



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 February 1986

CDP
9/2.

Dear Charles

Australian Bicentenary: Commonwealth of Australia
Constitution Act

In your letter of 3 January you asked whether, in the Foreign Secretary's view, it would really matter if we held a good quality facsimile and let Commonwealth countries have the originals of such key documents where they have specifically asked for them.

As you know from my letter of 30 December 1985, this was one of the possible solutions which we considered. But the Foreign Secretary sees the force of the Lord Chancellor's argument set out in Richard Stoate's letter to you of 24 January. On balance it would be wiser to avoid setting a precedent which could cause more embarrassment in our relations with other countries than adhering to the present accepted archival practice.

I am copying this letter to Richard Stoate in the Lord Chancellor's office.

Gausson,

Robert (Culshaw)

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

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