

**THE BRITISH AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP**

**1941 – 1991
plus additions**

*A SUMMARY OF 50 YEARS OF THE B.A.P.G.
1941-1991*

By ROGER MOATE, MP

Further additions, 1991-2001

“I have watched the development of fraternal relations between our Congress and the British Parliament for a long time with deep satisfaction. All Americans take pleasure in this healthy and cordial evolution”.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt
1944*

(From a letter read out in the House of Commons,
14th March 1944. Col. 58 of Hansard)

“The friendship of the British people with the people of the United States is deep and abiding”.....”It seems appropriate that by this Motion we here in this House should strive to complete the circle of comradeship”.

*The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, MP
Leader of the House, 1944*

(14th March 1944. Col. 62 of Hansard)

“Freedom under the rule of law is an international, as well as a national, concern. That thought might be in the minds of those of you attending the 50th Anniversary meeting of the British American Parliamentary Group in July”.

*Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
Addressing a Joint Meeting of the House and Senate*

U.S. Congressional Record, May 16th 1991

INTRODUCTION

“Indeed, you, Mr. Speaker, have had a meeting, across the wireless, of Congress and Parliament”.

These words, taken from Hansard of 14th March 1944, convey a picture in sharp contrast to the political world of today where we take for granted instance communication of news around the globe and the speed of international travel. It is noteworthy that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visit of 20 members to Australia in 1913 set sail in mid-July and returned in mid-November having visited Canada, New Zealand and South Africa as well. Today, we accept as natural the close friendships and the co-operation between Members of legislatures throughout the world and the importance of such organisations as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Inter-parliamentary Union and other interparliamentary organisations.

However, when the British American Parliamentary Group was formed in 1941 it was a very different world. The 50 years since have been remarkable years in the history of Britain and the United and the story of the evolution of the Group reflects the great events and great changes of that half-century. At this time, when the Group has reached its 50th anniversary, one feels that it is a story that ought to be told. Generally speaking, there are good records of Group activities from about 1945 with few records before that. Many of the great political leaders of Congress and Parliament and a host of Members and Congressmen have played a part. It is a history that ought to be recorded in detail but the purpose at this time is to present just a brief synopsis in the hope that the full history can be written before we celebrate the 100th anniversary.

May I record my thanks for the research work done some years ago by Tim Devlin, now MP for Stockton South, and for the remarkable support and friendship given to all of us over the years by Mr. Peter Abbruzzese whose work on Capitol Hill has been crucial to the success of the Group. May I also acknowledge as an invaluable source of information the history of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, ‘The Parliamentarians’ by Ian Grey.

*Roger Moate, MP
Honorary Secretary, British American Parliamentary Group
1974 – 1981*

1941 –1991

Fifty years after it was formed at Westminster, the British American Parliamentary Group is one of the most significant of the Parliamentary Groups concerned with the promotion of close relationships with members of legislatures throughout the world. It has some 560 members from both Houses of Parliament. Its Chairman is the Prime Minister; its joint Presidents are the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is financed mostly by a Treasury grant and partly by Members' subscriptions. The administration of the Group is conducted from the same basement office in Old Palace Yard that the Group has occupied for over 30 years.

The Annual Report for 1990/91 gives a picture of the scale of activities of the Group. In that year, 26 Members had visited the United States under its auspices. The Annual Conference had taken place in West Virginia; a group of 8 Members had benefited from the annual visit co-sponsored by the Group and the United States Information Agency; a small specialist delegation was to visit Washington D.C.; a group of 3 MPs had joined newly elected Congressmen at a course at Harvard University. Many distinguished visitors from the United States were welcomed to Parliament, in some cases addressing meetings arranged by the Group. These included **Vice-President Dan Quayle**; **General Colin Powell**, Chairman US Joint Chiefs of Staff; **Hon. Jack Kemp**, US Secretary for Housing and Urban Development; and **Hon. Donald Atwood**, Deputy Secretary for Defense. A reception held for the United States Ambassador, **H.E. Hon. Henry Catto**, was attended by 150 Members.

In Washington, the structure is rather less formalised but the approach to the promotion of close links between Congress and Parliament is no less vigorous.

