

MACTER

*Subject copy filed on
Australia for 1980
Visit of Ambition 14*



File No
~~PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO.~~

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 July 1981

MR. FRASER

As I have already mentioned to you on the telephone, the Prime Minister of Australia rang the Prime Minister last night about his planned visits to this country.

Mr. Fraser referred to his telephone conversation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary the previous night. He said that in asking for Lord Carrington's advice about his visit in October, he had wished to avoid upsetting the Prime Minister or his hosts at the Party Conference in Blackpool. He had been concerned to learn that Lord Thorneycroft, who had rung Mr. Eggleton, had appeared to be upset at the news. The Prime Minister said she had been unaware of Lord Thorneycroft's 'phone call. She had told Lord Carrington that she thought Mr. Fraser's decision not to come absolutely correct.

Mr. Fraser expressed his gratitude but said that the situation had now changed again. There was a great deal of industrial unrest in Australia. His Government were facing a national transport stoppage and, perhaps, a national water stoppage. They were intending to use new powers for the first time. In these circumstances, he did not think he could leave the country and would probably therefore be unable to attend the Royal Wedding. If this proved to be the case, he would have no inhibitions about coming in October and speaking at the Blackpool Conference. The Prime Minister said that she perfectly understood Mr. Fraser's position and felt that he was right to give priority to the situation at home.

Mr. Fraser did not say that he had definitively decided not to come to the Wedding. He seemed to imply that he might delay the decision for a day or two. However, the implication was that he would remain in Australia and would be represented next week by the Governor General and by Mrs. Fraser.

I have arranged for the Central Office to be informed of the foregoing.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Subject copy filed on
Australia Jan 1980, visit of Suharto PM

PRIME MINISTER'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
OF AUSTRALIA, THURSDAY 23 JULY 1981

Prime Minister: Hello Malcolm, how are you?

Mr. Fraser: I am fine thank you. Look, I am sorry to worry you in a meeting but the whole world is breaking loose out here and I therefore did want to speak to you. I rang Peter last night about Blackpool because I sensed a lot of criticism coming that I was going to Britain twice in a short while, especially since I could not really have the excuse of talking to you since you would have been here at CHGM. I was really asking his advice and I didn't want to upset you or your organisation and I was a bit upset, I think Peter Thorneycroft rang up Egleton very upset last night our time.

PM: I had no idea, Malcolm, that Peter had rung up Tony Egleton because Peter Carrington told me last night and I said I perfectly understood and I thought you were absolutely right in your decision.

Mr Fraser: Well, Margaret, could I say something else now and if it is mucking you around please tell me and tell me where to get off or whatever. But there is so much industrial unrest that I am probably not going to be able to get to the Wedding. We are facing a total national transport stoppage, may be a total national water stoppage, we are using for the first time new powers which we haven't used before because we are just fed up with it all and I can't really leave the country and so I was going to send the Governor General on and send Tam on because they are due to leave today. If I don't go to England for the Wedding I would have no inhibitions at all and would love to still go to your Blackpool Conference if you would still want to have me.

PM: Well, that would be marvellous but I think your top priority is to get things right at home, isn't it.

Mr. Fraser: Could we hold up any decision on Blackpool - it will only be for three or four days.

PM: Hold off any decision on Blackpool for a few days. You have got problems on your hands.

Mr. Fraser: If I don't get to the Wedding ...

PM: If you don't get to the Wedding we will have someone else. Who would you send instead?

Mr. Fraser: Well, the Governor General will be going and Tammy will be going.

PM: Oh, lovely, we will expect the Governor General and Tammy. If you don't come we will be very disappointed but if I were you I would take exactly the same decision and stay at home when there is trouble.

Mr. Fraser: All right, Margaret, and thanks for being so understanding.

PM: Not at all, not at all and I would do exactly the same. Look forward to seeing Tammy and we will hold off a decision on the other thing and I just hope that all goes well at your end.

Mr Fraser: Thank you very much.

PM: Goodbye.