



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 August 1988

Dear John and Ann

The visit to Australia was absolutely splendid, and I cannot thank you enough for all the careful preparation which you and your staff put into it. There was a clear objective of giving more substance to our relations, and a carefully worked out plan for how to go about it. As a result, I think we succeeded in most of what we set out to achieve, with the commitment to a further high-level meeting in the United Kingdom next year. We must ensure that Bob Hawke's visit is a success; and I shall also take steps to make clear to all Departments in Whitehall that I want the momentum created by my visit to be effectively followed through, particularly in the commercial field.

But the visit was also tremendously enjoyable for both of us and it was very good to find such a strong residual goodwill towards Britain and wish to preserve the links with us. That should be a very good basis for the future. The fact that you and Ann came everywhere with us added very much to the pleasure of it all, indeed it was quite like old times.

I have written to thank Bob Hawke and all the State Premiers and other officials. Thank you for all your support and advice; and please tell all your staff, both in Canberra and in the Consulates-General how grateful I am for their work. I would add a special word of thanks to Iain Lindsay who was outstanding in the help he gave throughout.

Denis joins me in sending warmest regards to you
both.

Y
ours
w

Ray and Denis

His Excellency Mr. A. J. Coles, C.M.G.