



**DEPARTMENT OF
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AFFAIRS**

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PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGES TO BELGIUM
AND U.S. AFTER KHARTOUM KILLINGS

In special messages to the United States Secretary of State, Mr Rogers, and to the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Van Elslande, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, said today that he and his colleagues had been deeply shocked at the cold blooded assassination in Khartoum of two members of the United States Foreign Service and the Belgian Charge d'Affaires.

Mr Whitlam said: "Such unwarranted attacks against diplomatic representatives strike at the very foundation of civilised relations between states and are to be condemned by all governments which value the rules of international law.

In his message to Mr Rogers, Mr Whitlam said: "Mr Curtis Moore was well known to officers of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, who on various occasions had reason to be grateful for his helpful advice and assistance during their visits to Khartoum".

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Mr Whitlam said that he should like to convey to both Ministers and to the families of the United States and Belgian officers, on behalf of the Australian Government, his deepest sympathy for their loss in such tragic circumstances.