In 1991 in the United States Senate, **Senator Robert Byrd**, President pro tem and Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is Chairman and it is he who convenes the Senate delegations to the Group meetings. The 1990 Annual Conference was held at his invitation in his Home State of West Virginia.

In the United States House of Representatives, **Congressman Charlie Rose** is Chairman. Congressman Rose is President of the North Atlantic Association, Chairman of the Administration Committee and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The 1985 Annual Conference was held at his invitation in his Home State of North Carolina.

Representative Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has been a friend of the Group and a regular participant in Anglo-American Conferences and meetings.

It is the commitment of these and other Congressional leaders, and their staff, which ensured, and continues to ensure, the continuity of these links between the two legislatures.

1941

Sadly, the Group records do not contain details of the meetings that brought about the formation of the British American Parliamentary Group. However, in 1941, in the darkest days of the war, it is not difficult to understand the desire that must have existed to strengthen the bonds between the British Parliament and Congress of the United States.

When Winston Churchill addressed both Houses of Congress on December 26th 1941, “acknowledging the storm of applause with his famous V sign”, it was at the end of a terrible year that had included the continued blitz on London, the war in the Atlantic, the invasion of Russia.....Pearl Harbour.....

During that year, a delegation from the Canadian Parliament was passing through Washington on the way to the United Kingdom and it was intimated to them by Congressional leaders that an invitation from the British Parliament for a visit of Congressional leaders to the United Kingdom would be welcomed. However, the outbreak of war with Japan and other pressures made it difficult for a delegation to leave Washington for any length of time and it was in these circumstances that the Congressional delegation was invited to Ottawa to meet representatives of the United Kingdom and other Parliaments at a meeting that eventually took place in 1943.

It is probable that the discussion in 1941 about a Congressional visit to London helped to stimulate the formation of the Group in the Houses of Parliament. The Minutes of a later meeting tell us that “...after the Group was formed in 1941 in order to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding between Members of the United State Congress and Members of the British parliament, much useful work was done up to the time of the General Election in July 1945. Many meetings were held between 1941 and 1945 to enable the American point of view on common problems to be placed before Members of both Houses”.

But who the Officers and founders of the Group were in 1941 is not clear from the records. What we do know is that the Chairman of the British American Parliamentary Group in 1943/44 was the **Rt. Hon. Lt. Col. Walter Elliot**, the Member for Kelvingrove, and his deputy was **Sir Percy Harris**, the Member for Bethnal Green, South West. This is stated in Hansard for 14th March 1944, Columns 56-63, including the reference back to November 1943. It seems probable that **Walter Elliot** was the first Chairman of the Group.

1943

The Ottawa Conference and Washington D.C. Meetings

The Ottawa Conference, it has to be clearly stated, was a Conference of the Empire Parliamentary Association, between representatives from the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Bermuda, and joined for certain sessions by representatives of the United States Congress. The British delegation was led by **Viscount Stansgate** and included **Sir Percy Harris, MP** (Liberal Chief Whip) and deputy Chairman of the British American Parliamentary Group.

It is the case that the early history of the Group is intertwined with the Empire Parliamentary Association, later to become the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and this is substantially due to the part played by **Sir Howard d'Egville** in the story of both organisations.

We learn from a post-war Minute that one of the results of the 1943 Ottawa Conference was the formation of an informal Group in both Houses of the United States Congress to facilitate the reception of Members of British Commonwealth Parliaments visiting Washington. "The Group appointed four convenors in the Senate and four in the House of Representatives and a number of useful meetings were held at which visiting Members of Parliament from the U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand address Members of Congress.....".

The work of this Group started by a dinner for **Lord Halifax**, the British Ambassador in Washington, arranged by **Senator Austin**. **Warren Austin** was Deputy Leader of the Republican Party in the Senate and had been present at the Ottawa Conference.

Further meetings took place, including one in the Senate Caucus Room for U.K. Members of Parliament attended by some 150 persons in all including **Mr. Fraser**, the Prime Minister of New Zealand. It would seem from frequent references that **Senator Claude Pepper** was a staunch supporter of these British-American meetings.

