



Sherard & Bridget Cowper-Coles

Mr Sherard Cowper-Coles CMG, LVO has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Riyadh in succession to Sir Derek Plumbly KCMG. Mr Cowper-Coles will take up his new appointment in October 2003.

Sherard Cowper-Coles was born in London in 1955 and brought up in Kent. He studied Latin, Greek and Philosophy at Hertford College, Oxford, from 1973 to 1977, and was elected an Honorary Fellow of the College in 2002.

He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1977, and studied Arabic from 1978. From 1980 to 1983 he served in the British Embassy in Cairo. Returning to London, he worked in the Foreign Office's Policy Planning Staff, mainly writing speeches for the Foreign Secretary.

Sherard was then Private Secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary (Director-General) of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. In 1987 he was posted to Washington, where he reported on US domestic politics and Irish America. Posted back to London in 1991, he worked on European defence and security.

After a Research Associateship at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Sherard ran the Foreign Office's Hong Kong Department until Hong Kong's handover to China in June 1997. He then spent



twenty months as Political Counsellor at the British Embassy in Paris, before being recalled to London to spend more than two years as Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook.

Sherard's wife Bridget studied Arabic at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Sherard and Bridget have four sons and one daughter, all at school or university in Britain.

Sherard has been British Ambassador in Tel Aviv since 2001. This is an extract of one of his recent speeches:

"Terrorism can be suppressed but never eradicated by force alone. Separating the terrorist fish from the sea of popular support in which they swim means using every weapon, political, economic, social as well as military, in the armoury of democracy.

"Occupation and illegal settlement stain and corrode occupiers as well as occupied. With 5 million Jews and 4½ million Arabs now living across what was once historic Palestine, time is short for reaching a settlement on sensible and civilised terms that safeguard the interests of all communities.

"Finally, a functioning and viable Palestinian state is as much in Israel's interests as the Arabs'. For only thus will the peoples of the lands between the Jordan and the sea achieve the peace, security and prosperity for which they yearn and which, after so many years of strife, they deserve. That the Palestinian Arabs are not there yet is their tragedy as well as ours. The fact that what was on offer in 1937, in 1947 and again in 2000 was - for good reason or bad - rejected is no justification for not trying now and again and harder."



Philip Parham
British Embassy



Sir Derek Plumbly with Khalifa Al Saif at a recent reception in Riyadh during the visit of Sir Alan Munro

Philip Parham will also be moving on during the summer months. His replacement as Director of Trade & Investment Promotion for the Kingdom will be Barry Lowen. Barry studied Arabic in Cairo and was posted to Kuwait in 1989. He served there until 1993, but missed the Gulf War thanks to a well-timed holiday. In the Foreign Office in London, he has served as Head of the Iraq Section, and most recently as Deputy Head of the Middle East Department.

Barry has also worked on defence exports and served in the British Mission to the United Nations in New York.

In his spare time, Barry recently gained an Open University Diploma in Management.

Barry's wife Karin is a qualified primary school teacher, specialising in specific learning difficulties. They have three sons, Glyn (8), Harri (6), and Tomos (6 months).



Barry Lowen