



129

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

21 MARCH 1990

The people of Namibia celebrate their attainment of independence today. On this historic occasion I have sent the following message of congratulations to President Sam Nujoma.

"Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the attainment of the independence of your country. I share your joy and satisfaction on this truly historic occasion and on behalf of the people of Australia I wish you and the people of Namibia peace and prosperity for the future.

Australia has had the welcome opportunity to assist your country in its transition to freedom and independence through our humanitarian and educational assistance through the years and our provision of army personnel, electoral experts and observers to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group. I am confident that on this solid foundation the relationship between our two countries will develop further in the years to come.

Let me also extend to you a warm welcome on your joining the Commonwealth. I look forward to fruitful cooperation between our countries in this important forum, particularly in our efforts to bring about an early end to the abhorrent system of apartheid in South Africa.

The thoughts of Australians are with you and the Namibian people as you celebrate the achievement of your hard-won freedom."