



BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
CANBERRA

1 May 1989

Mr Charles Powell
Private Secretary
No.10 Downing Street
London SW1

CF
Pl. big demand
2 June
CJ

Dear Charles,

THE HAWKE VISIT

1. This is just to say that I shall be back in London (with Anne) from about 14 June for the Hawke visit the next week. If you need me for any purpose in connection with the visit Heads of Mission Section will know where to find me.
2. The visit is my unrepeatable opportunity to get on to more than conventionally good terms with Hawke. I have asked the F.C.O. to do all they can to give me maximum exposure to him during the visit but should be most grateful for anything you can do so far as the No.10 engagements are concerned. No reply necessary - I know you will do what you can.
3. The visit isn't shaping up quite as well as I had hoped. We have not been able to meet the Australians on a number of items - pensions, the Constitution Act (I think they will decline our offer of a magnificent replica), address to Parliament etc. And there is

/other



other fairly inflammable timber lying around - for example the Rank Hovis bid for Goodman Fielder, on top of Goodman Fielder's failed bid for Rank Hovis earlier and the blocking of Elliott's bid for Scottish and Newcastle. The Lord Mayor's insistence on white ties for the Mansion House (tho' the Hawke party are permitted to wear black) may also rankle him.

4. The answer, I think, is to try to give Hawke something on the substance of the visit. What he would probably like most is a ringing endorsement at Prime Minister level of our support for his efforts to reform world agricultural trade - the CAP, Uruguay Round etc - plus perhaps some support for his attempt to set up a Pacific trade forum. Those things would go down well in Australia and contrast favourably with what our German and French friends are likely to be able to do for him on the same tour. I have made the point to the F.C.O.

5. I much look forward to seeing you again.

*Yours ever
John Coles.*

Sir John Coles
High Commissioner