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Alister McIntosh: a mandarin for all seasons

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Abstract: Sid Holland and Walter Nash were the winter and spring 'seasons' for Alister McIntosh's 23-year tutelage of his quartet of prime ministers, Peter Fraser, Sid Holland, Walter Nash and Keith Holyoake. Nash enabled McIntosh to flourish at his finest and that, in turn, enhanced Nash's 'tea and conversation' encounters with

global leaders, particularly his British counterpart, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. Whereas Holland required McIntosh to play defence as he sought to construct a foreign service populated with New Zealand's best. Nowhere was this more apparent than in his efforts to shield controversial diplomat Paddy Costello from Holland's efforts to remove him.



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