



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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Australia welcomes the statement of the Soviet spokesman that Iraq could be prepared to undertake a full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Soviet statement leaves significant uncertainties about the timing and mechanics of a cease-fire, arrangements to monitor Iraqi withdrawal, and whether all aspects of the proposal would conform fully to UN resolutions.

We note that work to refine the proposals continues between the Soviet Union and Iraq.

And we note that a UN Security Council meeting to consider the Soviet proposal is expected soon.

We hope that agreement can be reached on arrangements under which Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait in full compliance with UN resolutions.