

**Governor-General's periodic confidential reports to The Queen
[Sir John Kerr – correspondence with The Queen – Palace letters] Part 4**

Date of letter	From	To	Description
22 Sep 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged need to organise custody arrangements for Sir John's papers relating to his Governor-Generalship including correspondence with the Palace • Recognition that nature of papers is different and will remain under embargo • Requesting suggestions for custody and control of papers • Consideration of whether papers should be deposited under embargo to the National Library of Australia
21 Sep 1976	Sir John Kerr	The Queen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal despatch expressing on Sir John and Lady Kerr's appreciation of The Queen's support through Sir Martin • Inevitable discussion about constitutional amendment noted • Expression of honour to represent The Queen in Australia

Date of letter	From	To	Description
21 Sep 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Menadue appointed Ambassador to Japan • Mr Shann appointed High Commissioner in London • Mr Carmody appointed Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet • Mr Parkinson appointed as Permanent Head of Foreign Affairs Department • Mr Renouf appointed Ambassador to Washington • Media reporting of the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea's cancelled visit • Political situation in Papua New Guinea • Private visit of Mrs Thatcher to Australia • Governor-General's visit to North Queensland • New intelligence organisation • Press interest in the Prince of Wales • Polls support Sir John to remain as Governor-General • Comments on the Society for Asserting the Constitution over Kerr (SACK) and Ms Harriet Swift's activities <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings • 'The Dismissal of the Whitlam Government' by Edward St John, QC • 'The Legislative Power of the Senate in Respect of Money Bills' by J E Richardson, The Australian Law Journal, vol 50 • 'The Constitutional Consequences of Mr Whitlam: Precedents and prerogative power' by H V Hodson, The Round Table, Apr 1976
7 Sep 1976	Sir Martin Charteris, Balmoral Castle	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letters of 5 and 31 Aug 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 57 of the Constitution • Governor-General's Coat of Arms • Demonstrations against Prime Minister Fraser • Mr Whitlam's comments on The Queen's visit and leadership issues • Advice sought regarding the Society for Asserting the Constitution over Kerr (SACK)

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9 Sep 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request by the Papua New Guinea Governor-General to visit Australia and the Department of Foreign Affairs' reluctance • Political developments in Papua New Guinea • Australian economic situation • Continuing demonstrations against Sir John • Opinion regarding Instructions from The Queen to the Governor-General and Letters Patent • Order of precedence, Privy Councillors and Knights • Deputy Official Secretary to be appointed, Mr McElligott <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Vitae of Mr McElligott • Letter from Mr John Menadue to Sir John regarding Solicitor-General's opinion on the Governor-General's instructions, 24 Sept 1975 • Covering note from the Solicitor-General, M H Byers to the Prime Minister Fraser with an opinion on Governor-General's Instructions, 5 Sept 1975
28 Aug 1976	Sir Philip Moore, Balmoral Castle	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 18 Aug 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queen's acknowledgement of the budget, possible election dates, demonstrations • Reflections on The Queen's visit and demonstrations organised by Mr Whitlam
31 Aug 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash University demonstrations, Prime Minister Fraser held under stage for an hour • Development of ongoing security arrangements for public officials • Prime Minister Fraser awarded Father of the Year 1976 • Mr Whitlam's leadership position • Invitation from former Prime Minister Menzies to dinner of Scot's College community in Melbourne <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMPOL Report of visit of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister to the Wentworth Hotel, 27 Aug 1976 • Press clippings

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18–19 Aug 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<p>Response to letters of 3 and 5 Aug 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget delivered to stimulate business and investment, ease unemployment • Prime Minister's considerations regarding the timing of the federal election and timing of Senate by-elections • Sir John's discussion with Prime Minister Fraser regarding the economy and possibility of a referendum • Preliminary discussions regarding a draft program for The Queen's visit <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
5 Aug 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letters of 27 and 29 Jul 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palace view if demonstrations occur during her visit to Australia • Governor-General's reserve powers, security of tenure, the role of The Queen • Difficulties for Prince Charles in becoming the Governor-General
5 Aug 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 57 of the Constitution • Circumstances surrounding provision of Supply and double dissolution • Coat of Arms design for Governor-General <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings • Letter 23 Jul 1976 from Garter King of Arms to David Smith re the Governor-General's Coat of Arms <p>[Note: Attachments referenced in the letter are not enclosed.]</p>
3 Aug 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 22 Jul 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queen's successful visit to the USA and Canada • Prime Minister Fraser's audience with The Queen in Canada and consideration of a referendum to amend the Constitution • Proposal to appoint Prince of Wales as the Governor-General

