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Honours

N/Zealand

Prime Minister
Wellington
New Zealand

20 February 1981

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 318/81

Dear Prime Minister,

Following recent changes in my Cabinet I would like to nominate the Honourable David Spence Thomson, MC, ED, MP, who is now the most senior and longest-serving Minister immediately after the Deputy Prime Minister, for appointment to the Privy Council. I would also like to suggest the same appointment for the Honourable (Mr Justice) Edward Jonathan Somers, who has been appointed a Judge of the Court of Appeal.

Mr Thomson has been a Member of Parliament since 1963 and a Minister of the Crown 1966-72 and since 1975. Since 1978 he has also been Leader of the House of Representatives. On the basis of service and seniority he amply fulfils the criteria of eligibility for appointment to the Council as clarified with your Office in 1978.

Mr Justice Somers was appointed a Judge of the High Court in 1974 and with the recent change in the Presidency of the Court of Appeal, has been appointed a Judge of that Court. It has been customary for our Appellate Judges to be appointed to the Council.

Biographical notes on Mr Thomson and Mr Justice Somers
... are attached.

I appreciate that appointments to the Privy Council are for The Queen to make on your advice. If you are disposed to recommend to Her Majesty the names of Mr Thomson and Mr Justice Somers it would be welcomed by the New Zealand Government and Judiciary.

Yours sincerely,
R D Muldoon

R D Muldoon

THOMSON, The Honourable David Spence, MC, ED, MP

Born: Stratford, New Zealand 14 November 1915

Married: 1942. 1 son, 2 daughters

Occupation: 1932-33 Law Clerk
1933-39 Stock and Station Clerk
1946-63 Dairy Farmer

Parliamentary Service: 1963-78 MP for Stratford
1978 - MP for Taranaki
1966-69 Minister of Tourism
1966-72 Minister of Defence
1969-72 Minister of Police
1972 Minister of Labour, Immigration
1975-78 Minister of Justice
1978- Minister of State Services,
Minister of State, and
Leader of the House of
Representatives

War Service: 1939-45 Middle East. Prisoner of War 1942.
1931- Territorial Army. Brigadier
(Reserve of Officers).
Honorary Colonel 5/RNZIR

Honours: MC (1942), ED
Granted the title "The Honourable"
for life 1973.

Address: Parliament House, Wellington

SOMERS, The Honourable (Mr Justice) Edward Jonathan

Born: Christchurch, 9 September 1928

Married: 3 children

Degrees: B.A., LL.B., University of New Zealand

Professional life: 1952 Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor

1955-71 Partner in the firm of E C Champion and Somers

1971-74 Practising as Barrister

1973 Queen's Counsel

1961-68 Member of Council of Canterbury District Law Society (President 1967)

1966-68 Member of Council of New Zealand Law Society

1969-74 Convenor of Ethics Committee, New Zealand Law Society

1971- Member of Council of Legal Education

1970- Member of New Zealand Council of Law Reporting

1966-72 Member of Property Law and Equity Reform Committee

1954-74 Part-time lecturer Canterbury University College and University of Canterbury continuously from 1954 to 1974 in various subjects from time to time including Conflict of Laws, Law of Trusts and Succession, Equity, and Conveyancing and Taxation

1974 Appointed a Judge of Supreme (now High) Court

1981 Appointed a Judge of Court of Appeal

Address: c/o The Court of Appeal
PO Box 1606
Wellington