputy Under Secretary (Mr Gillmore)	27 Mar	12.00pm
Minister of State (Lady Young)	Wed 1 Apr	11.00am
Head of CCD (Mr Macan)	1 Apr	11.30am
Secretary of State	Mon 6 Apr	2.30pm
Assistant Under Secretary (Mr McLaren)		To be arranged

3. I shall be submitting to PS/Lady Young shortly about a lunch in honour of Mr McClelland.



A E Furness

McCLELLAND, HON DOUGLAS

Australian High Commissioner in London since March 1987. Born 5 April 1926, Wentworthville, NSW. Educated Metropolitan Business College.

Military Service 1944-47. Former NSW and Commonwealth court reporter. Senator (Australian Labor Party) for New South Wales 1972-1987, latterly "Father of the House". Minister for the media 1972-75. Manager of Government business in the Senate 1974-75. Manager of Opposition business in the Senate 1976-77. Deputy Senate Opposition Leader 1977-80. Deputy President and Chairman of Committees 1981-83. President of the Senate 1983-87.

Although in recent years he has not carried much weight in Labor Party politics (if he ever did), he has the ear of senior government figures, including the Prime Minister. He acquired a reputation and stature as President of the Senate that he failed to achieve as a Minister. Described by the Opposition as an excellent President with a natural sense of fair play.

Friendly and easy-going, but robust when necessary. Plenty of common sense but no intellectual.

Married (Lorna), 1 son and 2 daughters.

Likes gardening, reading, swimming. A very keen rugby league fan, although a former union player.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
March 1987

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AUSTRALIA-BRITISH RELATIONS

1. Traditional ties between Britain and Australia remain strong, but Australia looks to many more countries, eg United States, Japan, China, South East Asia, than she did in the past to advance her markets and her interests generally. Britain needs to make a more conscious effort than in the past to maintain links with Australia that are still of benefit to both countries. Australia remains an important market for Britain; British exports in 1986 were worth £1,200 million, and over 1,500 British firms have subsidiaries there. Australian investment in Britain has risen to around £330 million.

2. We are aiming to "thicken" our relations with Australia. The Secretary of State will visit Australia next month (the first visit by a Foreign Secretary since CHOGM at Melbourne in 1981), and a new programme of official level consultations is being launched.

Numerous Australian Ministers visited London in 1986, including Mr Hawke, Mr Beazley (Defence), Mr Keating (Treasurer), Mr Hurford (Immigration), Mr Willis (Employment and Industrial Relations), and Senator Evans (Resources and Energy).

3. The British contribution to the Australian bicentennial celebrations and to EXPO 88 at Brisbane should help to revive our links. Britain's gift of the sail training ship "Young Endeavour" (due to be launched in June) has attracted favourable attention in Australia.

4. The British Government's decision, announced last week, not to sign the Protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty has disappointed the Australian Government. They have however taken note of our intention not to test or base nuclear weapons in the region.

5. We are grateful for the Australian Government's support in the Peter Wright case.

6. Both the British and Australian Governments are co-operating in a research programme on the British nuclear test sites, due to be

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completed in 1988, on the practical possibilities for a further clean up, without prejudice to the question who might pay for it.

7. Many Australians express concern about the Australian image in Britain, fostered by Australian comedians and by crude advertisements for Australian products. Australians do in fact make a major contribution to British industrial, economic, academic and artistic life.

8. The next general election in Australia must be held by March 1988. Public opinion polls have shown the Government and Opposition rather close, but Mr Hawke's personal popularity is still well ahead of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Howard's. The opposition Liberal Party is in disarray and a fresh struggle for its leadership looks likely as Mr Howard has just dismissed Mr Andrew Peacock (the former leader) as his Foreign Affairs Spokesman, following reports that Mr Peacock had made disparaging remarks about him. The second opposition party, the National Party, is also ⁱⁿ disarray, because of a campaign by the Queensland Premier, Sir ^{Jon} Joe Bjelke-Petersen to take over the party leadership and that of the federal opposition to Mr Hawke. Mr McClelland, as a former Labor Senator, will no doubt be happy to explain how this should improve Labor's already good chances at the next election.

