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10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 May 1989

PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your letter of 17 May about Mr. Dowding's visit. The Prime Minister is, of course, in Brussels for the NATO Summit on 29/30 May and has Prince Sultan and President Bush on 31 May and 1 June. I really do not think I can ask her to take on any more foreigners in that period and I should be grateful if the situation could be explained to Mr. Dowding.

(C. D. POWELL)

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

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SWIA 2AH

17 May 1989

Call on the Prime Minister by the Premier of Western Australia

The Premier of Western Australia, Mr Dowding (Labor) will visit Britain from Monday 29 May to Sunday 4 June. Despite an outstanding invitation to come to Britain as an PCO Category I sponsored visitor, Mr Dowding's visit will be under the auspices of his own State Government.

The Foreign Secretary believes that the case for Mr Dowding to call on the Prime Minister is a marginal one but on balance recommends that the Prime Minister should receive him if she has time, principally because he was the Prime Minister's host when she visited Western Australia last year. He is likely to remain Premier for some time and British firms have substantial interests in Western Australia.

Mr Dowding would be able to call on the Prime Minister at any time between 29 May and 3 June with the exception of the morning of Tuesday 30 May.

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(R N Peirce) Private Secretary

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