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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY MARCH 31 1981

The Prime Minister this morning sent the following telegrams:

To President Reagan

"I heard this morning with shock and distress of the attempt on your life, and of the shooting of a member of your staff and two members of the security services.

"On behalf of the Australian Government, I express our deep and sincere concern and sympathy to you, and to all those touched by this deplorable happening.

"The news we have received of your own condition gives us cause for relief and we express our hopes for a speedy and full recovery".

To Mrs Reagan

"All Australians have been shocked to hear of the attempt on the President's life, and of the consequences for others.

"Please accept our wishes for a full and speedy recovery by your husband.

"Mrs Fraser and I have a very sincere concern for you both at this distressing time".

To the Secretary of State

"The news this morning of the attempt on the life of President Reagan was heard in Australia with shock and distress.

"I have sent a message to the President to say this and to express the wishes of all Australians for his full and speedy recovery.

"We express also our sympathy to those aides of the President who have been involved and to their families.

"This is a terrible occurrence which will be deplored around the world.