

SUBJECT
CC OPS
MASTER



file SL3A79

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T198/07

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 November 1987

My dear Prime Minister,

I am very pleased to accept your kind invitation to visit Australia during 1988, which we discussed during CHOGM. It will be a great pleasure to take part in the celebration of your Bicentenary, when there will be so many reminders of the shared origins, experiences and aspirations of the Australian and British peoples.

I still need to consider the timing of my visit, but I hope it will be possible to follow your suggestion that I should make it during British week at Expo 88 at the beginning of August.

Yours sincerely
Rajiv Gandhi

The Hon B. J. L. Hawke, A.C., M.P.

OTS

cc AC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 November 1987

Dear Charles

Invitation to Prime Minister to visit Australia

Your letter of 7 October enclosed Mr Hawke's message inviting the Prime Minister to visit Australia in 1988, and the Prime Minister told Mr Hawke at CHOGM (your letter of 12 October) that she would try to do this.

The Foreign Secretary believes that the case for the Prime Minister to visit Australia remains as set out in my letter to you of 20 January. His view, following his own visit to Australia in April, was that we had tended to take the Australians too much for granted in recent years and that we should now seek to intensify the relationship at all levels. Official contacts during the year have already been considerably stepped up, and Lord Glenarthur met some key Ministers during his visit to Australia last week. Mr Hawke's invitation to the Prime Minister provides the best possible basis for a visit during Australia's Bicentenary Year, which would promote our interests in Australia and leave no room for any reasonable doubt that we take Australia seriously. This would be particularly so if the Prime Minister's visit could coincide with the planned British week from 2 to 7 August at the Expo 88 at Brisbane.

The Foreign Secretary hopes therefore that the Prime Minister will in due course send a formal reply to Mr Hawke's invitation, on the lines of the attached reply.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING: ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Hon R J L Hawke AC MP

Copies to:

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
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- Unclassified

SUBJECT:

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..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

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an sl3ayg

Enclosures flag(s)

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne

1972

