

CONFIDENTIAL

# 10 DOWNING STREET

THIS FILE MUST NOT GO OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING ST

FILE TITLE: Relations		SERIES BAHAMAS
		PART: 1
PART BEGINS: 22 June 1999 2 May 1997.	PART ENDS: 26 Aug 2000 <del>2 June 2001</del>	CAB ONE:

**LABOUR  
ADMINISTRATION**

*Part closed*

PREM49/1735

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PART

CLOSED

DATE CLOSED

7 JUNE 2001

Series : **BAHAMAS**

File Title : **Relations**

Part : **1**

Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
22/06/1999	PM	Bahamas Pres	(H) Introduction to the new Huigh Commissioner to the Commonweal	U	0
25/06/1999	FCO	FA/APS	New Bahamas High Commissioner	C	0
28/06/1999	FA/APS	FCO	New Bahamas High Commissioner	C	0
26/08/2000	FCO	FA/PS	Death of former PM Sir Lynden pindling PM message	C	0



Can a message be issued (x)?  
+44 171 270 3823

For Resident Clerk 020 7270 3823

UNCLASSIFIED  
DD 261500Z FCOLN  
FM NASSA TO FCOLN  
261307Z AUG  
GRS N/C

St. John's  
(Res Clerk) Telegraphic version follows I  
(7270 3350) can be reached on 00 1242 357 9005  
(mobile) or 00 1242 364 2463 (home)

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM NASSAU  
TO DESKBY 261500Z FCO  
TELNO 73  
OF 261307Z AUGUST 00

John  
see message  
attached  
ok?  
[Signature]

Thanks  
Phil Culligan

26/8/00

FOR RESIDENT CLERK

MY TELNO 63

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS: DEATH OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SIR LYNDEN PINDLING

SUMMARY

1. Sir Lynden Pindling dies. Request that Buckingham Palace be informed. Recommend that letter of condolence be sent from Prime Minister to Bahamian Prime Minister.

DETAIL

2. Former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling died at home early this morning after a long illness. The Cabinet Office has announced a period of national mourning and flying of flags at half mast on government buildings until after his funeral (for which a date has not yet been announced).

Temporarily retained

3.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

4. As discussed in telecon Culligan/Resident Clerk, I recommend - that a message of condolence also be sent from the Prime Minister to Prime Minister Ingraham. Although I do not believe that Sir Lynden was well known to current British ministers, he was the most significant figure in modern Bahamian history. He led The Bahamas into majority rule in 1967, was Premier then Prime Minister for more than 25 years until his defeat by current Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham in 1992, and was a member of Parliament for 40 years.

5. A suggested draft text follows:

*Copy advised resident clerk to issue as requested 26/8*

*Prime - can issue (I'd prefer to delete "both").  
Pse tell Duty Press Officer),  
JR*

**BEGINS**

I was saddened to hear of the death of Sir Lynden Pindling today. Please pass my condolences and those of the British Government to his family and to the Bahamian people.

During his long career in politics, and as the first Prime Minister of an independent Commonwealth of The Bahamas he made an enormous contribution to the development of the nation and its people.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered ~~both~~ for his contributions at home and throughout the Commonwealth.

**ENDS**

6. Originator: Phil Culligan, Acting High Commissioner.  
Tel: 1 242 325 7471. Fax: 1 242 323 3871.

**CULLIGAN**

**YYYY**

**||||**

**NNNN**



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SM  
a JPs  
JS  
MT  
AE

From the Private Secretary

28 June 1999

Dear Sherard,

**NEW BAHAMAS HIGH COMMISSIONER**

Thank you for your letter of 25 June about the appointment of Mr Basil O'Brien as the next Bahamas High Commissioner in London. We are content for you to tell the Bahamas Government that we will be glad to welcome Mr O'Brien in London.

Yours ever,

Philip

**PHILIP BARTON**

Sherard Cowper-Coles Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Top PB  
CJB  
JS  
MT  
AC

25 June 1999

London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Philip,*

New Bahamas High Commissioner

The Government of the Bahamas propose to appoint Mr Basil O'Brien CMG to be High Commissioner in London in succession to ... Mr Arthur Foulkes. I enclose a brief curriculum vitae. He looks a good choice.

As you know, it is not the practice between Commonwealth countries of which Her Majesty is The Queen to seek formal agreement to the appointment of a High Commissioner. But the Foreign Secretary would be grateful for confirmation that you would be content for us to tell the Bahamas Government that the British Government would be glad to welcome Mr O'Brien in London and looked forward to continuing with him the happy association which they enjoyed with his predecessor.

*Yours ever,*

*Sherard*

(Sherard Cowper-Coles)  
Principal Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE  
10 Downing Street

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**MR. BASIL G. O'BRIEN, CMG**

Born 5 December, 1940

Married in 1967 to the former Marlene Devika Chand

Two Children - David Krishna and Tariq Jeremy

Religion - Anglican

## **PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

1969 Higher Executive Officer, Ministry of External Affairs

1970 Assistant Secretary, Cabinet Office (rising to the rank of Deputy Permanent Secretary

1978 Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism

1986 Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1989 Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Industry

1993 Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education

1994 Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service

## **PAST DIRECTORSHIPS**

Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. John's College

Member of the Anglican Central Education Authority

Director of The Bahamas Hotel Training College

Director of Bahamasair Holdings Company



Torque sensor

extending the agility of the firm

Ireland

Sanctions on Yugoslavia's

FILE

AOB



→ DCO

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc: FCO

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 June 1999

SUBJECT  
MASTER  
Filed on:

Dear Prime Minister

This letter will be presented to you by Peter Richard Heigl, Esquire, who has been appointed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to be its High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is his letter of introduction to you.

Mr Heigl is highly capable and experienced, and is well-suited to the task of developing relations between us.

For these reasons, I hope that you and your Government will be ready to work closely with him.

Yours sincerely  
Tony Blair

The Right Honourable Hubert Alexander Ingraham MP

AOB

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