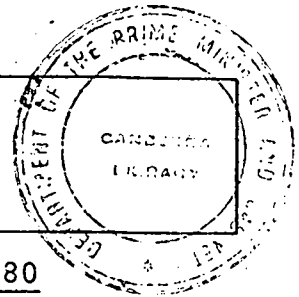


**PRIME MINISTER**FOR MEDIATUESDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1980SIR SERETSE KHAMA

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I inform the House of the death on 13 July 1980, of the President of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama, and I move: "That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana, and expresses its deepest sympathy to his family and to the people of Botswana."

Mr. Speaker, the House will wish to be advised formally that the Government extended its deep sympathy to the Government and people of Botswana, and that the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister represented Australia at Sir Seretse Khama's memorial service.

Sir Seretse Khama was a great statesman. It is not often that the leader of a relatively small country has a large influence in the world. Sir Seretse did. He was very widely respected, initially for the way he led his country to independence in 1966, then for the way he guided his country with wisdom and judgement through all difficulties, and not least for his actions and counsels over such large international matters as South Africa and Rhodesia.

Sir Seretse's was always a voice for commonsense and moderation. Africa and Commonwealth Councils, as well as his own country, were advantaged by his leadership.

He was a fine and good man, and a staunch friend, whose death was a great loss not only to Botswana but also to Africa, the Commonwealth and indeed the international community.