

PRIME MINISTER

PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

The Premier of Queensland is visiting Britain in February and has asked to see you.

This poses something of a problem. You were his guest in Brisbane and naturally it would be nice to extend the courtesy of a meeting. On the other hand, we have tried to hold the line against meetings with individual State Premiers from Australia and Canada for fear of being submerged. We made an exception for South Australia, because he was the one State Premier whom you did not visit when you were in Australia; but others are on the horizon, for instance Mr Greiner of New South Wales. If you see Queensland, you would have to see him, too.

So the pressures of the diary argue one way and courtesy the other. I am sure you will choose the latter. Agree to see Mr Ahern, in the knowledge that you will have to see Mr Greiner as well?

Ed.?

Yes ✓

CHARLES POWELL
19 December 1988

EAMAKD

1630 on
Wed 15 Feb

Tessa

Ed. you please
hit 1/2 hr. ~

16 or 17 February
please con.



10 DOWNING STREET

Tessa

Is this feasible?

C

Yes - I could find 1/2 an hour
but I thought we only "let in"
Mr. Bannan because she didn't
see him in Australia and
didn't have to fit in the stress.
What happens if more important
things crop up nearer the time
and it's just before the Anglo/German
& French Summits.

Tessa

16/2

o/s
RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 December 1988

Dear Charles

Call on the Prime Minister by
the Premier of Queensland

The Premier of Queensland, Mr Mike Ahern (National Party), has accepted an invitation to come to Britain in February 1989 as an FCO sponsored visitor. He will have an official programme from Wednesday 15 February to Monday 20 February inclusive and then remain in London for 2 or 3 days on Queensland Government business.

Mr Coles has recommended a brief call on the Prime Minister. The Foreign Secretary sees no need for such a call but the Prime Minister will remember Mr Ahern from her visit to Queensland in August and may recall that she told him then that she hoped to see him in London.

We are sure Mr Ahern would be delighted to call on the Prime Minister at any time between 15 and 23 February, if she wished to see him, although 16 or 17 February would be the best dates in practical terms from his point of view.

In October the Prime Minister saw the Premier of South Australia, Mr John Bannon, whom she did not meet during her visit to Australia. It is also possible that the Premier of New South Wales, Nick Greiner, will be in London early next year.

Yours ever

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)

Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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