

## PRIME MINISTER

I have sent a message to the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, expressing my shock and sadness at the tragic deaths yesterday of the seven Israeli schoolchildren.

I asked Mr Netanyahu to convey to the children's families my condolences and those of the Australian government and people.

It is important that the Middle East peace process continues, to build a lasting peace in the region and put an end to such acts of terrible violence.

14 March 1997