



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Jan Charles

Prime Minister's visit to Australia 1 - 6 August: Programme

You will have seen Canberra telegram nos 378, 379 and 380 containing the revised draft programmes for the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher together with a commentary by the High Commissioner.

We endorse the recommendations made by Mr Coles in his telegram no 378 and would be grateful to know your decisions on the questions raised.

You will wish to note that in the revised programme the only planned contact with the leader of the Opposition is a call by Mr Howard in Canberra on 3 August. In your letter of 25 April to Robert Culshaw you thought this would suffice, despite Mr Howard's earlier suggestion of hosting a public luncheon in Sydney. The fact that Mr Howard will now be calling on both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State during his visit to Britain from 20-27 July would appear to reinforce your view.

One other point concerns a possible visit to New Parliament House on the morning of 3 August. If the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Hawke on 2 August takes place in New Parliament House (as foreseen in para 1 of Canberra telegram no 372, copied to you) we see little need for the Prime Minister to return on 3 August for what would be no more than an architectural tour of the building. Mr Hawke might in any case offer to show the Prime Minister the main features of the building. If on the other hand the meeting with Mr Hawke is elsewhere then a visit to the New Parliament would be expected by the Australians and would present a good photo opportunity.

Yours ever

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary