



THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA SQUARE
ADELAIDE 5000

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, SW1
ENGLAND.

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3 MAR 1981

My dear Prime Minister,

The South Australian Government was greatly concerned by the decision in late 1979 to close the British Consulate-General in Adelaide and replace it with an Honorary Consul.

Representations have been made through several avenues since that time but unfortunately it has not been possible to have the decision revoked. Whilst more frequent visits by your Consul-General in Melbourne and members of his staff have been suggested, these arrangements are not as good as the retention of the Adelaide post would have been.

The news of the change in status came at a time when my newly elected Government was strengthening its relationships with the United Kingdom in the areas of trade and commerce. Some of the negotiations taking place are reaching the stage where re-establishment of the British Consulate-General would be advantageous.

I have noted that shortly before its closure, the British Consulate-General had a staff of nine locally engaged persons and I wonder whether it would not be possible to provide a significant service with a small staff. The South Australian Government is of the opinion that the office is of such importance to South Australia that my Government would be prepared to meet a proportion of the operating costs for up to three years if that would mean that the office could be re-opened.

I shall be visiting London from the 22nd to the 31st of March, 1981, and I should be greatly appreciative if I could discuss this aspect with an appropriate person during my stay.

Yours sincerely,

PREMIER