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de RM
be Sir R.C.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April, 1984

Dear Peter,

ECONOMIC SUMMIT: AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 6 April and other correspondence about briefing the Australians in advance of the London Economic Summit. She discussed this question with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary today.

The Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe agreed that it was unlikely that any action to mollify Mr. Hawke in connection with this issue would have the desired effect. This would apply to the despatch of an emissary, briefing given to the Australians at the OECD ministerial meeting in Paris and an invitation to Mr. Hawke to comment on the draft 'thematic paper' for the Summit (the Cabinet Secretary's minute of 9 April).

Thus, the Prime Minister is inclined to take no further action at the present time in relation to Australia and the Economic Summit.

Mrs. Thatcher has however asked whether we should not give more attention to our relationship with Australia. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary undertook to provide advice on whether we should invite Mr. Hawke to pay a visit to the United Kingdom, perhaps later this year. If this seemed a good idea, it might be wise to deliver the invitation before the Economic Summit. I should be grateful for advice in due course.

I am copying this letter to David Peretz (HM Treasury) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever
for W.C.

P. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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