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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 1982

AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE

On 24 November 1981, I said that the announcement by France, Britain, the Netherlands and Italy of their intention to participate in the Sinai peacekeeping Force made it possible for Australia also to participate in the force. I indicated that we looked forward to Israel's acceptance of the European offer.

The Governments of both Israel and Egypt have now accepted the offers made by these four European countries to participate in the peacekeeping force. With that matter resolved, the multi-national force has achieved the degree of balance which will enable Australia to participate in this peacekeeping initiative.

An announcement will be made in due course on the precise composition of our contribution and the duration of our participation. As I have said, the commitment which we make will be consistent with that stated to the Parliament.

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