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SUBJECT



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 April 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No T64187

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of 10 April informing me of the establishment of a Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from four members of the South Pacific Forum, to examine various implications of establishing a Single Regional Organisation in the Pacific, and for the summary of the Committee's recent activities. It was very helpful to have this account.

We will be pleased to receive the Committee in London and welcome the opportunity of having discussions with them. If they wish also to visit the Pitcairn Islands we will certainly do what we can to facilitate their visit. I look forward to hearing more about the timing of any visits proposed.

As you say, the United Kingdom are aware of the consideration that has been given in recent years to the question of the most appropriate regional organisation for the South Pacific. We have maintained a close interest in the way thinking has developed and will look forward to having a full exchange of views with the Committee when they come to London.

In addition, I was most grateful for your offer to keep me informed of any developments which may occur as a result of the Four-Nation Ministerial Committee's consultations and meetings.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke, AC, MP.

JL



cc/jk



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 April 1984

GR: pre type to  
— PM's sigD  
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Jon Teh.

South Pacific Regional Organisations

In your letter of 11 April you asked for advice on and a draft reply to the letter the Prime Minister has received from the Prime Minister of Australia about moves to establish a Single Regional Organisation in the South Pacific.

The Pacific debate over the SRO concept has been going on for some time. It concerns the possible merger of the South Pacific Forum, a body representing the independent states in the South Pacific with a predominantly political bias, and the South Pacific Commission whose membership incorporates the metropolitan powers (France, UK, USA) as well as the independent states and dependent territories, and whose function is to provide training and assistance in the social economic and cultural fields. There is inevitably a certain amount of duplication in the activities of the two organisations and there has been pressure from some of the recently independent countries led by Papua New Guinea to establish a single regional organisation. There is some opposition to the idea particularly from the smaller Polynesian states who fear Melanesian domination and that there will be no room in a single organisation for the metropolitan powers whose stabilising presence and aid is still seen as being necessary. As far as we are concerned the resolution of this matter is primarily for the regional members to decide; we would support any moves which reflected the wishes and views of all the Pacific states concerned. We are nevertheless pleased that in its early deliberations the Committee is making provision for the continued full participation of the metropolitan powers.

/As the



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As the concept of a Single Regional Organisation has a bearing on our overall policy in the Pacific, we welcome the decision of the Committee to visit London (we understand that this will not now be until after the Forum meeting in August) and to having discussions with its members.

/ I enclose a draft reply.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', written in a cursive style.

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

The Hon R J L Hawke AC MP  
 Prime Minister of the Commonwealth  
 of Australia

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

/having

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Foreign Policy : South Pacific Forum  
July '80

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