



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 129

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RECENT EVENTS IN CHILE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, said today that the news of the violent overthrow of the constitutionally elected Government of Chile, and the tragic death of President Allende, would come as a profound shock to the Australian people. Mr. Whitlam said that, as a democrat and a socialist, he had been greatly saddened that men who had sworn to uphold the constitution of their country had betrayed a long and noble Chilean democratic tradition of which Salvador Allende had been the authentic representative.

Mr. Whitlam said that he had instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs to report to him on the reaction in the countries of the area to the events of the last few days. In the light of those reports the Government would consider its future relations with Chile.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.