



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 25 MARCH 1982

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF ROME

Today is the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome which brought the European Economic Community into being on 25 March 1957.

I should like to pay tribute to the vision of a united Europe which guided the formation of the Community. We in Australia have a shared history and shared cultural values with Europe and a common commitment to democracy as partners in the Western alliance. We continue to attach importance to a strong and united Europe.

We also look to Europe with its great economic and political power, for leadership towards outward-looking and constructive goals and a continuing commitment to liberal, multilateral trading. This is especially important at a time when the international trading community is facing difficulties.

It is Australia's hope that the broad vision which led to the formation of the European Community twenty five years ago will continue to guide Community policies.