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From the Private Secretary

8 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

I wrote to you on 6 June about the programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia. The Prime Minister has subsequently had a word with Lord McAlpine and has the following additional suggestions:

- in Perth, she would like to do a walkabout in the City centre. She would also like to meet half a dozen or so of Western Australia's leading businessmen (some suggested names to follow) over a tea or a drink. This has a much higher priority in the Prime Minister's eyes than a cruise on the Swan River;
- it might be possible to fit in her proposed rural visit somewhere between Perth and Canberra on Tuesday 2 August. I understand that there are a number of possible sites, for instance in the area North of Adelaide, and that there are Royal Australian Air Force bases on the route where the VC 10 could land. This would of course necessitate a much earlier start from Perth on the morning of 2 August. But the Prime Minister would like to see a proposal.

I should be grateful if these additional points could be passed on to John Coles.

(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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6 June 1988

From the Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA: PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 3 June covering Mr. Coles' telegrams from Canberra about the programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Australia.

On the general balance of the programme, the Prime Minister has said that she attaches importance to seeing something of rural Australia. As examples she has suggested a visit to a farm, to the flying doctor service, an opportunity to see how children in remote areas are taught by TV and perhaps do a phone-in programme for people in remote parts. I realise this would mean sacrificing some other part of the programme. This should preferably be one of the lunches or receptions. I can only say that the Prime Minister is very keen on this idea and will not lightly be argued out of it.

To take the points in Canberra telegram no 378 in order:

Hotels

In general the Prime Minister is content to follow the Australian Government's wishes. But she wants to accept Lord McAlpine's invitation to stay in his house in Perth. In Sydney she would wish to stay at the Intercontinental Hotel rather than the Regent. These points are not negotiable.

Speeches

The Prime Minister will of course make short impromptu speeches at the various functions. It would be helpful to have some particularly apposite points for her to make on each occasion. We shall need full draft speeches for the National Press Club, the Australian Government dinner and the opening of British Day at EXPO.

Perth

The Prime Minister is content to open the new Rolls Royce factory. Is a cruise on the Swan River really a good idea at that time of year? It might be better to go for a meeting with local businessmen or a visit to a winery or

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some other local landmark.

Canberra

There is no objection to planting another tree. The Prime Minister would be content for the High Commissioner to give a reception provided that it does not conflict with her wish to add a rural visit to the programme. She is content to attend a dinner with the Governor-General rather than host a return dinner for Mr. Hawke.

Sydney

As noted above, the Prime Minister would prefer the Intercontinental Hotel.

Brisbane

The Prime Minister would be willing to receive the special photograph album about the Young Endeavour Project. I think the programme is too crowded to allow a separate meeting with Lincolnshire sixth-formers, but they could be included in a reception.

TV & Radio Interviews

These points should be settled during the reconnaissance.

Opposition

The Prime Minister agrees that she should not attend any separate function with the Opposition but should receive a call from Mr. Howard in Canberra. But she would not wish to restrict it just to Mr. Howard: he might be offered the option of bringing some of his senior colleagues with him.

Mr. Thatcher's programme

I am consulting Mr. Thatcher and will reply separately.

CHARLES POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.