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SUBJECT FILED on: Econ for
London Summit
A15

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 May 1984

AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your letter of 1 May.

The Prime Minister has considered whether to extend now an invitation to the Prime Minister of Australia to visit the United Kingdom but has decided, on reflection, to consider this again later in the year.

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I think we
should wait -
I saw a letter
from Mr Hawke

Comments
confer
May 1984
Prime Minister:
Agree to an
invitation to Mr Hawke?

Dear John,

Australia

Thank you for your letter of 11 April about Britain's relationship with Australia and the possibility of inviting Mr Hawke to visit the United Kingdom later this year or early next year.

Sir Geoffrey Howe agrees that this would be worthwhile. His reasons are as follows. Although our relations with Australia are generally in good repair, the Prime Minister has not as yet had the opportunity for a broad-ranging discussion with Mr Hawke. It would be most useful to make arrangements for such a meeting soon to pre-empt criticism that Australia's exclusion from the London Economic Summit, and the Prime Minister's visit to South East Asia but not Australia in the autumn, mean that the Prime Minister's relations with Mr Hawke are not as close as those she maintained with his predecessor, Mr Fraser.

An early invitation from the Prime Minister to Mr Hawke to visit Britain looks the best way of proceeding. It may not be easy to find convenient dates in the late summer or autumn, but we see every advantage in tendering an invitation. We know that Mr Hawke will be much preoccupied with the Australian Labour Party Conference in July and the presentation of the budget in August. He has said that he will call a general election late this year or early next year: 1 or 8 December or 23 February are the dates being canvassed. It will be regrettable if we cannot find a date which would suit Mr Hawke before February or March of next year.

Yr ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

P F Ricketts

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