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DD 150100Z CANBE  
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RESTRICTED  
FM FCO  
TO DESKBY 150100Z CANBERRA  
TELNO 19  
OF 141430Z JANUARY 86

YOUR TEL 944 AND MIPT : AUSTRALIAN BICENTENARY: BRITISH GIFT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR HAWKE,  
WHICH YOU SHOULD DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SIGNED COPY  
FOLLOWS BY BAG.

BEGINS

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER

AS YOU KNOW, FIRM PROGRESS IS BEING MADE WITH OUR PLANS FOR  
PARTICIPATION IN THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENARY.

I FULLY SHARE THE SENTIMENTS IN YOUR LETTER OF 25 SEPTEMBER ABOUT  
THE IMPORTANCE OF BRITAIN'S PART IN THE BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.  
IN PARTICULAR, I AM GLAD TO TELL YOU OF OUR DECISION TO PRESENT  
AS BRITAIN'S OFFICIAL GIFT TO AUSTRALIA FOR THE BICENTENARY, A  
SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED SAIL TRAINING SHIP FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE  
YOUNG PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA. WE PROPOSE THAT THIS VESSEL SHOULD BE  
SAILED TO AUSTRALIA BY A COMBINED BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN CREW, IN  
TIME FOR PARTICIPATION AS BRITAIN'S ENTRY IN THE TALL SHIPS EVENT,  
BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

I HOPE THAT THIS GIFT WILL BE SEEN BY THE PEOPLES OF BOTH  
COUNTRIES AS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO OUR LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS  
AND AS OUR JOINT COMMITMENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER.

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*ENDS*

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2. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONFIRM DELIVERY BY TELEGRAM. WELLER  
MAY THEN BE INFORMED FOR HIS OWN INFORMATION PENDING THE PUBLIC  
ANNOUNCEMENT.

HOWE

OCMIAN 7442

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MAIN

LIMITED

CRD

SPD

FINANCE

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR EGGAR

PS/PUS

DR WILSON

MR BARRINGTON