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29 Jul 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media reports of Prince Charles and The Queen • Conversation with Mr Yeend, acting Permanent Head of Prime Minister's Department, regarding his views on a referendum and constitutional reform <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
27 Jul 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions of options to avoid future constitutional crisis, vice-regal powers, referendum with reference to views of Sir Garfield Barwick and Sir Arthur Tange • Demonstrations against Sir John in Sydney <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text of ABC News Radio News item, 26 Jul 1976 • Press clippings
17 Jul 1976	William (Bill) Heseltine	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 13 Jul 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to meetings of Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Peterson in London regarding extension of Sir Colin Hannah's term as Governor of Queensland • Media reports of Mr Whitlam's audience with The Queen
13 Jul 1976	Sir Martin Charteris HM Yacht Britannia Halifax Nova Scotia	David Smith	<p>Response to letter of 1 Jul 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Professor Francis West's article
22 Jul 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press coverage of Prime Minister Fraser's audience with The Queen • Demonstrations are subsiding evidenced by visit to Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria • Upcoming program of events in Melbourne • Gallup poll on the resignation of the Governor-General • Media interview by Mr Whitlam • Discussion with the Prime Minister regarding referendum to amend the Constitution <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract of transcript of 'This Day Tonight' television interview Mr Whitlam 20 Jul 1976 • Extract of letter to Governor-General from Garter King of Arms 13 Jul 1976
7 Jul 1976	William (Bill) Heseltine	David Smith	<p>Response to letter of 1 Jul 1976</p>

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13 Jul 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed extension of Sir Colin Hannah's term as Governor of Queensland • Coat of Arms for the Governor-General and use of Royal Crown in insignia • 24 hour strike in Australia by Australian Council of Trade Unions in response to the Government's Medibank proposals, Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission decision on full wage indexation • The Queen's discussion with Mr Whitlam during his audience • Return from visit to North Queensland • Impending visit to Victoria <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract of letter from Garter Principal King of Arms, dated 11 May 1976 • Press clippings • Letter from Barwick to Sir John Kerr, 2 Jul 1976, regarding fears for events happening during The Queen's visit and consideration of need for change to the constitution regarding tenure of the Governor-General
2 Jul 1976	William (Bill) Heseltine	David Smith	<p>Response to letter of 29 Jun 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter shown to The Queen • Impact of Mr Whitlam's audience with The Queen and Mr Whitlam's repose to media questions
30 Jun 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letters of 17 and 22 Jun 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to Sir John's discussions with Archbishop Woods in Melbourne • Sir Martin's, the Bunting's and the Whitlam's dinner and Sir Martin's discussion with Mr Whitlam • Mr Whitlam's audience with The Queen • The Queen's interest in the Task Group • Continued support from Sir Martin • The Queen's impending visit to America
1 Jul 1976	David Smith	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Francis West's article • Mr Whitlam's press conference • Mr Hawke's attempt to refocus the Labor Party • Public support for the Sir John received by Government House <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article Francis West, 'Constitutional Crisis 1975: an historian's view', <i>The Australian Quarterly</i>, Jun 1976 vol 48 • Press cartoons

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29 Jun 1976	David Smith	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir John and Lady Kerr on leave on Heron Island • Melbourne visit including three functions occurred without disturbance • Further calls for Sir John's resignation by Reverend Allan Walker; defence of Sir John by Sir Allan Watt in the media • Media reports of Mr Whitlam's audience with The Queen <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings
17 Jun 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Fraser's overseas visits to China and Japan and foreign policy • Political allegiances in the union movement and Labor Party, mention of Mr Bob Hawke • Prime Minister Fraser's support of Governor-General, development of a counter strategy to protect Sir John and the office <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aide memoir including Commonwealth/State police cooperation, Defence of the Monarchy Governor-Generalship; The Queen and political advice through Australian Prime Minister; Knighthood of the Order of Australia; mid-term leave • Task Group paper on security of the Governor General, PJL [Sir Peter Lawler?], 16 Jun 1976
22 Jun 1976	Sir John Kerr	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord Casey's death • Prime Minister Fraser's visit to China and Japan • Mr Whitlam's overseas tour • Tension outlined between Sir John Egerton and trade unions and the Labor Party • Visit to Brisbane and Gold Coast peaceful following police numbers and tactics employed • Fiji-Australia Ruby Union Test and visit from His Excellency Ratu Sir George Cakobau • Upcoming legal dinner in Melbourne • Mr Whitlam's proposed audience with The Queen • Ongoing campaign against Sir John as Governor-General, increasing pressure for his resignation prior to The Queen's visit <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings • Telegram received 10 Jun 1976 by Sir John from supporters against organisers of demonstrations

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16 Jun 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to letter of 10 Jun 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queen expresses concern regarding demonstrations in Melbourne and injury received by Aide • The Queen and Royal household express delight that Mr Menzies will accept the first knighthood in the Order of Australia as part of revised Australian honours system
14 Jun 1976	Sir Martin Charteris, Windsor Castle	David Smith	Response to letter of 8 Jun 1976
9 Jun 1976	Sir Martin Charteris	Sir John Kerr	<p>Response to two letters of 27 May 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison between Australian and UK economic situation • Noting Mr Neville Wran as Premier of New South Wales • Noting Sir John and Lady Kerr's successful visit to Western Australia • Mr Whitlam's proposed audience with The Queen to occur on advice from Prime Minister Fraser and Sir John
10 Jun 1976	[Sir John Kerr]	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrations in Melbourne after return to Australia from Norfolk Island • Injury of Aide in demonstrations • Australian League of Rights • Economic policy, Commonwealth/State bargaining <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press clippings • Paper on the Australian League of Rights
8 Jun 1976	David Smith	Sir Martin Charteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf of Sir John enclosing document on constitutional crisis <p>Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Crisis, draft article by Professor Francis West • Constitutional Crisis from the Australian Current Law Digest, December