



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 December 1987

Dear Mr. Eggleton,

Thank you for your letter of 17 December about my possible visit to Australia. I certainly hope to be able to take up Prime Minister Hawke's invitation, but have no firm plans as yet. I shall certainly bear in mind your kind invitation to meet Liberal Party members and will revert to it when my plans are more advanced.

Meanwhile, I send you and your colleagues best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Ronald Reagan

Tony Eggleton, Esq.

001



# The Liberal Party of Australia

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL DIRECTOR  
Tony Eggleton

17 December 1987

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1

*Dear Prime Minister,*

There are reports in the Australian media that you might possibly visit this country next year in the context of Australian Bicentennial celebrations.

Needless to say, if you do happen to find time to come to this part of the world in 1988, we hope you might reserve a spot or two in your programme for the Liberal Party of Australia.

John Howard, as Parliamentary Leader, and John Elliott, as our new Federal President, have asked me to extend a warm invitation to speak to Liberal audiences if you do undertake an Australian visit.

We recall with much pleasure and satisfaction your previous visits to Australia and your meetings with the Liberal Party.

Meantime, we wish you a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 1988.

*Sincerely,*



DAILY TELEGRAPH, Thursday, December 17, 1987.

## PM asks Maggie to visit next year

BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been formally invited to visit Australia during next year's bicentennial celebrations.

While a written invitation has yet to be sent, the British PM was invited by Prime Minister Bob Hawke when they last met.

A spokesman for Mr Hawke said yesterday that the dates of Mrs Thatcher's visit had not be finalised, but it "was understood she will be coming".

"Her visit would be of great significance to a large section of the population," the spokesman said.

He said more world leaders, including President Reagan, would also be invited.

The leaders will be in particular from countries that have contributed to immigration here over the years.

No other details on the visits were released.

The Sun, Thursday, December 17, 1987.

## Maggie hopes to visit

LONDON, Wed. — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hopes to visit Australia to celebrate the Bicentenary next year.

Mrs Thatcher said yesterday in the House of Commons that she hoped to receive an invitation from Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Officials expect she will visit Expo '88 in Bris-

bane, where, among other countries, Britain will be represented.

But a spokesman at Number 10 said details of the trip had yet to be arranged.

A visit to Australia would be the third for Mrs Thatcher.

She previously travelled Down Under in 1979 and 1981.

— SUN BUREAU