A further illustration of the overlapping interest of the BAPG and the EPA comes from a report on the 1946 Bermuda Conference. Sir Howard reports to a General Meeting of the Group, Chairman the **Rt. Hon. John Milner, MC, MP...**"whilst it is, of course, true that as the invitation to Bermuda came from the branch of the EPA in the Bermuda Parliament, it was addressed to the UK Branch of the Association, yet the Members of Mr. Speaker's Committee who nominated the delegates had due regard to the membership and interest of the (British American) Group in making their nominations. *All Members of the delegation were members of the (British American) Group with one exception*".

Howard d'Egville died in 1965. The then Leader of the House of Commons, the **Rt. Hon. Herbert Bowden, MP**, paid tribute to him saying that the success of the British American Group to

a very large extent and that of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association had been due to the work of Sir Howard over many years.

The pattern that he established still existed in 1991. The same office was used though the old roll top desk and the strange stuffed animal familiar to so many visitors were no longer in evidence. The Honorary Secretary is responsible for the administration with the Assistant Secretary, as ever, having the day to day responsibility in the office. The Group's Rules and structure of Officers and Committee are as devised by him in 1945/47. But the objects and philosophy of the Group are now quite clearly the promotion of a close bilateral relationship between Parliament and Congress and the old vision of a liaison between Empire and the United States of America have long since faded. The Group's office moved in 1994 to a new Parliamentary outbuilding, 7 Millbank. 7 Old Palace Yard reverted to the House of Lords.

[The audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 1951 showed an income of £146-0-6d. The auditing and accountancy charge was £15-15s. The auditors were Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths. Forty years later, the numbers had changed but Deloitte's were, in 1991, still auditors to the Group].

N.B. The EPA refers to the Empire Parliamentary Association which became, in 1948, the CPA or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

14th March 1944
House of Commons.
Hansard Cols. 56-63

A fascinating debate took place in the House of Commons on 14th March 1944 on a motion proposed by **Major Braithwaite**, Member for Buckrose:

“This House, desiring to promote a closer association between the British Parliament and the Congress of the United States, requests Mr. Speaker on its behalf to invite the Congress of the United States to send a delegation of its Members to visit Parliament at as early a date as may be convenient.”

This record is particularly helpful to us because it tells of the formation of the British American Parliamentary Group in the early years of the war, that in the previous year the BAPG had sent an invitation to the Congress of the United States to send a delegation to visit the UK as the guests of Parliament, that the Chairman of the Group was the Member for Kelvingrove, **the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot**, the Vice-Chairman was **Sir Percy Harris**, the Member for Bethnal Green, South West, and that the Group had then 400 members. Clearly, by that time, the Group had established itself very strongly indeed.

The Motion was seconded by **Aneurin Bevan**, the Member for Ebbw Vale. Other speeches in support were made by **Sir Percy Harris**; **Col. Arthur Evans** (Cardiff South); **Anthony Eden** speaking in his capacity as Leader of the House, not as Foreign Secretary; and **Tom Driberg** (Maldon).

The Motion was agreed to without a division.

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

It is the custom of the British American Parliamentary Group to invite the Prime Minister of the day to be the Chairman of the Group, an invitation that has invariably been accepted. It is an honorary position and in effect the leadership of the Group falls upon the two Vice-Chairmen, one from each of the two main political parties who, under the Rules, can serve for no more than three years. The Group has been immensely fortunate over the years in that the Vice-Chairmanship positions have been occupied by senior members of the House, by Cabinet Ministers and by senior Opposition spokesmen who have not only chaired meetings and generally been actively involved in the Group's affairs but have also lead delegations abroad.

This is the pattern that has prevailed since 1952.

Prior to that, however, the Chairmanship did not appear to be held by the Prime Minister in an honorary capacity but, in effect, by an executive Chairman.

For this reason, the record below shows the Chairmen for the earlier years and the Vice Chairmen thereafter:

Chairmen during the early years

1941-1945	The Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, MP
1945-1947	The Rt. Hon. J. Milner, MP
1947-1950	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Wilmot, JP
1950-1952	The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, MP

Thereafter, the Prime Minister of the day became the Honorary Chairman of the Group.

