

Subject



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 May 1985

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T97185**

cc Master
OPS

Dear Bob,

We are much looking forward to Australia's Bicentenary celebrations, and as you know work is going ahead here on Britain's participation in them.

I wanted to let you know personally that we have now decided to make available £1 million as our financial contribution to the Bicentenary. We shall be discussing with the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee how this money should be allocated and my officials will keep in close touch with yours to ensure that we are thinking along the same lines.

In making this contribution, we intend that it should serve to stimulate further funds from the private sector for the Bicentenary. I hope that the total British financial contribution will therefore be significantly greater than £1 million.

You wrote to me on 15 February about the loan of one of the copies of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. We shall be happy to make available to Australia on temporary loan the Public Records Office copy, which is identical to the copy in the House of Lords library. This loan would be for the duration of any commemorative exhibition which might be planned for 1988. In addition, we should like to offer the Australian Government a fine facsimile of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act,

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authenticated by Parliament, as well as a facsimile of the separate document which is the Royal Commission of Assent to the Act.

I am sorry that we cannot give you an original version of the Act on permanent loan. The rule on such documents has always been that neither the Public Records Office copy, as the national archive record, nor the House of Lords copy, as Parliament's record of its own proceedings, can be allowed to leave Britain permanently.

But I am delighted that we are able to contribute to your Bicentenary celebrations in a way that matches the closeness of the relations between our two countries.

Yours
sincerely

Raymond

PRIME MINISTER

You signed the attached letter to Bob Hawke last week. When Sir John Leahy in Canberra saw it, he thought there were two small changes which would improve its reception in Australia. I have marked them on the copy.

An amended letter is also attached for your signature.

Mark Addison

(Mark Addison)

28 May 1985

dlc sru

High Commission Canberra
Sir John Leach



cfo

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 May 1985

Dear Bob

X Ref.

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But I am delighted that we are able to contribute to your Bicentenary celebrations ^{in a way} ~~on a scale~~ that matches the ~~special~~ closeness of the relations between our two countries.

Yours ever
Rayner

The Honourable R. J. L. Hawke, A.C., M.P.