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Prime Minister.

H. Hawke's letter is Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
attached. London SW1A 2AH

2. Do you agree that we should mollify  
him by sending Sir Robert Armstrong  
(or another suitable official) as a

personal emissary from you to  
Australia before the Summit?  
Dear John,

A.S.C. 9/4.

No - you  
won't mollify  
him. Fred

Economic Summit: Australian Participation

The Foreign Secretary has seen David Peretz's letter of 3 April about arrangements for briefing the Australians in advance of the London Economic Summit. Sir Geoffrey Howe has also seen the recommendations from Sir John Mason following Mr Hawke's reply to the Prime Minister's message of 1 March. (Canberra telegram nos 225 and 226 refer).

Mr Hawke clearly remains frustrated at being denied access to Summits. He claims to have the support of others. He has ignored the Prime Minister's suggestion for an exchange of views and did not take up the Prime Minister's offer of a briefing both before and after the Summit. Instead he has reiterated his wish to attend Summits, demonstrating the strength of feeling he has on this issue.

Against this background, Sir John Mason has recommended the despatch of an emissary. Such a mission would of course be time-consuming at a period which is likely to be particularly busy, not only on preparations for the Economic Summit. But given the strength of feeling demonstrated by Mr Hawke, anything short of a personal emissary could damage relations with Australia. The Americans and Japanese made a considerable effort to keep the Australians informed about the Williamsburg Economic Summit. The Americans have already sent their Personal Representative to Australia this year. The Japanese will no doubt talk about the Summit during Mr Nakasone's visit to Australia in May.

The Foreign Secretary does not, therefore, believe that in practice a briefing by the Chancellor and himself during the OECD Ministerial Meeting in Paris on 17/18 May will be enough for the Australians. He thinks that Sir John Mason should have authority to propose a visit to Canberra by a senior official acting as a personal emissary from the Prime Minister. Sir Geoffrey Howe hopes that Sir Robert Armstrong

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could himself take this on. Otherwise he hopes that either Mr Littler or Sir Crispin Tickell could do it.

I am copying this letter to David Peretz (HM Treasury) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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