

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

You are to have a meeting with Bob Hawke in Gallipoli on Wednesday. We have set aside about 45 minutes for this although timings may slip considerably on the day.

You will want to start by congratulating him once again on his re-election for a fourth term and say how pleased you are that we were able to let Australia have one of our two archive copies of the Australia Constitution Act.

He may bring up the subject of British arms sales in the South East Asia region. The Australians are nervous about a mooted sale of Tornado to Indonesia and have asked us to desist. Indeed they have made proposals for consultation arrangements which would commit us to consult them before making virtually any arms sales in the whole area. We cannot shackle ourselves with such arrangements but are always ready for unofficial contacts and discussion.

You will also want to commiserate over the floods which have caused heavy damage to some loss of life.

It is possible that he will bring up the question of cleaning up the nuclear test site at Maralinga. There is nothing we can say until the Technical Assessment Group have reported in June.

The Australians have a strong interest in the Uruguay Round. You will want to assure him of our good faith and the effort we are making to move the EC.

You will want to underline the importance of steps to sustain confidence in Hong Kong. We would like the Australians to introduce measures on the lines of our own nationality package, but there is little sign so far that they will do so. You should tell him once more that we hope to see Hong Kong participate in Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

The Australians have been very helpful over Vietnamese boat people, taking a large number from Hong Kong. We hope for their

CONFIDENTIAL

continued support when we have to resort to compulsory repatriation again.

Mr Hawke will certainly welcome an exchange on China and Cambodia. You will remember that the UN Secretary General was a bit dubious about the very ambitious role allotted to the UN in Cambodia under the Australian plan.

You may also want to take him through developments over South Africa. The wretched Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on South Africa will be meeting in mid-May in Nigeria. You hope the Committee will take a benevolent view of the progress made and recognise it in some practical way.

Antarctica remains a bone of contention between us. The Australians continue to push their "wilderness park" proposal which we cannot accept.

He is much pre-occupied with what is happening in Papua New Guinea where secessionist rebels have taken complete control of the island of Bougainville. It will be helpful to have his assessment, given that we are also major investors there.

If there is any further time, you might give him your analysis of developments in the Soviet Union.

C.D.P

Charles Powell
20 April 1990

c: Hawke (MJ)