



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1981

*Dear Michael,*Washington

As you know, the Secretary of State discussed with the Prime Minister in Cancun the succession to Sir Nicholas Henderson in Washington and they agreed that Sir Anthony Parsons was the best choice.

Lord Carrington has since spoken to Sir Anthony Parsons who has said that he would be delighted to take up appointment in Washington. We do not intend to start putting this appointment through the formal processes for another month or two, to minimise the risk of leaks which would result in Sir Nicholas Henderson being regarded as a 'lame duck' for too long a period.

*Yours ever,  
John*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

bcc: PS/PUS  
Hd POD

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