

Prime Minister

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MEETING WITH MR McLAY, LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION PARTY IN NEWZEALAND

Mr McLay is coming to see you at 10.45 a.m.
on Monday. Richard Ryder will be
bringing him in, as Jim Spicer is abroad.

Below is Departmental Briefing and a copy
of his biography.

Charles Powell and Michael Alison will be
at the meeting.

TESSA

20.9.85



23/9/85

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION NEWS BULLETIN

NAME: James Kenneth McLay
BORN: 1945
PARTY: National
ELECTORATE: Birkenhead
VOTES OBTAINED: 9672 (1981)
MAJORITY: 2104

The Hon. J.K. (Jim) McLay is Leader of the (National Party) Opposition. He held the justice portfolio and was Deputy Prime Minister in the last Muldoon Government.

He was born at Auckland and educated at Kings College and the University of Auckland, graduating as LLB in 1967. He began practice as a solicitor in 1971, but has practised solely as a barrister since 1974. He was an officer in the Territorial Force from 1967 to 1970.

Mr McLay was a member of the Auckland District Law Society's Magistrates Court subcommittee from 1969 to 1975. He also served on the Law Society ad hoc committee on legal representation for accused persons and the council of the Legal Research Foundation. In 1979 and 1970 he was managing editor of "Recent Law".

He joined the National Party in 1963 and served in the Auckland Central electorate. In 1975 he was elected MP for Birkenhead. In his first term he became chairman of the Parliamentary Statutes Revision Committee and a member of the Defence Select Committee. Between 1978 and July 1984 he held the portfolios of Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. In March 1984 he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in succession to the Rt Hon. D. MacIntyre, and in November 1984 he succeeded Sir Robert Muldoon as Leader of the Opposition.

Mr McLay currently serves on the Parliamentary Select Committees on Disarmament and Arms Control; Electoral Law; Privileges; Standing Orders; and Statutes Revision.

As a private member, he introduced his Evidence Amendment Bill to protect women from unfair cross-examination in rape cases. This bill is now law. As Government spokesman for women's affairs he was involved in the establishment in 1980 of the Advisory Committee on Women's Affairs.

His major interest outside of politics is trout fishing.

He is married.

September 1985

JAMES KENNETH McLAY

James Kenneth McLay was elected as Leader of the National Party and Leader of the Opposition on 30 November 1984.

Mr McLay was born 21 February 1945 in Devonport (Auckland) and educated at St Heliers School, Kings School, Kings College and at the University of Auckland, graduating LL.B, 1967. He began practising as a solicitor on his own account in 1971; and practised solely as a barrister after October 1974.

He was top cadet in the National Military Service Officer Cadet Training Unit (Waiouru) 1967 and an Officer in the Territorial Force from 1967-1970. He was a University of Auckland debating representative, 1963-65; winner of the Stout Shield Moot and the Davies Memorial Prize for Advocacy 1967; a regular Judge of Moots at the Auckland University Law School between 1966 and 1974; President of the University's Debating Society, 1965-66; Secretary of the New Zealand Universities' Debating Council, 1964; a member of the Auckland Law Students' Society Committee 1966-67 and Secretary 1967; and a member of the Finance Committee of the Auckland Festival Society, 1970-75.

Mr McLay was a member of several Auckland Law Society sub-committees between 1969 and 1975; a member of the Council of the Legal Research Foundation, 1967-70, and Secretary 1969-70; a member and Secretary of the Editorial Board of "Recent Law", 1968-70 and Managing Editor 1969-70.

Mr McLay joined the National Party in 1963. He was a member of the Auckland University National Club, 1965-67 and Patron 1968-69. He was active in the Auckland Central Electorate from 1966-74 including terms as Branch and Electorate Chairman and Chairman of two campaign committees. He has been a member of the Auckland Divisional Executive since 1966 and also held office as a Dominion Councillor and member of the Party's Dominion Executive and Rules Committee; as well as the Dominion Policy Advisory Committee and the Dominion Maori Affairs Policy Committee. He was Deputy Chairman of the Auckland Division in 1973-74 and for three months acted as Chairman of the Auckland Division.



Mr McLay was elected as Member of Parliament for Birkenhead in the 1975 General Election and in his first term served as Chairman of Parliament's Statutes Revision Select Committee and as a member of the Defence Select Committee. In 1977 his Private Member's Bill to amend the Evidence Act (to protect women from unfair cross-examination in rape cases) was adopted by the Government and became law (the first time such a step had been taken in over 40 years). Following his re-election in 1978 he became, at 33 years of age, the youngest member of the National Cabinet with the portfolios of Attorney-General and Minister of Justice; in April 1979 he became Government Spokesman for Women's Affairs.

In March 1984 (on the retirement of the Rt. Hon. Duncan McIntyre) Mr McLay was elected Deputy Leader of the National Party and became Deputy Prime Minister, the youngest person to hold either position. Following the July 1984 General Election he became Deputy Leader of the Opposition and was elected Leader of the National Party on 30 November 1984—again the youngest person to hold that position.

In his 5½ years as Minister, Mr McLay was involved in a wide range of law reforms, including the restructuring of the New Zealand Court system; the passing of the Official Information Act 1982; the introduction of the Rape Law Reform Bill and the Penal Law Reform package; and the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Women's Affairs.

In December 1983 Mr McLay married Marcy Kailikea Farden, a qualified U.S. lawyer who had, for 6 years, been Legislative Director for a U.S. Congressman in Washington D.C.

(August 1985)

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 September 1985

Dear Charles,

Call on the Prime Minister by the New Zealand Leader of The Opposition on Monday, 23 September, at 1045 am

I enclose a brief for the call on the Prime Minister by the New Zealand Leader of the Opposition, Mr McLay, on Monday 23 September at 1045 am, together with a personality note.

Mr McLay called on the Foreign Secretary on 19 September, when he explained that the purpose of his current tour of the United States and Europe is to make contact with traditional friends in view of present strains in New Zealand's relations with France and the United States. He had himself withdrawn from a planned stop in France.

Mr McLay told the Foreign Secretary that his Party wants the full restoration of the ANZUS Alliance, and that he is sceptical of the Deputy New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Palmer's, chances of resolving the ship visit issue while in Washington. He has not made clear how he would himself proceed on gaining office. But he showed considerable anxiety about the damage that had been done to New Zealand's relations with the US on this, and with France as a result of the Rainbow Warrior affair. In each case he was critical of the effects of Mr Lange's rhetoric.

Yr ever,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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