

cc S/P.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

PS

From: J S Chick, SPD  
Date: 20 January 1984  
cc : Protocol Dept  
APS/Secretary of State  
PS/Lady Young  
PUS  
Sir William Harding  
Mr Donald  
Vice Marshal of the  
Diplomatic Corps  
Head/SPD  
Head/CCD  
AUS/ODA

*Handwritten initials and date:*  
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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER: INTRODUCTORY CALLS

1. Mr Martin's minute of 11 January called for a biographical note on Mr Parsons and a background brief on our bilateral relations with Australia. These are attached.
2. Separate copies have been sent to PS/No 10 Downing Street, and to Mr Martin to forward to the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.
3. Australia's National Day will be celebrated on 26 January. Mr Parsons will be the host at the reception. The Secretary of State, I understand, did not receive an invitation, but Lady Young, Mr Raison and Mr Whitney plan to attend.

J S Chick  
South Pacific Department

20 January 1984

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AUSTRALIA AND BRITAIN

1. Our relations remain good, close and extensive. As may be seen from the outstanding success of the Australian tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales in March 1983, these relations have not been disturbed by the advent of a Labor Government under Mr Hawke's leadership. They rest upon a base of frequent and frank exchanges at all levels.
2. Strong family ties subsist, more than a fifth of Australians are UK citizens. Robust support during the Falklands conflict was matched by a generous British response to the bush fire disaster of 1983.
3. Australian remains a very valuable trading partner. British firms sold £2,000 million of goods and services to Australia in 1982 and the net advantage to the UK was in excess of £1,000 million. British investors have long placed large sums in Australia and now provide about 30% of the net inflow of capital.
4. Australia exercises a powerful influence in the South Pacific and seeks a close understanding with the countries of SE Asia. Through the ANZUS security treaty, the Five Power Defence Arrangements, and in other ways, Australia defends Western interests. Unlike Western countries, Australia lives with the Third World on its doorstep. It is important that we seize opportunities to take the Austalians into our confidence.
5. We do this by exchange of information and co-operation at Ministerial and official level, through consultations before and after Economic summits and through briefing on political co-operation within the Community. There are regular visits by Ministers, Parliamentarians and senior officials. Joint defence exercises and an extensive programme for the loan and exchange of servicemen play their part. Scientific and cultural exchanges cover a wide area. The forthcoming celebrations of the Bicentenary of the establishment of the first colony by Governor Philip on 26 January 1788 will be particularly important. We look

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for and enjoy a close working relationship with the staff of  
the Australian High Commission.

20 January 1984  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PARSONS, ALFRED ROY

High Commissioner to the UK since 18 January 1984. Born Hobart, Tasmania, 24 May 1925.

Educated at Hobart High School and the University of Tasmania from whence he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He entered the Public Service of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1947 and has served continuously in the Australian Foreign Service rising to the rank of Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, a position he held immediately prior to his appointment in London. Most of his foreign service has been spent in South East Asia. He was High Commissioner in Singapore (1967-79) and Kuala Lumpur (1973-76). He has served in Jakarta, Rangoon, Berlin and at the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Mr Parsons is a very experienced professional diplomat. At times he has appeared stiff and lacking the light touch. He has not always seen eye to eye with British policies in the past and was unhelpful over Rhodesia and New Hebrides. But Mr Parsons is very pleased with his appointment to London, a post normally reserved for a political appointee, and is determined to make a success of it.

Married 1958 Gillian Pigot. Two sons, one daughter.

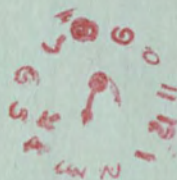
Recreation: golf, reading.

20 January 1984

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Mr Chick  
(South Pacific Department)

1. The new High Commissioner for Australia, Mr A R Parsons, will arrive in London on Thursday 19 January and assume his functions immediately.
2. An appointment with the Prime Minister to present the Letter of Introduction will be arranged in due course. An audience of Her Majesty The Queen will also be arranged but will not take place until early February.
3. In due course, you should arrange for the appropriate FCO Minister to give a lunch in honour of the High Commissioner.
4. Appointments for the High Commissioner to pay his initial calls at the FCO have been made as follows:-

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Head of South Pacific Department	Tues 24 Jan	3.30 pm
Assistant Under Secretary (Mr Donald)	Tues 24 Jan	4.00 pm
Permanent Under Secretary	Tues 24 Jan	4.30 pm
Minister of State (Lady Young)	Tues 24 Jan	5.00 pm
Deputy Under Secretary (Sir William Harding)	Tues 24 Jan	5.30 pm
Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps	Wed 25 Jan	3.30 pm
Head of Commonwealth Coordination Department (Mr A C Watson)	Wed 25 Jan	4.00 pm
Secretary of State	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 Australia. They should be given the following distribution:-

Top copies 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 on white paper to:

Private Secretary - for the Secretary of State  
APS to Secretary of State  
Minister of State (Lady Young)  
Permanent Under Secretary

/Deputy Under Secretary

Deputy Under Secretary (Sir William Harding)  
Assistant Under Secretary (Mr Donald)  
Assistant Under Secretary (ODA)  
Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps  
Head of South Pacific Department  
Head of Commonwealth Coordination Department  
4 copies to Protocol Department for Mr Martin

*S W F Martin*

S W F Martin  
Protocol Department  
273 3353 OAB G/50

11 January 1984

cc: PS/PA of those in paragraph 4  
PS/Minister for Overseas Development  
Private Secretary (10 Downing Street)