

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL - 8 MAY 1983

It is appropriate that I should say to you at this first opportunity I have had of being with such a representative gathering of the Jewish community, to affirm to you the statement in unequivocal terms that the deference that my Government has to the integrity and security of the State of Israel. That the State of Israel is one in many ways for a long period of time the greatest commitment integrity remains in time the responsibility of the Government of this country. We recognise that not only is the well-being of the people of Israel involved in the maintenance of the integrity and security of that State, but that indeed the very peace of the world is inextricably bound up with ensuring that we do secure a just and lasting peace in that area of the world. That, as we all know, is going to require adjustments and concessions on the part of others and we must all, as my Government will, pledge our best endeavours to ensuring that we do achieve in that coveted area of the world such a just, enduring, lasting peace within the central ..Middle East.. of the integrity of the State of Israel. That is, if you appreciate the very keen sense of the great difference, the great sacrifices that the people of your community face religiously within this country and internationally ... deep understanding of what that has meant to all of you, what it has meant financially, what it has meant in terms of the other sorts of sacrifices that you have had to make throughout your lives and throughout the lives of those generations in your community that have gone before you, that I am very, very proud to be associated with your Labour Centre and particularly as it has so much emphasis on the needs of our young people because it is essential, I think, to Australia for a new understanding as we move now towards the end of this century towards the outset of the 21st Century. It is imperative that we have, in the minds of our young people, a sense a commitment to the day to day our society in so many ways is under pressure. There is, in the minds of our young people and an understanding in our society It is important, therefore, that a community like your own which has about the important basic principles necessary for a just and good society. All of you can play your part by concentrating on these young people to give them that same sense of understanding so that they will have a committal to the values that are so important.