



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
AT THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release, 28 June 2010

Three High Commissioners elected to Council of the Royal Commonwealth Society

At its Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 24 June 2010, the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) confirmed the election of the High Commissioners of Australia, Grenada and Mauritius to its governing Council.

The Royal Commonwealth Society is the oldest and largest civil society organisation devoted to Commonwealth affairs.

Taking up their positions on Council are the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr John Dauth; Mauritian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Abhimanu Kundasamy; and Grenadian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ruth Elizabeth Rouse. They join four other newly elected members.

Chairman of the RCS, Peter Kellner said: "We are delighted to welcome the High Commissioners onto our Council. All bring a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm to the role and I very much look forward to working with them in the furtherance of the Society's aims."

Notes to Editors

Mr John Dauth LVO took up the appointment of High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in September 2008. He was previously High Commissioner to New Zealand (2006 – 08). Prior to this he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2001 – 06) and Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1998 – 2001).

Mr Dauth has served in a number of positions overseas including as High Commissioner to Malaysia (1993 – 96), Consul-General, Australian Consulate-General, Noumea (1986 – 87), Charge d'Affaires, Australian Embassy, Tehran (1983 – 85), First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Islamabad (1974 – 76) and Third (later Second) Secretary, Australian Embassy, Lagos (1970 – 72). From 1977 – 1980, Mr Dauth worked on secondment to Buckingham Palace as Assistant Press Secretary to the Queen and Press Secretary to the Prince of Wales.

Mr Dauth has also held a number of positions in Canberra, including First Assistant Secretary, South and South-East Asia Division (1996 – 98), First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division (1991 – 93), Chief of Staff to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (1989 – 91), Assistant Secretary, Public Affairs Branch (1987 – 89), and Head, Commonwealth and Multilateral Organisations Section (1980 – 82). He joined the then Department of External Affairs in 1969. Mr Dauth was born in 1947. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sydney.

Abhimanu Kundasamy became High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius in December 2005. He is also accredited as the Ambassador of Mauritius to Finland, Sweden, Norway and Ireland.

Between 1996 and 2000, High Commissioner Kundasamy acted as High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa. During his tenure in Pretoria, he was also accredited to Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At a

regional level, he was accredited to the SADC and COMESA Secretariats in Gaborone and Lusaka, as well as the Regional UN office in Nairobi.

He is the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). In November 2008, he was elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation.

Ruth Elizabeth Rouse returned to London at the end of October 2008 as High Commissioner for Grenada to the Court of St. James's for the second time, following the election of a new Grenadian Government in July of 2008. The High Commissioner is also accredited to South Africa and Nigeria.

High Commissioner Rouse began her career as a protocol officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before becoming Chief of Protocol in 1996. In 1998, she was awarded the Independence Award for Exemplary Public Service. She was posted to the High Commission for the Countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in Ottawa, Canada, representing the region. In 2004, she became the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations (UN) in New York, and has worked within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Caucus of Permanent Representatives to the UN and with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for the launch of the Central Emergency Response Fund in March 2006. She is credited with Grenada's status as a police-contributing country to the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti, and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team.

During her previous posting in the UK (1999-2004), along with colleagues, High Commissioner Rouse founded the Women in Diplomatic Service Group (WDS) in the UK. The WDS supports a scholarship programme for young women diplomats from around the world. High Commissioner Rouse holds a BA in French and Spanish from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada and an MA in Diplomacy from the University of Westminster in London.

The Royal Commonwealth Society: Founded in 1868, the RCS conducts a range of events and activities aimed at promoting international understanding. Its educational, youth and cultural programmes include one of the world's oldest and largest schools essay competitions, and an innovative international youth leadership programme. HM Queen Elizabeth II is Patron and Peter Kellner is Chairman. Headquartered at the Commonwealth Club in London, the RCS has some 4000 members in the UK and a presence in 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies.

The Royal Commonwealth Society's affairs are governed by an elected Council. The Council consists of the President, the Chairman, two Deputy Chairmen and the Treasurer of the Society, ex officio; nine members elected by the membership in General Meeting; and up to three members elected by the Council from among the Vice-Presidents. All Commonwealth High Commissioners in London are Vice-Presidents of the Society. The Council has responsibility for the sole management of the income, funds and property of the Society and, subject to the provisions of the Charter, Rules and of the law relating to charity trustees, for the entire management and direction of the Society.

The RCS is a registered charity in England & Wales (226748) See www.thercs.org