



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE PRIME MINISTER
OF INDIA

The following is the text of a message sent by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, to the Prime Minister of India, Mrs Gandhi, today.

"I was shocked and distressed to read reports of the tragic air accident in New Delhi last night. The Government and people of Australia join me in expressing their profound regret and deep sympathy for all those families who have been bereaved.

I understand that your Ministerial colleague, Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam, was among the unfortunate victims and I know this must be to you and your colleagues a particular personal loss.

The new High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Sardar Gurnam Singh Grewal, had only just taken up his post but during that short time his wisdom, courtesy and dedication to his mission made a profound impression on my colleagues and myself. We in Australia were honoured to have had such a distinguished Indian with us even for this short time. Please accept my personal condolences over his untimely death."