



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 April 1985

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CDP
22/4.

Dear Richard,

Australia Constitution Act 1900

Thank you for your letter of 29 March which crossed with Len Appleyard's of the following day.

We accept that it will not be possible to grant the Australian Prime Minister's request for the permanent loan of an archival copy of the Australia Constitution Act.

We should therefore like to pursue both the alternative suggestions made in your letter and, subject to funds being authorised and to the Prime Minister's approval, offer to the Australian Prime Minister temporary loan of the Public Record Office copy of the Act, as well as the gift of a good facsimile authenticated by the Clerk of the Parliaments. We should also like to consider offering the Australians a facsimile of the Royal Commission of Assent to the Act which is held by the House of Lords Records Office. The Clerk of the Records has agreed to make this available for copying.

We shall suggest a substantive reply to the Australian Prime Minister as soon as costs have been determined and funds agreed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of your letter and to the Keeper of Public Records.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P. F. Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Richard Stoate Esq
Private Secretary to
the Lord Chancellor
House of Lords