



Office of
the Prime Minister

REMARKS

BY

HON. PHILIP E. DAVIS QC, MP

PRIME MINISTER – COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

CEREMONY TO APPOINT WENDAL JONES

AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

GOODMANS BAY CORPORATE CENTER

CABLE BEACH, WEST BAY STREET

17 FEBRUARY 2022

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Fred Mitchell;

State Minister, Hon. Pia Glover-Rolle;

The diplomatic corps;

In our Blueprint for Change, the PLP committed itself broadly to facilitating the seamless movement of Bahamians across international

borders, which is a principal objective of Foreign Affairs.

Further, we are committed to expanding the professional Foreign Service to facilitate a greater Bahamian footprint in the areas of trade and investment and a more responsive and engaging presence to the needs of the Bahamian Diaspora resident in the United States and other foreign countries. Their full engagement and participation will be essential to our national developmental thrust.

To achieve these broad objectives, we will ensure that all Embassies have a Trade & Investment Attache to attract investments to The Bahamas and expand our international trade portfolio.

Our active participation in the various organs of the United Nations must be well supported as we seek memberships on influential councils to cause for greater integration in global affairs, which is just one of the hallmarks of

responsible global citizenship.

To support the training, education and preparatory needs of the Foreign Service, my government is committed to establishing a Foreign Service Institute at the University of The Bahamas.

We must continue to professionalize the Foreign Service, which includes completing and fully implementing the Foreign Service Orders. These Orders will provide clear guidelines on

the career paths of Foreign Service Officers as a specific fit-for-purpose alternative to General Orders.

Implementing a secondment program with international companies; an expansion in the amount of professional Foreign Missions globally; a new permanent home for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and our continued cooperation on climate change mitigation round out an ambitious foreign policy agenda.

The person chosen as our highest-ranking diplomat and representative in the United States to superintend many of these objectives is Mr. Wendall Jones.

Like many media professionals, Mr. Jones began his career as a Journalist with The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas in 1972.

Like any good Acklins man, through education, hard work, ambition, perseverance, and self-

confidence, Mr. Jones rose to the pinnacle of his profession, becoming the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Jones Communications International Limited, composed of Radio Love 97 FM; The Bahama Journal, a daily newspaper; Jones Publications, publishers of several Bahamian books and JCN Television.

Some call him the Walter Cronkite of Bahamian media and journalism.

This trailblazing Journalist is the Publisher of The Bahamas' bestselling book, "The One Hundred Most Outstanding Bahamians of The 20th Century", as well as its compendium, "Bahamian Legends" Volumes I and II. He also produced books on "The Parliament" and "Independence and Beyond" for the Government of The Bahamas.

In his work in broadcasting, he hosts two of the nation's most popular current affairs radio and television programmes, "Jones and Company"

and “Issues of The Day”. He has conducted exclusive interviews with many world leaders, including Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of Great Britain; former U.S. Secretary of State, General Colin Powell and former Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

Mr. Jones, The Bahamas and I are confident that in your new role, you will continue to strengthen our diplomatic relations and advance our international interests in

Washington DC, inclusive of matters of mutual concern.

The United States is our closest neighbour largest trading partner, and we have close political and economic ties. Mr. Jones is amply able to promote our objectives in the relationship as follow:

The further cementing of commercial, economic, political and cultural ties;

Expanding our range of contacts with
all branches of the United States Government;

Working with our Consuls General to utilize the
Diaspora of Bahamians to promote the political
and economic interests of our country;

And work with the United States
government on a range of geopolitical issues
toward our mutual benefit.

I am sure he can ably execute these objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, I commend Wendall Jones to The Bahamas and the United States , and we all wish him Godspeed.

May Almighty God continue to bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

END