

be provided with a letter from their Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of the country to which they are appointed. This is the procedure actually followed by the Union Government in the case of their High Commissioners, and I suggest that it should be adopted, or in the case of South Africa continued, in all future appointments of this kind.

I am writing in similar terms to the Prime Ministers of all the other Members of the Commonwealth except India, and I am sending copies of my letters to the respective Commonwealth High Commissioners in London.¹

Yours sincerely,
C.R. ATTLEE

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*Le premier ministre
au premier ministre du Royaume-Uni
Prime Minister
to Prime Minister of United Kingdom*

Ottawa, March 14, 1951

My dear Prime Minister,

I was glad to receive your letter of February 5 relative to the accreditation of High Commissioners. You will be interested to know that it has for some time been our practice to provide Canadian High Commissioners with letters of introduction from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to his opposite number in the respective Commonwealth capitals — i.e. to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations in London and to the Minister for External Affairs or for Commonwealth Relations in other Commonwealth countries.

The practice of Commonwealth governments varies with respect to appointments to Ottawa; the High Commissioner for Australia who arrived in 1947, like his United Kingdom colleague who arrived the previous year, bore no letter of accreditation, the High Commissioner for New Zealand who arrived in August 1950 and the most recent High Commissioner for India who arrived in August, 1949, carried letters of introduction from their respective Ministers of External Affairs, and the High Commissioners for Pakistan and South Africa, both of whom came in the middle of 1949, carried letters of introduction from Prime Minister to Prime Minister.

I share what I believe to be your view that it is desirable to achieve so far as possible uniformity between Commonwealth nations with respect to accreditation and the designation of representatives exchanged between them. Consequently I

¹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Mr Ritchie to note

Mr Pick/Mr Feaver to prepare memo[random] to P[rime] M[inister] & Minister & draft reply A.D.P.H[eeney] Feb 21.