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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 July 1988

AUSTRALIA CONSTITUTION ACT

It was agreed at OD yesterday to give further thought to ways in which the wish of the Australians (and some other Commonwealth countries) to have original copies of their Constitution Acts could be partly assuaged, given we could not meet it in full. One possibility, to which the Prime Minister would like further consideration to be given, is the concept of one of the originals being "held" by Australia (and other Commonwealth Governments) or "lodged" with them. This would mean that the copy would remain part of the PRO's records but lodged outside its premises. This does of course already happen with some other categories of document such as the papers of Prime Ministers. Could this please be added to the various ideas which are to be examined.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Alison Smith (Lord President's Office), Nick Gibbons (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Michael Saunders (Law Officers Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

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