



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH AT DEPARTURE OF RAN CONTRIBUTION TO GULF MULTINATIONAL FORCE, HMAS DARWIN, FLEET BASE/GARDEN ISLAND, SYDNEY, 13 AUGUST 1990

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

... Gentlemen of this ship, ladies and gentlemen. This is not an occasion for a long speech or high flying rhetoric. I'm here to perform a very simple job and that is to say to the men of HMAS Darwin who are leaving Australia to undertake an extremely important mission ...

... Australia has important interests in the Gulf. Also it's important for Australia that the world understands big countries cannot invade small neighbours and get away with it.

Your mission is also important for the world and not just for Australia because if the end of the Cold War is in fact to usher in an era of peace then the world at large must be able to show that it is capable of giving effect to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Australia is entrusting this important mission to very few people, to some 600 men on these three ships that are sailing. You are the inheritors as you know of a great tradition of the Royal Australian Navy and of the Australian armed forces who time after time have shown their commitment, their bravery and toughness.

I am proud and I know that all Australians are proud that we are able to entrust this mission to such a well qualified force.

I hope and trust that your families will share with us this sense of pride and that will help the balance of what I know must be the pangs of parting.

This is a situation where you are going to do an important job and important jobs are very rarely easy. But we know that you will do it well and you leave with the best wishes of all Australians.

Bon voyage.