



High Commission of the Republic of the Fiji Islands
United Kingdom

RE: Presentation of Credentials. Copenhagen. Denmark, 24/6/03

On Tuesday, 24/6/03, I presented my credentials to Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II at the Amalienborg Palace, Copenhagen.

We were met at the airport (12 Km from the city centre) by an officer of the Protocol Division of the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 23rd of June 2003. We were then taken to Hotel Radisson SAS Royal.

At 3.30 pm on the same day, I called on Mr. Niels K. Dyrland, Director of Protocol, to whom I handed the working copy of the letter of recall of my predecessor and my own letter of credence. He told me that on the following day, a total of 4 Ambassadors would individually be presenting our credentials at the Palace - Pakistan and India (based in Copenhagen), Honduras (based in Stockholm, Sweden), and Fiji.

On 24/6, at 10.40 am, Mrs. Helle B. Halvorsen of the Protocol Division met us at the Hotel lobby and accompanied us to the Palace.

Due to Her Majesty's convalescence, I was advised in London that the audience would follow a simplified version.

[The full ceremony, accorded to my predecessor in December 1997, involved travelling from the hotel to the Palace by state coach accompanied by a mounted escort of the Royal Hussars. On arrival and departure at the Palace Square, a guard of honour of the Royal Life Guards will present arms and salute. After inspecting the guard of honour the Ambassador is escorted up the Main Stairway to the Great Hall where the Ambassador will inspect a foot guard of the Royal Hussars. The Audience will then be held in the Velvet Room.

The Ambassador's spouse travels separately in a car to the Palace and later, with the Ambassador, is presented to the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince Consort].

At the vestibule we were received by the Master of Ceremonies. We all went up the Stairway to the first floor where we were received by the Lord Chamberlain, the Chief of Her Majesty's Household, and the lady-in-waiting.

The Lord Chamberlain then announced my arrival to the Queen in the Great Hall.

The doors of the Great Hall opened and Her Majesty was standing in the middle of the room. I walked up, and with the appropriate remarks, shook hands with Her Majesty, and then presented the letter of recall of my predecessor and my own letter of credence. No speech is made during the occasion. After a brief audience of about 3 minutes I took my leave and returned to the foyer.

After a break of 2-3 minutes, I then went with Mrs. A. Boladuadua across the Great Hall into the Yellow Room where we were received by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince Consort. We then sat down and had a discussion for about 7 minutes. That over, we took our leave and in the Foyer bade farewell to the officers we met earlier.

We then went down to the Palace Entrance to board the Protocol car for the journey to the Hotel.

At 11 am on 25/6, I made a courtesy call on Ms. Jette Lund, Head of Division, South East Asia and Pacific, who was there with Mr. Jacob Dal Winther. In the 70 minutes meeting, among other things, I filled them in on Fiji's political, economic and trade developments. They were appreciative of the update as their Embassy, which looks after Fiji is in Jakarta, Indonesia. In the last 2-3 years they have cut back their number of Embassies by about 14, including Wellington and Canberra.

Their Honorary Consul in Suva is Mrs. Jenny Seeto of Price Waterhouse.

E. L. Boladuadua
High Commissioner