South Pacific Department
March 1987

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With the compliments of

PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT

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**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH**



cc PC

FROM: S W F Martin
Protocol Department

DATE: 23 March 1987

cc: Private Secretary
PS/No 10
PS/Lady Young
PS/Mr Patten
PS/PUS
PA/Mr Gillmore
PA/Mr McLaren (o.a.)
PA/Mr Hervey
PA/Mr Furness
PA/Mr Macan

Mr Furness
SPD

1. The new High Commissioner for Australia the Hon Douglas McClelland arrived in London on Friday 20 March and assumed his functions immediately.
2. An appointment with the Prime Minister to present the Letter of Introduction has been arranged for Wednesday 8 April. An audience of Her Majesty The Queen has been arranged for Thursday 26 March.
3. In due course, you should arrange for the appropriate FCO Minister to give a lunch in honour of the High Commissioner. Protocol Department should be kept informed of this.
4. Appointments for the High Commissioner to pay his initial calls at the FCO have been made as follows:

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Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps	27 Mar	11.15 am
Permanent Under Secretary	27 Mar	11.45 am
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Minister of State (Lady Young)	Wed 1 Apr	11.00 am
Head of CCD (Mr Macan)	1 Apr	11.30 am
Secretary of State	Mon 6 Apr	2.30 pm
Assistant Under Secretary (Mr McLaren)	To Be Arranged	

5. For these calls would you please prepare a biography of the High Commissioner and a short brief on our relations with the country. They should be given the following distribution:

Top copy on blue paper to:

Protocol Department - to forward to the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps for Her Majesty The Queen. This copy should have the date and 'Foreign and Commonwealth Office' typed at the bottom.

Private Secretary (10 Downing Street)

Other copies to:

Private Secretary - for the Secretary of State
 APS to Secretary of State
 Minister of State (Lady Young)
 Permanent Under Secretary
 Deputy Under Secretary (Mr Gillmore)
 Assistant Under Secretary (Mr McLaren, o.a.)
 Assistant Under Secretary (ODA)
 Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps
 Head of SPD
 Head of CCD
 5 copies to Protocol Department for Mr Martin



6. Mr McClelland is a portly dark-haired man of 60, with a ruddy complexion and a ready smile.

S W F Martin

23 March 1987

S W F Martin
Protocol Department

file



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With the compliments of

PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH**



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 March 1987

Mr A L Vincent
Acting High Commissioner for
Australia
Australian High Commission
Australia House
Strand
LONDON
WC2B 4LA

By des Tony

I am writing, in confirmation of our telephone conversation this morning, to say that the Prime Minister looks forward to receiving the new High Commissioner, the Hon Douglas McClelland (who is due to arrive on 20 March), at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 8 April. This is in order that he can present to Mrs Thatcher his letter of introduction from the Prime Minister of Australia. I know that you appreciate that the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union makes it difficult for her to receive Mr McClelland earlier than the date mentioned above.

As I told you, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps will be writing to you separately about the High Commissioner's audience of The Queen on Thursday 26 March.

John Eve

Stanley

S W F Martin
Assistant Marshal of the
Diplomatic Corps

Bcc: Mrs Tessa Gaisman (10 Downing
St)
Mrs Allcock (Private Office)
Mr Furness (SPD) - could
briefing please reach No 10
by the evening of 7 April

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Australian High Commissioner is coming in tomorrow to pay a brief farewell call. Mr. Parsons has been here since January 1984. He has been a very congenial and helpful High Commissioner. This is his last post. He is being very coy about what he is going to do next.

There are few current problems in our relations with Australia. Mr. Parsons has been much concerned with the preparations for the bicentenary next year, and deserves credit for helping to stimulate a considerable wave of goodwill for Australia in the approach to this. You will remember that there was some difficulty over Mr. Hawke's request, which we could not accept, for the original of the Australian Constitution. But this has only been a very minor hitch. The UK has given a training ship as a gift to mark the bicentenary.

You will recall that we do not exactly see eye to eye with Mr. Hawke on the question of sanctions against South Africa, but less has been heard of this in recent months.

The Australians have been wary of Mr. Lange's ideas on nuclear ships' visits, and have not emulated him. They have, however, continued to promote the Treaty establishing a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. We do not intend to sign this, though have not yet formally told the Australians so.

There were also a number of difficulties over the cleaning up of the Maralinga nuclear test site, but these appear to have been overcome.

You may have noticed that your friend and admirer, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, has decided to launch himself into Federal politics in Australia, disconcerting his colleagues in the

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Opposition a good deal more than the Government.

You will recall that Australia was helpful at the time of the Hong Kong Agreement.

You might ask Mr. Parsons about immigration from this country to Australia, the current numbers, and what he sees as the prospects.

Finally, on a small point, you might thank him for his personal help in obtaining visas with a minimum of fuss for Mark and Diane.

CDP

CDP

17 February, 1987.

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