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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1985

Dear Charles,

Australian Bicentenary 1988

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In my letter of 19 April about the message which the Prime Minister kindly contributed to Sir Peter Gadsden's fund-raising appeal I mentioned that the question of official Government funding for the Bicentenary was under consideration.

It has now been agreed that the sum of £1 million should be made available over five years from the FCO's provisions as the British Government's contribution to the Australian Bicentenary. The Australians have been pressing for a larger contribution but given the constraints on resources this was all that could be made available. The sum is broadly comparable with the contribution of £500,000 HMG made to the American bicentennial in 1976 (worth £1.1 at December 1983 prices).

We shall expect the Bicentennial Committee to use it to attract considerable further funds from non-governmental British sources.

It will be important to make the most of this news in Canberra. Sir John Leahy has recommended a personal letter to Mr Hawke from the Prime Minister, which he would seek the earliest opportunity to deliver in Canberra.

We are now also in a position to recommend a substantive reply to the Australian Prime Minister's letter of 15 February to the Prime Minister, requesting the loan of one of the original copies of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, and we suggest that the Prime Minister should cover this in the same letter. You will recall that the Prime Minister sent a holding reply to Mr Hawke on 21 March.

The Foreign Secretary accepts the view of the Lord Chancellor (Richard Stoaate's letter of 20 March) that it will not be possible to grant to the Australians the permanent loan of an original document. He therefore intends, subject to the Prime Minister's approval, taking up the alternative proposal whereby one of the original documents is lent to the Australians during the Bicentenary celebrations, accompanied by a first class facsimile suitably mounted as a permanent gift.

/This

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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This also follows the pattern set with the Americans, who were given a replica of the Magna Carta.

/ I enclose a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Hawke covering these points. Once the Prime Minister has approved a text, we propose to telegraph it to our High Commission in Canberra as soon as possible, with the signed copy to follow, so that the news of the British Government's funding can be made public without delay.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

CHARLES

Do you want the FO letter to you
of 20 May to go in as background
to this letter?

Yes please
✓ CO

Suz
21/5

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

The Hon R J L Hawke AC MP
Prime Minister of Australia

Copies to:

SRWAAAY

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

We are much looking forward to Australia's Bicentenary celebrations, and as you know work is going ahead here on Britain's participation in them.

CAVEAT.....

I wanted to let you know personally that we have now decided to make available £1 million as our financial contribution to the Bicentenary. We shall be discussing with the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee how this money should be allocated and my officials will keep in close touch with yours to ensure that we are thinking along the same lines.

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In making this contribution, we intend that it should serve to stimulate further funds from the private sector for the Bicentenary. I hope that the total British financial contribution will therefore be significantly ~~larger~~ larger than £1 million.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

You wrote to me on 15 February about the loan of one of the copies of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. We ~~would~~ ^{shall} be ~~glad~~ ^{happy} to make available to Australia on temporary loan the Public Records Office copy, which is identical to the copy in the House of Lords library.

/This

This loan would be for the duration of any commemorative exhibition which might be planned for 1988. In addition, we should like to offer the Australian Government a fine facsimile of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, authenticated by Parliament, as well as a facsimile of the separate document which is the Royal Commission of Assent to the Act.

I am sorry that we cannot give you an original ~~ver~~ version of the Act on permanent loan. The rule on such documents has always been that neither the Public Record Office copy, as the national archive record, nor the House of Lords copy, as Parliament's record of its own proceedings, can be allowed to leave Britain permanently.

But I am delighted that we are able to contribute to your Bicentenary celebrations on a scale that matches the special ~~warmth~~ ^{the} of relations between our two countries.

drawings
closeres

20 MAY 1985



L02 ABZ

Draft Message from the Prime Minister

Australia's bicentenary is a ~~wonderful~~ ^{splendid}
~~an occasion~~ ^{an occasion} opportunity to celebrate the especially close
~~friendship~~ ^{friendship} partnership between our two ~~nations~~ ^{countries} within the
~~Commonwealth~~ and to look forward to another two
hundred years of ~~friendship and cooperation~~ ^{working together}. I
am delighted to ~~support~~ ^{give my} the work of the Britain-
Australia Bicentennial Committee set out in this
programme.

Please type for PM's
signature

[Handwritten signature]

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P4 GRAPHICS

JOB REF 977 2845 G1 exp

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27.3.84 — British Airways — Galley 1
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On Sunday May 13 1787, eleven ships of the First Fleet set sail from Portsmouth on an historic 15,000 mile journey to Australia, arriving at Botany Bay on January 18 1788, eighteen years after Captain Cook first sighted the shores of this southern continent. On January 26 1788 the Fleet moved to Port Jackson where the 1468 Britons on board became the first European settlers of Australia.

This small settlement grew to become Sydney, Australia's largest city, and it was Captain Arthur Phillip, Commander of the Fleet, who formally took possession of the whole of the eastern part of the continent. He went on to become the first Governor of the colony of New South Wales.

In 1988, sixteen million Australians will be commemorating this 200th anniversary — a 'birthday' celebration which will not only prompt reflection on the historical, cultural and economic developments of the last two centuries, but also focus attention on Australia's place in the world of the future.