Vice-Chairmen of the Group (in chronological order, 1950-1991)

Conservative

The Rt. Hon. J.S. Maclay, CMG, MP
Sir Roland Robinson, MP
Robert Allan, DSO,OBE, MP
The Rt. Hon. Joe Godber, MP
The Rt. Hon. Viscount Amory, KG, GCMG
The Rt. Hon. Richard Wood, MP
The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, MP
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP
The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward du Cann, MP

Labour

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Llewelin, CBE, MC
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Wilmot, JP
The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, CH, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Henderson
The Rt. Hon. Sydney Irving, MP
The Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, MP
The Rt. Hon. Douglas Jay, MP
The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP
The Rt. Hon. Merlyn Rees, MP
The Rt. Hon. John Morris, QC, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Nott, MP
The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP
The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP
The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, MP

The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, QC, MP

**Joint Honorary Treasurers of the Group
(in chronological order, 1950-1991)**

	<i>Conservative</i>		<i>Labour</i>
1945-1957	Sir Roland Robinson, MP	1945-1962	Sir Geoffrey de Freitas, MP
1957-1959	Sir Alfred Braithwaite, MP	1962-1965	The Rt.Hon. Denis Healey, MP
1959-1965	Sir Alex Spearman, MP	1965-1966	Dr. Horace King, MP
1965-1967	The Viscount Amory, KG, GCMG	1966-1970	S. Scolefield Allen, QC, MP
1967-1970	The Rt. Hon. Joseph Godber, MP	1970-1974	The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP
1970-1974	Sir Gilbert Longden, MP	1974-1983	The Rt. Hon. Charles Morris, MP
1974-1979	Sir Neil Marten, MP	1983-	The Rt. Hon. Alf Morris, MP
1979-	The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, MP		

**Honorary Secretaries of the Group
(in chronological order, 1950-1991)**

1941-1945	No record available
1945-1965	Sir Howard d'Egville, KBE
1965	Sir Hamilton Kerr, MP
1966	The Rt. Hon. Sydney Irving, MP (later the Rt. Hon. the Lord Irving of Dartford)
1967-1972	Sir Alec Spearman, MP
1972-1974	Roland Moyle, MP
1974-1981	Roger Moate, MP
1981-1987	Eric Deakins, MP
1987-	The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP (later the Rt. Hon. the Lord Jopling, DL)

**Assistant Secretaries of the Group
(in chronological order, 1950-1991)**

1957-1974	Joyce Purcell, MBE
1974-1981	Anne Bates
1981-2004	Auriol Moate

The Executive Committee

From the earliest years, it was established that there would be 16 Members of the Executive Committee elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. Eight Members from the party in Government and eight from the Opposition parties, with power to co-opt an extra four members. Thus, over 50 years, there would have been hundreds of Members of the Lords and Commons who could have been members of the Executive Committee.

Fortunately, many Members serve for many years but even so it is too extensive a list to incorporate into this record. Many elected Members of the Executive served at some other time as Officers of the Group so their names are recorded elsewhere but others like Sir Peter Emery, MP, a Member of the Executive Committee in 1961 and still a Member in 1991, stand out as major players in the history of the Group. Others such as Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, MP; Lord Peart; Sir Peter Blaker, MP; Sir Philip Goodhart, MP; Lord Tonypany (formerly the Rt. Hon. George Thomas, MP); the Rt. Hon. Sir Derek Walker-Smith, MP; the Rt. Hon. Walter Harrison, MP; Winston Churchill, MP; Sir John Tilney, MP; have, over the years, been stalwart Members of the Executive.

The Conferences

The purpose and the achievement of the British American Parliamentary Group are friendship and understanding between Senators and Congressmen in Washington and Peers and MPs in Westminster. It has been the Annual Conferences, above all, that have been the means of stirring and cementing these vital and valued relationships.

The Annual Parliamentary/Congressional Conferences have always been opportunities to exchange views frankly and forcefully and have been valued for their informality and their privacy.

The history of the British American Parliamentary Group for the last forty years is really the story of these Conferences.

- Senator Hubert Humphrey (after the 1962 Conference):
“I know this Conference is valuable to both our countries. I shall do all I can to make this an annual event”.
- Senator J.W. Fulbright (after the 1961 Conference):
“he had attended many Parliamentary Conferences but this had been the best, the most stimulating and instructive of any that he had attended.”

