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10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

6 August 1988

Dear Bob,

I am writing to you as we fly over the Northern Territories towards Darwin at the end of my visit to Australia, with the last glimpses of your great land below me. I leave with the warmest possible memories and with a feeling of achievement because I believe that you and I have together taken a very important step to putting the relations between Britain and Australia back on a much sounder and healthier footing. I am very grateful to you for your role in that, and for taking up so promptly and enthusiastically my suggestion that you make a return visit next year. We look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues, and must ensure that it is a well prepared meeting with real substance.

May I thank you most warmly for your hospitality during my own visit. I could not have had a more heartening welcome both in Canberra and in the States and it was very good to find what a strong desire there is everywhere to maintain the links with Britain. What you have achieved in Australia is most impressive and I congratulate you very sincerely upon it. I would also like to record my great appreciation of the arrangements made for the visit by your officials. They were outstanding, indeed better than I have ever seen anywhere. I am most grateful to all of them, and in particular to Duncan Anderson who accompanied us throughout.

Denis joins me in sending warm regards to you and your wife - and we look forward to seeing you both in the United Kingdom next year.

Best wishes from us both to you both

Yours ever

Raymond

The Honourable R. J. L. Hawke, A.C., M.P.