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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

25 APRIL 1977

### VICTORIAN OIL DISPUTE

The Prime Minister sent the following message this evening to the Premier of Victoria:

"I have not seen any reply yet to my telex yesterday about the emergency in Victoria. I understand fully that in this matter Victoria has complete powers and that you may well have arrangements in hand that you would not want to foreshadow to those who appear bent on bringing the State to a standstill. I do, however, feel that consultation between us in this matter would be of benefit to your Government. We stand ready to join in discussions at any time. But of course if you feel this is not required, then no doubt you will let me know.

I have tonight asked my Department to seek from your Department precise information as to supplies for emergency services. My view is that these must be protected at all costs and that if necessary strong action should be taken to ensure this. This again is an area in which we may be able to help or to take action."

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