Those who, at any moment, were the driving force on either side of the Atlantic for this liaison between the legislatures were probably the leaders of the delegations and, on the American side, it was sometimes in their home States that the Conference was convened – for example, **Representative Philip Burton** in San Francisco (1982); **Senator Charles Mathias** in Maryland (1984); **Representative Charlie Rose** in North Carolina (1985); **Senator Robert Byrd** in West Virginia (1990 & 1999).

1949/1950

The 1949/1950 Annual Report gives an illustration of a typical year for the Group.

Over thirty Congressmen and Senators were received and entertained to lunch or dinner at the House of Commons.

There was a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for seven visiting Senators. The U.K. hosts then were led by the **Rt. Hon. Hugh Dalton, MP**, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the **Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, MP**, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

Governor Thomas Dewey addressed a large meeting in Westminster Hall and many other distinguished U.S. visitors were received. Four MPs were sent on speaking tours to the U.S. sponsored by the Group and by the Foreign Office.

Then a large delegation from the UK went to the CPA Conference in Ottawa, flying back via Washington. They had discussions with the Senate, were received on the Senate Floor and met **President Truman**.

The report also gives us a record of the Committee of the “Commonwealth Parliamentary Group” in Congress, namely:-

Senator Elkburt Thomas (Chairman)
Senator J.W. Fulbright
Senator Estes Kefauve
Senator Claude Pepper
Senator Homer Ferguson
Senator Bourne Hickerlooper
Senator Cabot Lodge
Senator Alexander Wiley

Rep. Mike Monroney
Rep. Brooks Hays
Rep. James Richards
Rep. Francis Walter
Rep. Robert Corbett
Rep. Chester Merrow
Rep. Henry Talle
Rep. James Wadsworth

1961 – 1991

The B.A.P.G. Conferences

The following is a simple list of the locations of the Conferences and the leaders of the delegations. It is enough to indicate the strength of the delegations that attended and the importance attached to these annual discussions:

<i>1961 in Bermuda</i>	Senator William Fulbright <i>Attended by President Truman</i>	Lord Listowel The Rt. Hon. J. Godber, MP
<i>1962 in Bermuda</i>	Senator John Sparkman <i>Attended by: Mr. Donald Fleming, (Canadian Finance Minister)</i>	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hailsham The Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskell, MP The Earl of Dundee
<i>1963 in Bermuda</i>	Senator William Fulbright Senator Hubert Humphreys	The Rt. Hon. Henry Brooke, MP
<i>1964 in Bermuda</i>	Senator William Fulbright Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Boyle, MP The Rt. Hon. Patrick Gordon Walker, MP Mr. Denis Healey, MP Mr. Peter Thomas, MP
<i>1965 in Bermuda</i>	Senator Bourne Hickerlooper Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. Sir Elwyn Jones, MP The Rt. Hon. Reginald Maudling, MP The Rt. Hon. Ernest Shinwell, MP The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, MP
<i>1966 in Bermuda</i>	Senator Frank Church Senator George McGovern Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. Sir F. Soskice, MP The Duke of Devonshire The Earl of Dundee Mr. George Thomson, MP
<i>1967 in Bermuda</i>	Senator Sherman Cooper Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Shepherd The Rt. Hon. J. Godber, MP
<i>1968 in Bermuda</i>	Senator Bourne Hickerlooper Senator Ed Muskie Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. Richard Crossman, MP The Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, MP
<i>1969 in Bermuda</i>	Senator William Fulbright Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, MP The Rt. Hon. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, MP The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, MP
<i>1970 in Bermuda</i>	Senator Mike Gravel Rep. Hale Boggs	The Rt. Hon. Anthony Crossland, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Chalfont

		The Earl Jellicoe
1971 Ditchley Park, UK	Senator Fulbright	The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, MP The Rt. Hon. Harold Lever, MP
1972 in Bermuda	No clear record	
1973 Ditchley Park, UK	Senator Hubert Humphrey	The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP
1974, Williamsburg	Rep. Wayne Hays	The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, MP The Lord Shepherd
1974 Goodwood House, UK	Rep. Wayne Hays Rep. Jack Brooks	The Rt. Hon. Reg Prentice, MP
1974 in London	Senator Sparkman	The Rt. Hon. David Ennals, MP The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
1975 in Bermuda	Senator Clifford Case	The Rt. Hon. John Morris, MP The Lord Balniel

