

Library

TELEX TO THE PREMIERS AND CHIEF MINISTER

I TAKE THIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY UPON ASSUMING OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA TO SEND MY WARMEST EXPRESSION OF GOODWILL TO YOU PERSONALLY AND AS HEAD OF YOUR GOVERNMENT I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CLOSEST CO-OPERATION WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE GREAT TASK OF SERVING THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA WHICH WE SHARE IN COMMON.

I NOW MOST CORDIALLY WISH TO INVITE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 11 APRIL. AS YOU WILL BE AWARE, THIS PROPOSAL WAS A CENTRAL COMMITMENT I MADE ON BEHALF OF THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE FULLEST POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT BY YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS UNDERTAKING.

I ENVISAGE THAT EACH STATE AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ITS PREMIER AND ONE OTHER MINISTER. EVERY FACILITY WILL BE EXTENDED TO YOU AND YOUR OFFICIALS FOR THE UTMOST INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT BEFORE AND DURING THE CONFERENCE.

I SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR EARLY ACCEPTANCE OF THIS INVITATION WITH DEEP PLEASURE.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER OF INVITATION I HAVE SENT TODAY TO LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY AND THE UNION MOVEMENT, SETTING OUT THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS HISTORIC CONFERENCE.



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

Dear ,

You will be aware that in the recent election campaign to elect the new Australian Government, I made a fundamental commitment to the people of Australia in these terms:

We undertake, immediately on assuming office, to convene a National Economic Summit Conference, fully representative of Australian industry, the Australian workforce and the Australian people through their elected Governments.

Its purpose is to create a climate for common understanding of the scale and scope of Australia's present crisis, to explore the policy options, and to ensure that the relevant parties - governments, business and the unions - clearly appreciate the role that each of them will have to play in pulling the country out of the present economic crisis.

On 5 March 1983, the people of Australia gave their very clear support, both for this proposal and for the approach it represents.

As my Government this day begins the task of translating its mandate into a practical program for national reconciliation, national recovery and national reconstruction, we are deeply conscious of the extent to which its effectiveness must depend on co-operation, understanding and commitment from all sections of the community.

Accordingly, I wish now to invite you to join with the Australian Government in the National Economic Summit Conference. I propose that the Conference begin on Monday 11 April 1983. It is envisaged that the Conference will occupy the greater part of that week. The Conference will be held in the House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra.

Further details of the arrangements for the Conference will be sent to you as soon as possible, but clearly the essential ingredients will be:

- assessing the economic and industrial relations situation; and
- finding a consensus among the participants which would set the framework for the implementation of a recovery strategy during the next three years.

I am arranging that documents relevant to these issues will be prepared and circulated by the Australian Government before the meeting. The full resources of my Government and its instrumentalities - the Treasury, the Reserve Bank and other relevant departments - will be brought to bear in the preparation for the Conference.

I believe that the effectiveness and value of the conference will be enhanced if participants other than the Australian Government are able to provide information and expert analysis of developments in their own sectors and in the economy more generally. I would envisage continuing consultation with participants in respect of information and material they may wish to provide to the Conference.

As I also made clear during the election campaign, the Government wants to involve participants as much as possible in the preparations for the Conference. I should be very interested, therefore, to receive suggestions from you on a possible agenda for the Conference. I should also be interested in your views on the composition of the Economic Planning Advisory Council which will be the Government's vehicle for regular ongoing consultation.

The National Economic Summit Conference presents us with a rare, and I believe, an historic opportunity to set a new course for Australia. I am confident that you will welcome the opportunity to take part in and contribute to what, I deeply believe, can be made a new beginning. It is not necessary for me at this stage to stress the seriousness of the economic and social problems now facing Australia.

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The emphasis of the Conference will be on practical, specific and effective measures to meet those problems and to develop processes for continuing consultation and co-operation. However, I believe the Conference will also have an important symbolic purpose, as a demonstration, to Australia and the world, of our ability to work together to surmount our present problems and lay firm foundations for a better future for all our people.

Yours sincerely

(R.J.L. Hawke)

NATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister
Treasurer
Ministers for. Employment and Industrial Relations
Finance
Industry and Commerce
Social Security
Primary Industry
Education and Youth Affairs

Premier of New South Wales 2
Victoria 2
Queensland 2
Western Australia 2
South Australia 2
Tasmania 2

Chief Minister of the Northern Territory 2

Australian Council of Local Government Associations 2

Employers/Business

Australian Bankers' Association
Australian Chamber of Commerce
Australian Federation of Construction Contractors
Australian Industries Development Association
Australian Manufacturers Export Council
Australian Road Transport Federation
Confederation of Australian Industry 5
Council of Small Business Organisations
Housing Industry Association
Master Builders Federation of Australia
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
National Farmers Federation
Oil Industry Industrial Committee

Sir Peter Abeles
Sir Keith Campbell
Mr A. Carmichael
Sir Roderick Carnegie
Mr A.W. Coates
Mr P.J.W. Cottrell
Mr W.L. Dix
Mr J.B. Gough
Mr B.N. Kelman
Mr J.H. Leard
Mr B.T. Loton
Sir Eric McClintock
Mr H.M. Morgan
Mr E.J. Neal
Mr J.W. Utz
Mr L.S. Zampatti

Professional Groups

Australian Medical Association
Institute of Chartered Accountants
Law Council of Australia

Unions

Australian Council of Trade Unions - 31

Other Organisations

Australian Council of Social Services