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RECORDED MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER,

THE HON. E.G. WHITLAM, QC, MP.,

FOR THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA'S
1975 REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST,

16 AUGUST 1975

I AM HONOURED BY YOUR INSTITUTE'S KIND INVITATION TO DECLARE OPEN YOUR 1975 REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST. IT IS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER THE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR AUSTRALIA DURING TWO WORLD WARS.

THIS OCCASION HAS TAUGHT ME A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR USEFUL AND REMARKABLE HOBBY. PERHAPS THE WORD "HOBBY" IS A MISNOMER FOR SUCH A VARIED LEISURE ACTIVITY. YOUR CONTACTS AS RADIO OPERATORS ARE TRULY WORLD-WIDE. AS AMATEURS YOU HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING FOR MANY YEARS WITH YOUR OWN SATELLITES AND COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER AMATEURS AS FAR AFIELD AS AFRICA AND JAPAN. WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMATEUR SATELLITES YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOUR FRIENDS MUCH FURTHER AFIELD IN THE U.S.A. AND ELSEWHERE.

IN THESE DAYS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIONS AUSTRALIANS CAN PICK UP THEIR TELEPHONES AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE AT ANY TIME. BUT THE PROCESS IS EXPENSIVE. IT IS SURPRISING INDEED THAT YOU IN YOUR 'SHACKS' CAN TALK AT ALMOST NO COST WITH OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. YOU ARE TRULY PRIVATE AMBASSADORS FOR AUSTRALIA AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE WORLD-WIDE NETWORK OF AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MAKES A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

I COMMEND YOUR WORK IN PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS WITH STRICKEN AREAS AND YOUR ABILITY TO MOVE INTO ACTION QUICKLY WHEN A NATURAL EMERGENCY ARISES. MY COLLEAGUE, SENATOR BISHOP, THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, ASSURES ME THAT EVERY POSSIBLE FACILITY IS GIVEN TO AMATEURS INVOLVED IN EMERGENCY TRAFFIC. I HOPE THE USE OF AMATEUR SATELLITES FOR COMMUNICATIONS IN EMERGENCIES WILL BE MORE FULLY EXPLOITED.

AT PRESENT YOU HAVE TRAINING SCHEMES FOR YOUR MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY IN YOUTH RADIO CLUBS, BUT I HOPE YOU WILL TRY TO WIDEN YOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND BRING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF YOUR EXCITING WORK TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE. YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, WITH THEIR NATURAL INTEREST IN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCEMENT, WOULD WANT TO KNOW MORE OF YOUR WORK AND HOW THEY MAY PARTICIPATE IN IT.

I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN
THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA'S 1975 REMEMBRANCE
DAY CONTEST.
