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Prime Minister.



Agree that Sir Peter
Gadsden should be
asked to chair the
Committee for the event?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 February, 1984

AFC. 7/2,

Dear John,

Yes

Australian Bicentenary 1988

1988 will mark the bicentenary of the first European settlement in Australia. The Australians will be making a great deal of this and events already planned include the opening of a new Parliament building in Canberra. They have invited us to contribute to the Bicentenary celebrations and we have welcomed their invitation to do so.

To plan and co-ordinate Britain's part in the celebrations we propose to establish a high level committee. This will require a suitably distinguished and dynamic Chairman to serve as a link with the Australian Bicentennial Authority which has already been established.

We have been considering who to approach to take on the Chairmanship. As part of this process we have consulted Lord Carrington privately. He has suggested that we ask Sir Peter Gadsden, who was Lord Mayor of London from 1979-80 and whose links with Australia include the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee of the Britain Australia Society.

Sir Geoffrey Howe agrees that Sir P Gadsden should be approached. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister would be content for us to do so.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

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