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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 1982

### DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH POLAND

Because they dared to try to obtain for themselves some small part of the freedoms which we take for granted, the Polish people are now suffering appalling hardship and repression under martial law.

The bare essentials of life are in hopelessly short supply. Thousands of workers have lost their jobs because they refused to give up their union membership.

Nobody can doubt that Soviet influence stands behind the present situation. It is a scathing indictment of totalitarian systems that they cannot meet people's basic needs or recognise fundamental freedoms.

January 30 is being set aside in a number of countries as a "Day of Solidarity with Poland". The Day of Solidarity has the Government's full support. It will give Australians the opportunity to join with people from other countries to oppose the imposition of martial law on the Polish people, and to support a return to the path of freedom. We cannot ignore what the Polish Primate, Archbishop Glemp, only last Sunday described as "voices full of pain and distress plagued by impatience due to prolonged misery".

An international television program, entitled "Let Poland be Poland", is being organised for the Day of Solidarity. I have agreed to take part in this program, together with a number of other Western Heads of Government including President Reagan.

The Day of Solidarity provides a further opportunity for the community to make contributions in terms of practical humanitarian assistance to the people of Poland. The Government has contributed \$1 million to the "Help Poland Live" appeal. Private humanitarian assistance is, according to the information available to the Government, apparently reaching the people for whom it is intended. The flow of private aid for the benefit of the Polish people will obviously continue with the Government's full support.