



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 April 1988

Dear Charles

Prime Minister's Visit to Australia

You asked in your letter of 4 April for advice on an invitation from the Victorian Branch of the Australia-Britain Society to the Prime Minister to attend a reception during her visit to Australia in August.

The Federal Office of the Australia-Britain Society have told our High Commission in Canberra that they are planning to invite the Prime Minister to a meeting in Sydney. Some attention from the Prime Minister would clearly be appreciated by the Australian-Britain Society, but it might be difficult to fit in something in both Sydney and Melbourne. We suggest a holding reply to the Victorian Branch until the programme for the Prime Minister's visit becomes clearer and I attach a draft. We should be happy to arrange for a reply to be delivered through our High Commission in Canberra.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO: Mr J Ronald  
State President  
Australia-Britain Society  
Victoria Branch

Copies to:

*SLWBJT*

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for the invitation in your letter of 25 March to be guests at a reception during her visit to Australia this year.

Planning for this visit is still at an early stage, and the Prime Minister cannot yet make any firm commitments in what, regrettably, will have to be a very tight programme. She has asked me therefore to write to you later on, once plans for the visit have become a little firmer. In the meantime, she has asked me to send her warm good wishes to all the members of the Australia-Britain Society in Victoria.

*Q2.*

Enclosures flag(s) .....

Mr J. RONAN  
18/4



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

Ack | 4 April 1988

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the State President of the Victorian Branch of the Australia-Britain Society asking her to be a guest at a Society function during her visit to Australia in August.

I should be grateful for advice on whether this is likely to be suitable for the Prime Minister's programme and for a draft reply in due course.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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# AUSTRALIA-BRITAIN SOCIETY

## VICTORIAN BRANCH

Founder  
The Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies  
K.T., A.K., C.H., F.R.S., Q.C.

Patron  
His Excellency Dr. Davis McCaughey A.C.  
Governor of Victoria

Vice-Patron  
The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, C.H.

State President  
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Honorary Life Member  
W.F.M. Clemens C.B.E., M.C.

Honorary Secretary  
Julie Sattler

Honorary Treasurer  
Christopher Rooke

25th March 1988

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher M.P.,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON SW1A, 2AL  
United Kingdom.

My dear Prime Minister,

There have been numerous reports in the Australian press that you may be joining in our Bi-centenary celebrations during the course of this year.

You mentioned in your speech at the Australian Bi-centennial Banquet on 19th January 1988 that you would probably be visiting Expo 88 in Brisbane during August.

The Australia-Britain Society, Victorian Branch, would very much like you to be our guest at a Reception if you are visiting Victoria, so that our members may have the honour of meeting you.

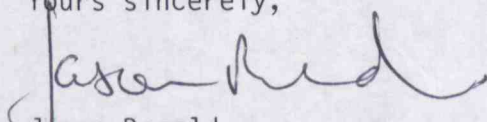
On behalf of the Society I extend an invitation to you and Mr. Thatcher to be our very special guests at an appropriate function that suits your Itinerary.

I was privileged to have the opportunity of meeting you in 1975 at the Royal Melbourne Show when my father was President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, I was subsequently present when you delivered the Sir Robert Menzies Lecture at Monash University and was also fortunate to attend the 1982 Conservative Party Conference at Brighton as an International visitor.

You are held in great respect by many people in Australia and your achievement in being Great Britain's longest continuous serving Prime Minister this century distinguishes you as one of the world's great leaders.

I hope that you will be able to meet the members of the Australia-Britain Society when you visit Australia this year, and look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jason Ronald  
STATE PRESIDENT

PPS? None

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