1976 Bicentennial celebrations in which the Group played a significant part in London and in Washington D.C.

1977 in Bermuda	Senator George McGovern	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Peart The Rt. Hon. John Davies, MP
1978, Washington D.C. (April)	Senator George McGovern Rep. Philip Burton	The Rt. Hon. Merlyn Rees, MP The Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, MP
1978, London (November)	Rep. Philip Burton Rep. Jack Brooks	The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP The Rt. Hon. John Silkin, MP The Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, MP The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP

1979 A conference was held at Selsden Park, U.K. jointly sponsored by ICA/Konrad Adenaur Institute/BAPG.

Rep. Tom Foley was one of the US delegates.

1981 Washington D.C. & Bermuda	Rep. Philip Burton	The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP
1982 (Jan) Washington D.C. & San Francisco	Rep. Philip Burton	Sir Keith Joseph, MP The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP
1982 (Nov) Goodwood House, UK	Senator Charles Percy	The Rt.Hon. John Nott, MP Mr. Peter Rees, MP The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP
1983 Washington	Rep. Lee Hamilton	Sir Barney Hayhoe, MP

<i>D.C. & Bermuda</i>		The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP
<i>1984 Washington D.C. & Maryland</i>	Senator Charles Mathias	The Rt. Hon. Tom King, MP The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP
<i>1985 Washington D.C. & North Carolina</i>	Rep. Charlie Rose	The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP The Rt. Hon. John Smith, MP
<i>1986 Washington D.C. & Bermuda</i>	Rep. Charlie Rose Rep. Tom Foley	The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, MP The Rt. Hon. Merlyn Rees, MP
<i>1987 Washington D.C. & New Mexico</i>	Rep. Charlie Rose	The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, MP The Rt. Hon. Roy Mason, MP
<i>1988 Washington D.C. & Bermuda</i>	Rep. Charlie Rose	The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Clarke, MP The Rt. Hon. Alf Morris, MP
<i>1989 Washington D.C. & Florida</i>	Rep. Charlie Rose Rep. Dante Fascell	The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, MP The Rt. Hon. John Morris, MP
<i>1990 Washington D.C. & West Virginia</i>	Senator Robert Byrd	The Rt. Hon. Peter Brooke, MP The Rt. Hon. Robert Sheldon, MP

*In 1991, the fiftieth Anniversary of the Group, a joint delegation from the Senate and the House, numbering 17, came to London for the Annual Conference. The American delegations were led by the President pro-tem of the Senate, **Senator Robert Byrd**, and by the Speaker of the House, **Rep. Tom Foley**. The British delegation was led by the Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, MP, the Home Secretary, and by the Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, QC, MP, both Vice-Chairmen of the BAPG. Discussions were held at 12 Downing Street by kind permission of the Chief Whip. **Mr. Speaker Weatherill**, Joint President of the BAPG, held a reception for the delegations in Speaker's House and the Lord Chancellor, the **Lord McKay of Clashfern**, Joint President of the BAPG, attended a dinner for the delegations held in the Banqueting House. Around 300 MPs in all met the American delegations in the course of various functions held during the Conference.*

<i>1992 Washington D.C. and San Antonio, Texas</i>	Rep. Lee Hamilton	The Rt. Hon. John MacGregor, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC
<i>1993 Edinburgh</i>	Senator Howard Heflin Senator Ted Stevens	The Rt. Hon. Ian Lang, MP The Rt. Hon. George Robertson, MP
<i>1994 Washington D.C. & Bermuda</i>	Rep. Tom Lantos	The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, MP Dr. Marjorie Mowlam, MP
<i>1995 Washington D.C.</i>	Senator Howard Heflin Senator Ted Stevens	The Rt. Hon. John MacGregor, MP
<i>1996 Washington</i>	Rep. Doug Bereuter	The Rt. Hon. Tony Newton, MP