Britain played an important role in the development of modern Australia. From those first pioneers and the early trading links, through to the cultural, sporting, scientific, educational and continued family ties of today, Britain has, and will continue to have, a special bond with one of the youngest and most progressive nations of the world.

The Bicentenary is a very special occasion for Australians, but it is also a first class opportunity for Britons to join in the celebration of two hundred years of Australia's rich heritage. By increasing awareness and understanding of our two nations, we will look to a future of continued co-operation and international friendship.

**HRH The Duke
of Kent GCMG
GCVO
President, The
Britain-
Australia
Bicentennial
Committee**

"Britain and Australia have very special links through families, business, arts and culture. It is therefore particularly fitting that Britain should help in celebrating Australia's Bicentenary. I commend the celebratory programme and I am sure that it will receive the wholehearted support of all those who recognise the value of our special relationship with Australia and her people."

**The Rt Hon
Margaret
Thatcher FRS
MP
Prime Minister**

**Sir Peter
Gadsden GBE
Chairman, The
Britain-
Australia
Bicentennial
Committee**

Further "This brochure indicates the deservedly ambitious programme of events and celebrations which my Committee would like to see included in Britain's contribution to Australia's Bicentenary. ~~But~~ A programme such as this requires considerable financial resources. We already have generous commitments from Her Majesty's Government, Shell, BP, British Airways and RTZ, but we need substantial support from business, industry and individuals if we are to make the Bicentenary a memorable year ~~from~~ Australia and for British-Australian relations."

for

The aim of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee is to encourage and co-ordinate as wide and varied a selection of events and projects as possible in order to further the close links between our two countries. The Committee aims to ensure that Britain participates fully in Australia's Bicentenary celebrations and helps in giving something of Britain to Australia in the form of permanent memorials.

The projects the Committee is seeking to incorporate in the programme include:

- ◆ Tours of Australia by representative British cultural and performing arts groups, as well as reciprocal tours by Australian groups in Britain.
- ◆ Participation in Australian military events such as an air show, naval review and military tattoo and in the historic 'Tall Ships Parade'.
- ◆ A series of major exhibitions and displays in both countries, particularly reflecting British-Australian links and covering scientific, arts and cultural themes.
- ◆ An Australian film season and other national and regional entertainments and celebrations in Britain.
- ◆ Special sporting events which will involve both British and Australian sporting personalities, as well as local clubs, colleges and schools.
- ◆ A series of visits and exchanges in celebration of the Bicentenary and national and regional social events which will bring British and Australian communities and interest groups together.

/a

One major project envisaged is the formation of an Educational Trust which would sponsor and encourage exchanges between Australian and British schools and colleges, for both students and teachers.

Britain - In addition, the British-Australia Bicentennial Committee would like to help facilitate individual projects such as the conservation of historical documents linked with Australia, the publication of articles and papers, the forging of links between specific groups where common interests can be usefully and creatively employed to enhance understanding and relations.

There are many projects which the Committee would like to encourage and support and which will stand as continuing reminders of these Bicentennial celebrations and the historic events, developments and sentiments upon which they are based.

Patron In Chief: Her Majesty
The Queen
President: His Royal Highness
The Duke of Kent
Chairman: Sir Peter Gadsden GBE

The Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee has been established to organise and co-ordinate a programme of events and projects to commemorate Australia's first European settlement. The Committee has Foreign and Commonwealth Office endorsement and is working closely with the Australian Bicentennial Authority in preparing for Britain's participation in Australia's Bicentennial celebrations.

The Committee has established the Britain-Australian Bicentennial Trust which is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

In order to carry out the projects envisaged, the Committee needs to raise funds. Although many of the events, particularly social and sporting occasions, will be self-financing, the Committee is dependent upon corporate and private contributions to make Britain's participation successful and memorable.

SIR PETER GADSDEN GBE — CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITAIN- AUSTRALIA BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Sir Peter Gadsden was appointed Chairman of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee by Her Majesty's Government.

Sir Peter's links with Australia go back to 1879 when his grandfather, Jabez Gadsden, arrived in Melbourne at the age of 20 and founded the organisation which today bears his name — 'J Gadsden Australia Pty'.

Thirty-four years later, Sir Peter's father, Basil Gadsden, arrived in Melbourne, also at the age of 20. He was ordained Deacon of St John's Maffra, in 1918 and in the same year became Curate of Buchan. His parish covered some 2,000 square miles and Basil Gadsden spent 100 miles a week in the saddle to take services.

Sir Peter was born in Canada, but has been a frequent visitor to Australia since 1957. He has also maintained close links with the Australian Mineral Sands Industry. He was Lord Mayor of London in 1979 and during his mayoralty paid official visits to Perth, Bunbury, Adelaide, Brisbane, Southport, Melbourne and Geelong. He also visited Buchan where he planted a tree in the churchyard. One of the supporters of Sir Peter's Coat of Arms is a koala bear — symbolising his many connections with Australia.

Sir Peter is Vice President of the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust, Vice Chairman of the Britain-Australian Society, a Member of the Cook Society and Council member of the Big Brother Movement.

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