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Ashatia

20 January 1981

CALL BY MR. HAYDEN

The Leader of the Australian Labour Party, Mr. Hayden, called on the Prime Minister this evening as arranged. Their conversation related entirely to the economic situation in the two countries. Nothing was said which seemed to me to need recording.

MA

WRB

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 January 1981

Dear Michael,

Call by the Australian Leader of the Opposition, 20 January

Mr Hayden is calling on the Prime Minister at 5.00pm tomorrow.

He is visiting the UK from 18 to 22 January. Lord Carrington gave him lunch today. This visit is part of a wider trip (after the UK he is to visit Brazil, Venezuela, Peru and Argentina), and he has no specific points to raise. Mr Hayden will attend a dinner in Oxford on the evening of 20 January and will visit Birmingham on Wednesday to see something of British industry.

Although he believes he has more in common with Mr Healey than other members of the British Labour Party, he is to meet Mr Foot, Mr Shore and Mr Benn, in order to keep them abreast of Australian Labour Party developments. At his own request he will also call on Mr Prior and Mr Ron Hayward.

Although the Labour Party lost the recent election in Australia, Mr Hayden managed to cast off his rather lack-lustre image and apparently came across well, being compared favourably with Mr Fraser's reputedly cool and lofty manner. This good performance undoubtedly enhanced Mr Hayden's position as Leader of Australia's Labour Party and he looks set to retain this role for some time to come. He may not be able to compete in the longer term with Mr Bob Hawke, who won a seat at the last General Election, after resigning the Presidency of the Australian TUC (ACTU). Both are well respected key figures in Australia; the attitudes of their party are of great potential importance to the UK, especially so on such subjects as the exploitation of Australia's uranium, and her control of overseas investment.

/ I attach a personality note.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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HAYDEN, THE HON ''BILL'' (WILLIAM GEORGE), MP

Leader of the Australian Labor Party since December 1977.

Born Brisbane 1933 of relatively poor parents, his father being a piano tuner. Joined Queensland police force after leaving school, continuing his studies part-time. Elected ALP Member for Oxley (Queensland) in 1961; subsequently obtained degree (BEcon) at Queensland University. Minister for Health and Social Security in Mr Whitlam's Governments from 1972 to June 1975, when appointed Treasurer. From March 1976, Opposition Spokesman on Defence; from September, Spokesman on Economic Management. Lost a ballot for leadership to Mr Whitlam by only two votes in June 1977. Elected leader after December 1977 election defeat when Mr Whitlam stood down.

Established Australia's first national health insurance scheme (''Medibank'') despite considerable opposition. Showed promise as Treasurer, in particular with his 1975 budget, but there was not enough time before Mr Whitlam's dismissal for his policies to show results. Refused after 1975 election defeat to accept shadow post, declaring he wanted to further his studies, but soon apparent that he was Mr Whitlam's likely and chosen successor.

A man of strong convictions with a well developed social conscience. Describes himself as a gradualist, eg has described nationalisation as ''a clumsy, unnecessarily provocative tool''.

Despite his rather nondescript appearance, he speaks clearly and holds his own well in debate and on television. Somewhat intense and even humourless. There are doubts, probably unjustified, about his toughness. Non-smoker, former rugby league footballer and axeman. Privately very pleasant, gentle and modest.

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