<i>D.C.</i>		The Rt. Hon. Dr. John Cunningham, MP
<i>1997 London & York</i>	Senator Ted Stevens Senator Robert Byrd	The Rt. Hon. Lord Merlyn-Rees The Rt. Hon. Sir Alastair Goodlad, MP
<i>1998 London</i>	Rep. Doug Bereuter	The Rt. Hon. George Robertson, MP The Rt. Hon. Sir Alastair Goodlad, MP
<i>1999 Washington D.C. & West Virginia</i>	Senator Ted Stevens Senator Robert Byrd	The Rt. Hon. Michael Meacher, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Lamont of Lerwick

The 1946 Conference – Bermuda

The U.S. delegation comprised:

Senator Theodore Green (Leader, Senate delegation)
Senator Homer Ferguson
Senator J.W. Fulbright
Senator Alexander Wiley

Rep. Luther Johnson (Leader, House delegation)
Rep. Emmert Brumbraugh
Rep. Robert Grand
Rep. James Richards

The success of the Conference was referred to in the House of Commons on 4th July 1946 by the Prime Minister, the **Rt. Hon. Clement Attlee, CH, MP**, and by the **Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, MP**, who himself led the Parliamentary delegation on the subsequent visit to Washington.

Senator Fulbright commented “I hope such conferences will be held annually from now on.....”

The 1948 Conference – Bermuda

The U.S. delegation comprised:

Senator Alexander Wiley (Leader of the delegation)
Senator Hickerlooper
Senator Thomas
Senator Fulbright
Senator Kefauver

Rep. Henry Talle
Rep. Robert Corbett

The U.K. delegation comprised:

The Rt. Hon. John Wilmot, MP
George Mathas, MP
Percy Wells, MP
Aidan D. Heathcoat-Amory, MP

There were also delegations from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa as well as from Bermuda itself.

For interest, Sir Howard d’Egville’s notes advise that “each delegate is entitled to take coffee, beer, cider, a single whisky or minerals.....”

NOTES:

1. For many years, the Group distributed to members the “Letter from America”. This ceased some years ago, probably in the late 1960s or early 1970s, and it should really receive some mention in a full history of the Group.
2. The role of **Bermuda** as generous hosts over the lifetime of the Group is something that deserves a significant place in the Group history, as does the work done by some leading Bermudans.
3. Other activities of the Group are also of great importance:
 - The Harvard course, and other such courses, for newly elected Congressmen to which the Group has been invited to send observers in each Congressional Election year since 1988.
 - Receiving US visitors in Parliament
 - Receptions held regularly to enable the American Ambassador and other members of the American Embassy to come to meet all members of the Group.
 - Meetings in Parliament for leading US spokesmen
 - The annual co-sponsored visit with the United States Information Agency, started in 1979 and designed for MPs who had never, or hardly ever, visited the United States before.
 - Specialist visits to the US.
 - Visits to each of the Conventions held in each Presidential election year. AGain, with the help of the United States Information Agency.
4. Congressional staffers have also been important friends over the years and the story would be incomplete without mentioning them.

The following is a brief history from 1991 to 2001:

The pattern of the Group's activities, slowly growing over the years, still showed a basic pattern of delegations travelling to the United States and Congressmen and other American VIPs being welcomed to Westminster. There were over 630 Members of the Group in the UK, all members of either the House of Lords or the House of Commons [237:400 in November 2000] and relationships with both the Senate and the House of Representatives were strong. Still financed mostly by the Treasury, members now take out either an Annual Subscription of £5 p.a. or a Life Subscription of £30.00. In 2000/2001, the grant in aid from the Treasury amounted to £84,600.

As mentioned, in 1993/94, the Group's administration moved from Old Palace Yard, where it had been for over 50 years, to 7 Millbank, a new Parliamentary outbuilding. In the 1990s, the advent of computers, faxes, voice mail and email transformed communications both with Members and with the House and Senate. Information became readily available over the Internet.

In the United States Senate, Senator Robert Byrd, now joined by Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, still convenes the Senate delegations to the Group meetings which, since the 50th anniversary meeting in 1991, have run on a four-year cycle:

In 1992 at the invitation of the House of Representatives in San Antonio, Texas

In 1993 at the invitation of the British delegation, the Senate delegation came to London and Edinburgh

In 1994 at the invitation of the Bermuda Branch of the CPA, the British delegation met with the House delegation for discussions in Bermuda.

