

Text of a letter dated 25 September 1980 from
The Rt.Hon. Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister of
Australia to The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher

*Copy of original
received direct
from Aussie H/C.*

My dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to draw your attention to the current situation in trading relations between Australia and the European Community.

In recent years Australia has brought to the notice of the Commission and the member States of the Community its strong concern at the growing imbalance of trading opportunities between Australia and the Nine, and the damage being caused to Australia's trade in third markets by EC policies, particularly in the agricultural area.

The strained relations which these trade problems have produced should be a matter of great concern to all the parties involved, as there are very compelling and obvious reasons why the European Community and Australia should seek to establish the closest economic and trade co-operation.

In recent months and weeks we have been especially concerned over the imposition of the new EC sheepmeat regime, and the failure of the EC to fully implement its undertakings to Australia under the multilateral trade negotiations settlement. These new problems are of course in addition to longer term trade concerns.

In an effort to remove these immediate problems the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, last week visited Brussels and negotiated with the EC Commission agreements designed to regulate the sheepmeat trade. After considerable effort by all concerned forms of agreement were reached, subject of course to endorsement by the Council of Ministers and the Australian Government.

Mr Anthony is of the view that the agreements negotiated could form the basis of reasonably equitable arrangements for the sheepmeat trade, so long as there is an overall will to co-operate on both sides. We, for our part, are ready to implement both the spirit and the letter of the agreement - despite its evident reduction in our existing trade access - in the context of working towards a sounder economic and trade relationship with the European Community.

It is my sincere hope that the Community and all its member States will adopt the same attitude and response at its forthcoming deliberations in the Council of Ministers.

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It is evident to us in Australia that the longstanding ties between Australia and Europe have been weakened by the developments in trade matters in recent years. We believe it would be in our mutual interest to seize every opportunity of improving the relationship.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Malcolm Fraser



3/F 3-10-80.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 September 1980

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Malcolm Fraser about trading relations between Australia and the European Community. I should be grateful for a draft reply. It would be helpful if this could reach us by 3 October.

I am sending copies of this letter to Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade), Garth Waters (MAFF) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

SP.

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

File

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 September 1980

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 25 September with which you enclosed the text of one from the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser to the Prime Minister about trading relations between Australia and the European Community. I will bring this to the Prime Minister's attention on her return from Yugoslavia.

M. A. PATTISON

His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, AC, CBE



Australia 2

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Malcolm Fraser has written to you about trading relations between Australia and the European Community.

I have asked the Foreign Office for advice on a reply.

MA

[Handwritten signature]

25 September 1980



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

25 September, 1980.

Dear Mr Pattison,

I have been asked by the Australian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, to convey the enclosed text of a letter from him to your Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher.

I should be grateful if you could bring this letter to Mrs Thatcher's attention as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(J. Plimsoll)

Mr M.A. Pattison,
A/Private Secretary (Overseas Affairs)
to the Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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T 185/80

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 185/80.

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(Signed) Malcolm Fraser

CONQUEROR

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