

CONFIDENTIAL file

ECU



bc HMA Canberra

PC
cc AUSTRALIA relations
file

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

7 August 1988

From the Private Secretary

Dear Bob,

AUSTRALIA

Following her visit to Australia the Prime Minister has commented that she thinks Australia deserves greater priority in our foreign policy. She was impressed by the extent of our commercial interests in Australia and by the potential for creating a closer and more productive political relationship.

In order to give a higher profile to the relationship, and to set a target for strengthening ties, the Prime Minister invited the Prime Minister of Australia to visit Britain at a time to be arranged in 1989 and to bring with him two or three key Ministers for talks with their opposite numbers. Mr. Hawke accepted the invitation. The Prime Minister hopes that agreement can now be reached on dates and on which Ministers should be involved. In addition to political talks, she hopes that the possibility of an Anglo-Australian Trade Conference, to be convened in London at the time of the visit, can be examined. She wants the visit to be something out of the ordinary.

The Prime Minister is glad that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretary of State for Defence are to visit Australia, in September and March respectively. She hopes that both visits will underline the new priority accorded to Australia in our thinking and will lead to an increased interest by British industry in the Australian market for both civil and defence exports. She also hopes that Mr. Younger's visit will give fresh emphasis to the more general defence relationship.

It is useful that visits are planned in the next few months by the Speaker, the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney-General, Mrs. Lynda Chalker and Mr. Robert Jackson. These plans will also demonstrate that Australia is receiving full attention in London and will create opportunities for advancing British interests.

The Prime Minister also wishes Ministers concerned to ensure that staff in their Departments are given clear directions to take advantage of the momentum created by her visit, and indeed that sufficient staff are available to do this. This applies in particular to DTI. The Prime Minister wants to be sure that adequate staff are available there to follow up export opportunities. She thinks it short-sighted of the DTI to have declined to contribute to the British Pavilion at EXPO 88.

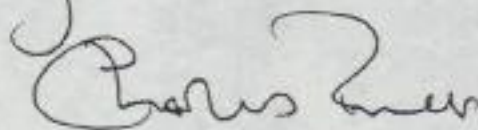
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The Prime Minister would like an interim report of action being taken to follow up her visit by 1 December.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Department), Michael Saunders (Attorney-General's Office) and Peter Wardle (Mr. Robert Jackson's office, Department of Education and Science).

Yours sincerely,


(CHARLES POWELL)

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

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Australia

Following her visit to Australia the Prime Minister has commented that she thinks Australia deserves greater priority in our foreign policy, ~~a view which she knows the Foreign Secretary shares.~~ She was impressed by the extent of our ~~current~~ commercial interests in Australia and ^{the} potential for creating a closer and more productive political relationship.

In order to give a higher profile to the relationship, and to set a target for strengthening ties, the Prime Minister invited the Prime Minister of Australia to visit Britain at a time to be arranged in 1989 and to bring with him two or three key Ministers for talks with their opposite numbers. Mr Hawke accepted the invitation. The Prime Minister hopes that agreement can now be reached on dates and on which Ministers should be involved. In addition to political talks, she hopes ^{the idea of} an Anglo-Australian Trade Conference, to be convened in London ~~under commercial~~ ^{at the time of the visit,} ~~sponsorship~~ can be examined.

The Prime Minister is glad ~~to note~~ that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Secretary of State for Defence are to visit Australia, in September and March respectively. She hopes that both visits will underline the new priority accorded to Australia in our thinking and will lead to an increased interest by British industry in the Australian market for both civil and defence exports. She also hopes that Mr Younger's visit will give fresh emphasis to the ^{more general} defence relationship.

It is ~~also~~ useful that visits are planned in the next few months by the Speaker, the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney-

/General

Draft memo
to P.S. to FCS
from Rt. Dowell
in IS to S of S & before
" " to Trade
" " to Lord Chancellor
" " to Attorney-General
" " to Mr. Robert
" " to Mr. Jackson.

She wants
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to be
something
out of the
ordinary

General, Mrs Lynda Chalker and Mr Robert Jackson. These plans will also demonstrate that Australia is receiving full attention in London and will create opportunities for advancing British interests.

~~The Prime Minister would also like departments to ensure their staffing, to the extent that are detaching staff properly deployed in order to give the necessary staff to support staff deployed to exploit the priority which we are to ensure that staff are to review.~~

~~also wishes departments to make sure that their officers staff are deployed who are Ministers & anchored to heads of departments in their departments are given clear staff & are directed to~~

~~don't think we have charge of a convention created by her visit, & indeed that staff are available to do this. This applies in particular to D.I. 2-1. The Prime Minister wants~~

to be sure all adequate
staff ~~remain~~ available here to
follow up export opportunities. She
thinks it ~~is~~ ^{short sighted of the} ~~the~~ ^{the} DTI
no less
I declined no contribution to the
British Pavilion at ~~the~~ EXPO 87.

The Rio Minister would
like an interim report of
action being taken to follow up
her visit by C. DeLorenzo.

I am copying this letter

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