In 1995 at the invitation of the Senate delegation, the British delegation went to Washington D.C.

In 1996 at the invitation of the House delegation, the British delegation went to Washington D.C.

In 1997 at the invitation of the British delegation, the Senate delegation came to London and York

In 1998 at the invitation of the British delegation, the House delegation came to London and Cambridge.

In 1999, at the invitation of the Senate delegation, the British delegation went to Washington D.C. and to the Home State of Senator Robert Byrd, West Virginia.

For 2000, at the invitation of the House delegation, the British delegation went to Washington D.C. and Williamsburg.

Rep. Charlie Rose retired from the House in 1994. The House delegation was then led by **Rep. Lee Hamilton**, then Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and has since been led by **Rep. Doug Bereuter** who is also Chairman of the House delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly.

Mr. Peter Abbruzzese, who had been a staffer with the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a great supporter of the BAPG for many years, retired from the House at much the same time as Congressman Rose. He was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours List of 1996. This honour was presented to him, on behalf of H.M. The Queen, by the Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, MP, in Washington D.C. during the Annual Conference of 1996.

Other than these Annual Conferences to which around 12/14 Members travelled each year, an average of a further 10/16 Members went to the U.S. each year. The main visits comprised:

- the sponsored visit each September for Members who had never or hardly ever been to America before
- observation of courses held at Harvard or in Washington biennially for newly elected Members of Congress
- specialist subject visits to Washington and New York
- visits to each of the main Conventions in Presidential election years
- representation of the BAPG at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Vice-Chairmen of the Group in the 1990s:

<i>Conservative</i>		<i>Labour</i>	
1989-92	The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, MP	1990-93	The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, QC, MP
1992-95	The Rt. Hon. John MacGregor, MP	1993-96	The Rt. Hon. Dr. John Cunningham, MP
1995-97	The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, MP	1996-99	The Rt. Hon. George Robertson, MP
1997-99	The Rt. Hon. Sir Alastair Goodlad, KCMG, MP	1999-	The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP
1999-	John Maples Esq., MP		

Honorary Treasurers of the Group in the 1990s:

1979-	The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP	1983-1997	The Rt. Hon. Alf Morris, MP
		1997-	The Rt. Hon. Alan Williams, MP

Honorary Secretaries of the Group in the 1990s:

1987-	The Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP (From 1997, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Jopling, DL)
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Assistant Secretaries of the Group in the 1990s:

1981 - Auriol Moate

The Executive Committee continued to be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting and comprised 8 Members of the Governing Party and 8 Members of the Opposition Parties. Their full composition is detailed in the Annual Reports and it will be noted that many of the Vice-Chairmen, having come to the end of their 3 year term in that office, subsequently became members of the Executive. In 2000, for example, the **Rt. Hon. Lord Merlyn-Rees** (as the Rt. Hon. Merlyn Rees, MP, Vice-Chairman from 1984-87); the **Rt. Hon.. Lord Shore of Stepney** (as the Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP, Vice-Chairman from 1981-1984); the **Rt. Hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, MP** (as the Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, MP, Vice-Chairman from 1990 to 1993); and the **Rt. Hon. John MacGregor, MP** (Vice-Chairman from 1992-1995) were all still members of the Executive

Committee. Most notably, the **Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, MP** (from 1997, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Jopling), Vice Chairman from 1983 to 1986, became the Honorary Secretary in 1987, a position he still held in 2000.

The Annual Conferences have continued to go from strength to strength and have been the cause of much hard work during the 1990s on the part of the Honorary Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Michael Jopling, whose contacts in Washington D.C. proved very valuable to the Group.

Both the American and British participants in these Conferences are listed in the relevant Annual Reports but have included the President pro-tem of the United States; British Cabinet Ministers; Speakers of the House of Representatives; and Chairmen of many of the Senate and House Committees as well as many very senior British backbenchers from all sides of the House.

During the 1990s, there was an increasing number of *specialist delegations* travelling to Washington D.C. under the auspices of the Group. Subjects discussed included, health; defence; the environment; trade and financial issues; and food safety.

For **2001**, it is expected that there will be a Conference in the United States with Members of the House of Representatives, delayed from 2000 because of the American Elections, and a Conference in the U.K. with Members of the Senate.