



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, JUNE 12 1980

DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER OHIRA

I was greatly saddened to hear this morning of the death of Prime Minister Ohira and I am sending my condolences to Mrs Ohira, members of the Prime Minister's family and to the people of Japan.

Mr Ohira contributed greatly to the strengthening of friendship and understanding between Australia and Japan. His visit to Australia last January brought a personal warmth to the strong ties between our two Governments and peoples. He sought to improve international understanding among peoples in the Asian-Pacific area and took a leading part in discussions on Pacific Basin co-operation.

I feel that we have lost a personal friend.

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