

**AA1984/609 PART 3, The Governor-General's periodic confidential reports to The Queen
[Sir John Kerr – correspondence with The Queen – Palace letters] Part 3**

Date of letter	From	To	Description
27 May 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian mini budget, Federal expenditure, Medibank levy, reduction of deficit, wage policy • New South Wales election outcome, reflections on new Premier, Mr Neville Wran <p>Attachment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clipping
27 May 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir John's visit to Western Australia, observations of public sentiment toward the Monarchy and position of Governor-General • Audience with The Queen sought by Mr Whitlam • Reflections on publication by Mr Paul Kelly <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Western Australian Premier Sir Charles Court to Prime Minister Fraser, 19 May 1976 • Letter from Western Australian Premier Sir Charles Court to Editor of <i>The West Australian</i> regarding harassment of the Governor-General, 19 May 1976 • Letter from Western Australian Premier Sir Charles Court to the Governor-General, 20 May 1976 • Follow-up letter from Western Australian Premier Sir Charles Court to the Governor-General, 20 May 1976 • Press clippings
17 May 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letters of 27 Apr and 4 and 7 May 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on breadth of information provided to The Queen • Australian Honours System • Strategy to protect the position of Governor-General
6 May 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 23 Apr 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to meeting with Sir John Bunting in London
7 May 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Western Australia, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island • New South Wales election outcome • Order of honours within the Australian honours system • The position of the Governor-General in the monarchical system and role of Attorney-General in defending the position • Additional handwritten postscript: • from Sir John and postscript • (2) from David Smith

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4 May 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth recommendations for Honours, Mr Lance Barnard, Mr John Egerton, Mr John Ducker • New South Wales election outcome deadlock • Possible tax reform and mini budget • Possible trade union protests in Melbourne during proposed visit • Comments on further publications on the dismissal of the Whitlam Government detailing Sir John's actions • Comments on Mr Menadue's agitation for Governor-General's resignation <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
28 Apr 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 13 Apr 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the New South Wales election, role of Mr Whitlam in the election • Comments on academic views of the Whitlam Government dismissal
21 Apr 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 6 Apr 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations on Sir John's knighthood • Similarity of economic issues and taxation in Australia and UK
27 Apr 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANZAC Day reports in press • Demonstration at Australian National University; possible boycott of lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor and Council of the City of Melbourne • Personal note regarding wedding anniversary and upcoming family wedding <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
23 Apr 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations on Her Majesty's 50th birthday • Upcoming New South Wales election • Demonstrations in Australia agitating for resignation of Sir John • Arrangements for the Governor-General's security • Collaboration with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding the Governor-General's official program • Opinion poll results on Prime Minister Fraser's and Mr Whitlam's popularity • Gallup poll results regarding Governor-General's resignation <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
12 Apr 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letters of 29 and 30 Mar 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of personal information regarding Lady Kerr's divorce

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13 Apr 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming New South Wales election • Upcoming visit of The Queen in 1977 • Academic views of Sir John's decision to dismiss the Whitlam Government • Prime Minister's suggestions regarding amendment to the Australian honours system • Order of Australia knighthood <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
6 Apr 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic matters in Australia including wage and tax indexation • Increased security arrangements for Sir John and Lady Kerr • Government view of Sir John as Governor-General <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Prime Minister Menzies speech, 14 Jan 1976: 'Reflections on an election' • Deputy Prime Minister Anthony's speech National Party Annual Conference, Bendigo, 1 Apr 1976 • Paper presented at Australian National University by R S Parker 'Thoughts on the Constitutional crisis' • Press clipping
31 Mar 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 23 Mar 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political leadership developments in London
31 Mar 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 26 Mar 1976</p>
30 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration at the Australian National University • Mr Whitlam's continued discontent • Comments on new publication <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
29 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal note regarding circumstances of second marriage
26 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Gallup polls in support of Sir John's decision <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings

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23 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor party politics and Mr Whitlam's leadership • Victorian state election results • Visit to Adelaide and demonstrations • Leak of Mr Whitlam's letter to The Queen • Further publication on the Whitlam Government dismissal • Visit to former Prime Minister Robert Menzies <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Whitlam speech at the launch of 'Kerr's King Hit!' by Clem Lloyd and Andrew Clark, 22 Mar 1976 • Press clippings • Letter from Sir Laurence Street, New South Wales Chief Justice, 20 Mar 1976 • Current Affairs Bulletin booklet, vol 52, 10 Mar 1976
15 Mar 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letters of 4 and 9 Mar 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws parallels between political leaders situation in UK and Australia • Developments regarding Prerogatives of the Crown in UK <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clipping
8 Mar 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 2 Mar 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appearance of Iraqi Gold story in British press
2 Mar 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 19 Feb 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration outside Parliament House • Program of visits across Australia • 'McClelland saga'
9 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political disruption in Australia • Alleged Ellicott and Barwick plan following denial of Supply • Murdoch press coverage of Labor party funding crisis and Iraqi gold investigation • Reports of Tony Benn actions • Possible visit to Canada <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
4 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor party investigation of funding source and disappearance of Mr Fischer • Visit of the King and Queen of Jordan <p>Attachments</p>

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2 Mar 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Party funding crisis and Iraqi gold investigation • Review of recent publications regarding the Whitlam Government dismissal <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
24 Feb 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 16 Feb 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging disagreeable opening of Parliament
16 Feb 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to of letter of 6 Feb 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian opening of Parliament • The Queen's forthcoming visit in 1977
23 Feb 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir John's views on Australian and proposed Papua New Guinean constitution <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Kerr article 1969 'Wanted a Constitution: Before it is too late...' re Papua New Guinea (13 pages) • The Governor-Generalship in Australia, Journal of the Indian Law Institute, Jan-Mar 1975 (booklet: 7 pages) • Sir John's speech at the opening of the Annual Conference of the Australasian Law Schools Association, 25 Aug 1975 (10 pages)
19-20 Feb 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boycott of opening of Parliament by Labor Party Members • Public protests • Proposal for continued visits across Australia • Outline of events leading up to the dismissal of the Whitlam government <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
16 Feb 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols for opening Parliament, Labor party member boycotts, public demonstrations • Comments on Mr Whitlam's public statements regarding Sir John and the dismissal • Comments on media reports and publications <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings

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6 Feb 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignation of newly sworn in Minister for Post and Telecommunications and swearing in of new Minister • Performance of new Government policies and economic management • Reflections on relationship between the Crown/ Governor-General and the Australian people • Public acceptance of Sir John's actions in dismissing the Whitlam Government <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of letter from Sir Martin to the Prime Minister of Australia, 29 Jan 1976 • Letter from Prime Minister Fraser to Sir Martin (undated)
22 Jan 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft letter to Mr Whitlam in response to letter received in Jan 1976 • Account of decisions made to protect future of the Monarchy <p>Attachment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft letter from Sir Martin to Mr Whitlam
9 Jan 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for comment on draft letter to Mr Whitlam in response to letter received from Mr Whitlam <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Mr Whitlam to Sir Martin, 26 Nov 1975 • Draft letter from Sir Martin to Mr Whitlam (no date)
16 Dec 1975	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of the federal election, public sentiment toward political parties, government and monarchy • Swearing in of new Ministry • Arrangements to visit London