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For Table of Contents see last page

FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY, 1956

Whitehall, January 20, 1956.

The QUEEN has been pleased to issue Her Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Realm in form following:—

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith To all Archbishops Dukes Marquesses Earls Viscounts Bishops Barons Baronets Knights Citizens and Burgesses and all other Our faithful Subjects whatsoever to whom these Presents shall come Greeting

Whereas by section six of an Act passed in the first year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Sixth intituled "The Regency Act 1937" it is amongst other things enacted that in the event of Our absence or intended absence from Our United Kingdom We may in order to prevent delay or difficulty in the despatch of public business by Letters Patent under the Great Seal delegate for the period of that absence to Counsellors of State such of Our Royal functions as may be specified in the Letters Patent but subject to the exceptions provided in the said Act

And whereas it is Our intention to be absent from Our United Kingdom for the purpose of visiting the Federation of Nigeria

And whereas the persons to whom Royal functions may by virtue of the said section as amended by an Act passed in the seventh year of His late Majesty's Reign intituled "The Regency Act 1943" and by an Act passed in the second year of Our Reign intituled "The Regency Act 1953" now be delegated by Us as Counsellors of State are Our Most dearly beloved Husband and Most faithful Counsellor Philip Duke of Edinburgh Our Most dearly beloved Mother Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Our Most dear and entirely beloved Sister Princess Margaret Rose Lady of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order Our Most dear and entirely beloved Uncle and Most faithful Counsellor Prince Henry William Frederick Albert Duke of Gloucester Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter Knight of Our Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle Knight of Our Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick Great Master and Principal Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order Our Most dear and entirely beloved Aunt The Princess Royal Victoria Alexandra Alice Mary Lady of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order Dame Grand Cross of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and Our Most dear and entirely beloved Cousin George Henry Hubert Earl of Harewood

And whereas Our Husband Philip Duke of Edinburgh intends to accompany Us during Our intended absence from Our United Kingdom

Know ye that We do hereby by virtue of the provisions of the said Acts except from among the number of Counsellors of State during the period of Our absence Our Husband Philip Duke of Edinburgh and delegate for that period to the following Counsellors of State that is to say to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Princess Margaret The Duke of Gloucester The Princess Royal and The Earl of Harewood the Royal functions hereinafter specified to be exercised jointly by not less than two of their number subject to the condition that if We signify or it appears to them that they should not act in any matter or for any purpose without Our previous special approval they shall not act in that matter or for that purpose without that approval and accordingly We do by these Presents delegate to the said Counsellors of State or any two or more of them full power and authority during the period of Our said absence to summon and hold on Our behalf Our Privy Council and to signify thereat Our approval of anything for which Our approval in Council is required and further to approve and sign on Our behalf commissions for signifying the Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament except an Act touching any of the matters for which provision is made in the Act of Settlement or touching Our Royal Style and Titles and to approve and sign on Our behalf any proclamation warrant fiat submission or other document requiring Our approval or Signature which relates to the affairs of Our United Kingdom or to the affairs of any of Our Colonies or any Territories under Our protection or in which We have jurisdiction in cases where Our Government in the United Kingdom is responsible for the foreign affairs of such Colonies or Territories and to do on Our behalf anything required to be done in relation to any such proclamation warrant fiat submission or other document and further to do on Our behalf anything which by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative or of any statutory or other power We are authorised to do for the safety or good government of Our United Kingdom any of Our said Colonies or any of the said Territories save only that as provided in the said Act they the said Counsellors of State shall not have power to dissolve Parliament otherwise than on Our express instructions and shall not grant any rank title or dignity of the peerage and further that they shall not receive any homage required to be done to Ourselves and shall not approve or sign any warrant fiat submission or other document set out in the Schedule hereunto annexed

COMMANDING all and singular Archbishops Dukes Marquesses Earls Viscounts Bishops Barons Baronets Knights Citizens and Burgesses and all other Our Officers Ministers and Subjects that in everything appertaining to the matters aforesaid they