



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 427

31 December 1974

DARWIN RELIEF: NAURU CHEQUE FOR DARWIN RELIEF

President Hammer de Roburt of Nauru has presented a cheque for \$A1000,000 to the Australian Government for Darwin relief purposes.

President de Roburt made the presentation yesterday to Australia's representative in Nauru, following a ministerial statement to Parliament.

The President's statement said: "The House will be aware of the shocking disaster caused by a cyclone which struck the city of Darwin early on Christmas Day.

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic I have sent a message of sympathy to the Governor General. Since then more revelations of the magnitude of the disaster have been coming in and it is now clear that seldom, if ever, has Australia been stricken by a catastrophe of such intensity. Many people have lost their lives many others are missing and thousands are homeless and have had to be evacuated from the city.

The consequences in terms of material damage and broken lives are incalculable and the Cabinet has decided that the Republic should offer material assistance in addition to our heartfelt sympathy."

Nauru has also offered the use of its Government aircraft for evacuation purposes.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.