



**PRIME MINISTER**

16 May 1974

TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAELI SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, said today that he was deeply shocked by the incident at Ma'alot in Israel in which 90 children had been held hostage by guerillas and by the tragic deaths of 16 of these innocents.

Mr Whitlam reiterated Australia's condemnation of all such acts of terrorism especially those resulting in the loss of innocent lives and the injury of children. He said that this action was a deplorable extension of the shocking practice of taking hostages.

The Prime Minister added that events such as those at Ma'alot could only prolong bitterness and hostility in the Middle East and harm the search for a lasting peace which Australia so earnestly supported.

Canberra

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