

**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

2 SEPTEMBER 1983

I have today sent the following message to President Chun Doo Hwan of the Republic of Korea:

BEGINS

I wish to convey to you on behalf of the Australian Government and people our shock and concern at the loss of Korean Airlines Flight 7.

There are no circumstances in which the shooting down of an unarmed aircraft serving no military purpose can be justified.

We are seeking an urgent explanation from the Soviet Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Ambassador to Australia.

May I assure you of Australia's continued strong support for the right of the Republic of Korea to its place in the international community and its rights in international law.

ENDS.