



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 1982

"HELP POLAND LIVE" APPEAL

The Government has decided to give tangible support to the generosity of the Australian community by making donations to the national "Help Poland Live" Appeal during the current financial year tax deductible. This supplements the Government's decision late last year to make a cash grant of one million dollars to the appeal.

The appeal is organised by the Australian National Committee for Relief to Poland, chaired by Mr Frank Galbally, CBE, and with a membership representing different political persuasions, religious commitments and walks of life. It is a national appeal and I am honoured to be its patron.

The appeal organisers advise that the appeal is attracting generous public support from the people of Australia.

Through our embassy in Warsaw, and with the assistance of the Polish Catholic Church authorities, the Government has sought to monitor the flow of Australian aid and to ensure that such aid is reaching the people who need it most. The Government is well satisfied with the assurances it has received in that regard from the Polish Catholic Church authorities, who are responsible for distributing the aid raised by this campaign.

Australian private humanitarian aid, of which the "Help Poland Live" Appeal is a particularly important vehicle, is making an important contribution to the overall international relief effort.

This international relief effort aimed at alleviating the hardships of the Polish people is an important element in the overall Western position on the Polish crisis which was precipitated by the Polish authorities' declaration of martial law last December. The Australian Government is maintaining strong measures complementary to the measures of the United States and other Western allies, aimed at helping to bring about an end to martial law, the release of political detainees, and a resumption of the process of political dialogue in Poland, based on consensus and restraint.