



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

*Prime Minister* (4)  
*CB*

AUSTRALIA HOUSE  
STRAND  
LONDON WC2B 4LA  
01-438 8220

*R1514*

April 13, 1988

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*My dear Prime Minister,*

These are just a few short lines to thank you very much for giving the Australian Parliamentary Delegation so much of your time this morning on such a busy day for you at 10 Downing Street.

All members of the Delegation greatly appreciated your generosity. They realise that because of the pressures of your office it is not normally possible for you to meet parliamentary delegations from other countries. Because you had so many other important appointments today they are particularly honoured to know that you went to so much trouble for them.

Might I also add that I personally am most grateful.

Warmest best wishes,

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Douglas McClelland*

(Douglas McClelland)

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

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SUBJECT  
CE MASTER.



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cc/c

10 DOWNING STREET  
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*From the Private Secretary*

13 April 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The Prime Minister had a talk with a group of Australian Parliamentarians this morning. The discussion covered Fiji, trade relations with Japan, the prospects for the GATT round and Northern Ireland. The Prime Minister commented that we were grateful to Australia for making arrangements which enabled British ships to continue to visit Australian ports, in contrast to New Zealand. In reply to the delegation's suggestion that British firms should be encouraged to invest in Australia as a good jumping-off point for expanding their activities in the Pacific area, the Prime Minister said that this would depend on the extent to which the trade unions could be brought under control. Her impression was that there was still a long way to go in this area.

The delegation pressed the Prime Minister hard on the question of allowing one of the two original copies of the Australian Constitution to be presented to Australia. The Prime Minister said that she had been sympathetic to the original request. But on closer examination, the wider repercussions had proved considerable and we had very reluctantly concluded that we could not agree. In response to continued and repeated questioning from the delegation on this point, she said that she would be prepared to look at the matter again, without giving them any reason to think that our decision would change.

This last point was not covered in briefing for the meeting. I suppose I should have thought of it. But we shall now have to look at the matter again and reply to the leader of the delegation at some point (although not necessarily while they are still here). I should be grateful if you could set this in hand.

I am copying this letter to Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Department).

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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