

→ J. Ellis
Via Airmail

Letter No. 101u-154-449
December 9, 1969

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ENGINEERING DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE

Subject: PRODUCTION CAR RACING

Reference: Your letter #430 of November 28, 1969

Dear Walt:

This letter will bring you up to the minute on the recent developments in the racing project and clarify the telexes with admittedly sketchy information. Since my letter #393, the Barracuda was secured pending your 'go ahead', and I went about checking into the numerous possible complications. Satisfactory shipment of the car seems to be impossible. To airfreight the car would have cost \$7,000, and it would have gone through England. The possibilities of a shipping catastrophe and mostly the cost eliminated this possibility. West coast shipment would have been more reasonably priced, but even with the best of luck, meeting schedules, at least 45 days would have been wasted between Detroit and Adelaide. I cannot see how this program can tolerate a 45 day hold at this critical stage. With the \$7,000 figure on one hand and 45 days on the other, I decided to strip parts off the Barracuda and spend the extra effort constructing an identical car in Australia. This obviously involves much more actual labor, but aside from the economic benefits, your people will profit from living with the car from the ground up.

The biggest problem now is whether to build this first car up as a right or left hand drive. A left hand drive would be infinitely simpler, but I don't know if a suitable Valiant or Dart would be available in Australia. In case one is not, I am determining exactly which parts would be required. The steering linkage will require at least special tie rod ends.