

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Meets with British Consulate-General

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove met today with Michael Bates, British Consulate-General, to discuss the relationship between Mississippi and the United Kingdom. Mr. Bates also announced during the meeting that Sir Christopher Meyer, British Ambassador to the United States, is planning a visit to Mississippi in March 2002.

“Mr. Bates and I discussed the strong partnership that already exists between Mississippi and the United Kingdom, and what we can do to make it even stronger,” Musgrove said. “The United Kingdom has invested in our state and our people, and Mississippi exports a great deal of goods to them as well.”

In 2000, Mississippi exports to the United Kingdom topped \$115 million, the fifth highest of the state’s top twenty international markets. Exports included machinery, furniture, cereals, mineral fuels and plastics.

The United Kingdom is a major investor in Mississippi as well, representing 21 percent of all international investments. At present, British-owned companies operate 18 businesses in Mississippi, ranging from agricultural to industrial products.

Mr. Bates discussed establishing a “Best Practices Exchange” to study new programs that are impacting education in Mississippi and Britain, as well as a “Policy Exchange Program” where economic development professionals would travel to study programs and policies in use in the two areas.

Mr. Bates was appointed Her Majesty’s Consul General in Atlanta and has served there since June 2001.

