

18 April 1983

Australian Minister for Finance

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. J.S. Dawkins who thanks her for the arrangements made for his visit to Britain as a guest of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I do not think we had any knowledge of the visit at the time. May I, therefore, ask you to circulate the thank you letter to any other Departments which were involved?

JC

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RB



MINISTER FOR FINANCE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1 UK

RIS - CF
PPS

Dear Prime Minister

I write to convey my deep thanks to you and your Government for the opportunity to visit Britain and study a variety of interests.

For two weeks I was a guest of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, following the acceptance by Mr Kim Beazley and I of invitations which were extended to us as members of the then Opposition.

I was particularly grateful that your Government was able to respond to my request that we follow a programme separate to that of a group of MP's drawn from the then governing parties. No doubt this caused some inconvenience but, I can assure you, added enormously to the value of our visit.

Due to the proximity to Christmas and the ever present prospect of an election, our guidance to the program organisers was slow in arriving and rather short on detail. In the event we made their task more burdensome by requesting changes and additions once we arrived.

Without exception every attempt was made to meet our wishes and for that I am very grateful. The programme was diverse and yet highly specific in requested areas.

Our visit was in fact cut short by a day or so because of the calling of the election in Australia and indeed so much has happened since that it all seems a long time ago. However, I did want you to know that I benefitted greatly from those brief two weeks and I hope you will pass my appreciation to all those who made it such a success.

Yours sincerely

J S Dawkins